

# Lulusan Lasalle kaji 'sepak takraw' Myanmar

WALAUPUN tidak lagi mewakili Sekolah Menengah Yishun dalam perlawanan sepak takraw, Encik Ahmad Anuar Umar tetap menyemai cintanya terhadap sukan itu menerusi seni lukis dan pemasangan.

Inilah yang diusahakan beliau secara gigih di Maktab Seni Lasalle sehingga kakinya mampu melangkah ke Myanmar, Mei lalu, bagi mengkaji dan mengamati sukan tradisional negara itu yang dipanggil *chinlone*.

*Chinlone* persis sepak takraw dan merupakan gabungan sukan dan tarian serta merupakan kegiatan berpasukan tanpa pasukan lawan. Teras permainan ini bukan menang atau kalah tetapi sejauh mana si pemain boleh mengimbangi bola raga itu dengan cantik dan baik.

Encik Ahmad Anuar, 20 tahun, bertuah kerana merupakan antara lima pelajar Lasalle yang menerima Anugerah Kembara Winston Oh.

Anugerah berupa geran itu membolehkan pelajar cemerlang Fakulti Seni Halus, Lasalle, melancong ke luar negara di samping membangun kajian dan latihan kesenian mereka.

Semalam, perihal inilah yang terpahat sebagai kenangan manis apabila Encik Ahmad Anuar, anak bongsu empat beradik, menutup tirai pengajian Diploma Seni Halusnya

di majlis konvokesyen yang berlangsung di Dewan 3, Pusat Persidangan dan Pameran Singapore Expo.

Majlis tersebut dihadiri Pemandu Menteri Pendidikan (Pendidikan Tinggi dan Kemahiran), Encik Ong Ye Kung.

Ketika ditemui, Encik Ahmad Anuar berkata:

"Sukan sepak takraw itu dekat di hati saya kerana saya merupakan wakil sekolah. Bagi saya, sukan ini melambangkan identiti Melayu.

"Saya juga menyelongkar konsep ruang menerusi lukisan gelanggang sepak takraw, badminton dan bola keranjang.

"Dari perspektif seorang penonton pula, saya tertarik melihat bagaimana sukan mendorong masyarakat berinteraksi dan bersatu hati. Saya juga minat meninjau persaingan yang hadir dalam diri setiap insan."

Di Myanmar, Encik Ahmad Anuar bersandarkan isu yang dibincangkan penulis Alfie Kohn, *No Contest*, yang mengkritik peraduan.

"Menurut Kohn, daripada menekankan persaingan antara individu, lebih baik bantu peringkat keyakinan diri mereka, ditambah dengan penghormatan nilai-nilai murni.

"Saya lihat betapa semua pemain *chinlone* seronok menunjukkan kemahiran tanpa risaukan ada yang menumpaskan mereka," ujarnya. - HARYANI ISMAIL



**SENIMAN 'SEPAK TAKRAW':** Encik Ahmad Anuar Umar yang pernah mewakili Sekolah Menengah Yishun bagi perlawanan sepak takraw menghasilkan seni pemasangan bertemakan sepak takraw bahkan ke Myanmar bagi mengkaji sukan tradisional 'chinlone' berkat Anugerah Kembara Winston Oh. - Foto KHALID BABA

## LASALLE graduate researches Myanmarrese *sepak takraw*

**SEPAK TAKRAW ARTIST** Mr Ahmad Anuar who used to represent Yishun Secondary School in *sepak takraw* produces installation art based on that theme, went to Myanmar to research the tradition of 'chinlone' thanks to the Winston Oh Travel Award. - Photograph KHALID BABA

Even though he no longer represents Yishun Secondary School in *sepak takraw* competitions, Mr Ahmad Anuar Umar still nurtures his love for the sport through drawing and installation art.

His hard work at LASALLE College of the Arts enabled him to travel to Myanmar last May to research and observe the traditional sport in the country where it is called *chinlone*.

*Chinlone* is similar to *sepak takraw* - a combination of sport and dance as well as a team activity but without an opposing team. The main aim of the game is not to win or lose but to see how best the players can balance the ball artfully and well.

Mr. Ahman Anuar, 20 years old, is fortunate as he is one of only five LASALLE Diploma students who received the Winston Oh Travel Award.

The Award is a grant that allows top students from LASALLE's McNally School of Fine Arts to travel overseas while doing research and developing their own art practice.

Yesterday, Mr Ahmad Anuar, the youngest of four siblings, who closed the curtains on his Diploma in Fine Arts at the convocation ceremony held at Hall 3, Singapore Expo Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The ceremony was graced by Mr Ong Ye Kung, Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills).

When interviewed, Mr Ahmad Anuar said, "*Sepak takraw* is close to my heart as I used to represent my school. To me, this sport is symbolic of Malay identity.

"I also investigated the concept of space through the sketch of the *sepak takraw*, badminton and basketball courts.

"From the perspective of a spectator, I was keen to observe how sport encourages the community to interact and unite. I was also interested at looking into how competition exists inside each human being."

In Myanmar, Mr Ahmad Anuar based his work on the issue discussed by writer Alfie Kohn, *No Contest*, which critiqued contests.

"According to Kohn, rather than emphasising rivalry between individuals, it is better to help support each other's confidence, and reinforce this with good values.

"I saw how all the chinlone players can be flaunting their skills without worrying about having a competitor who could beat them," he added.