

UNIMAS starts film workshops with Malaysia, Japan directors

on 16 March 2015.



Directors Tetsuya (second left) and Lim (right) share their working experience and how they got involved in the film-making industry at the Malaysia-Japan Film Dialogue at UNIMAS yesterday. — Photo by Jeffery Mostapa.

KUCHING: Students in the Faculty of Applied Arts and Creativity of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) were fortunate to have a workshop with film directors Lim Kah Wai and Tetsuya Mariko yesterday.

Over 150 students participated in the 'Malaysia-Japan Film Dialogue' workshop that was held at the TV6 Studio on campus, which was brought to them as a collaborative effort between the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur and Kelab Seni Filem Malaysia as well as UNIMAS.

"We are very distanced from contemporary Japanese cinema, and since we have the chance, we want to expose our students here to be updated with contemporary Japanese cinema.

"The morning session of the workshop was more on Lim and Tetsuya's working experience and how they got involved with film-making and hopefully this can inspire our students in film-making to know more about the latest contemporary Japanese cinema," Cinematography programme lecturer Yow Chong Lee told The Borneo Post yesterday.

He added that the afternoon session was more 'hands-on', where students got to analyse the script of former students and share their opinions on how they would have shot the film if they were given the director's seat," Yow said.

Meanwhile, Yow said that the faculty was working on inviting more film directors and film-makers to give workshops and talks to the students.

"One of our upcoming events will focus on experimental film and KLEX (KL Experimental Film & Video Festival) director Kok Siew Wai is slated to come next month. We have also planned to bring an academician from the United States of America to talk about his research on old film theatres in Sarawak — and that will be open to members of the public.

"We want to bring as many directors, film makers and producers to Kuching because we are very distanced from film-makers from Kuala Lumpur, so we are working hard to bring as many as we can to Unimas to spread their ideas, knowledge and experience," Yow enthused.

Lim Kah Wai, 42, hails from Kuala Lumpur, who found success in China and Japan. He had been previously employed as an engineer for a telecommunications company in Tokyo for six years before he decided to make a leap into the reel world.

Tetsuya Mariko is a Japanese film-maker and is a darling of the Japanese independent film circuit, shooting to fame in 2003 with his sophomore effort 'The Far East Apartment', which was invited to 13 film festivals and won awards at seven of them. The following year, his short film 'Mariko's 30 Pirates' won awards at nine film festivals.

Source: The Borneo Post