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The LED lion dance troupe in action.



Three of the contestants performing during the talent time.

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TWENTY-SIX beauty contestants of the Miss Universe Asia enjoyed a whale of a time in Malaysia, taking part in a warm-up session ahead of the finals in Macau.

The session in the country was jointly organised by SAS International Club (Sasic) with Seremban-based developer Matrix Concepts Holdings Bhd as the main sponsor.

Besides Seremban, the contestants also visited several tourist spots in the Klang Valley, Putrajaya and Melaka.

The finale of the session saw them vying for five subsidiary "Malaysian Ambassador" titles.

They were evaluated by a team of 13 judges comprising Bukit Kepayang assemblyman Nicole Tan Lee Koon, Macau Travelling and Cultural Enhancement Association founding chairman Datuk Miguel Lam Vai Chun, Sasic managing director Datuk Seri Johnny Ch'ng Ewe Gee and Matrix Concepts director Datuk N. Logendran, among others.

The contestants wowed the 300 guests, looking resplendent in evening gown, swimsuit and *cheong sam* segments.

They also performed on stage to show off their individual talents, keeping the crowd mesmerised.

To liven up the festive mood, an LED lion troupe staged a lively performance while gods of Prosperity made their rounds to give out mandarin oranges to the people.

Warming up for the challenge

Five contestants win 'Malaysian Ambassador' titles at special session



The five contestants who were singled out as winners of subsidiary awards in the warm-up session held in Malaysia.

In his speech, Lam said he would do his very best to help promote tourism and cultural exchanges between Malaysia and Macau.

"Malaysians are truly very warm, friendly and a hospitable lot.

"The country is also beautiful with many places of interests to explore," he said, adding that they

hoped to foster closer ties and create more business opportunities in the future.

Ch'ng said Sasic was humbled and delighted to play host and thanked all sponsors, especially Matrix Concepts, for their strong support.

He also expressed appreciation

to foreign guests from Indonesia, Hong Kong, Macau and Singapore for flying in to join in the event.

"It is just a modest programme as our main aim is to promote the country and foster stronger bilateral ties," he said.

Logendran praised the contestants for having the courage to par-

ticipate in the beauty pageant.

"It is really tough for us to choose. All the contestants are beautiful and a winner in her own right.

"Take this as a challenge to achieve much more in life and develop a long lasting friendship with one another," he said.