

Spirit of freedom

It was a momentous occasion indeed when three nations recently came together to celebrate their respective Independence Days at University College Sedaya International (UCSI).

The national anthem for Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam echoed in the UCSI main lobby area as everyone stood to attention, marking the start of the Independence Day Fiesta.

The event saw students from Indonesia and Vietnam sharing with their Malaysian friends their unique cultures and traditions.

To add a festive air to the occasion, stalls were set up where students tried their hand at spinning the *gasing*, and played Chinese checkers and marbles.

Food and delicacies unique to the three countries were also served — from Vietnamese fried noodles to delicious curry puffs

and *nasi lemak*.

The Indonesian students also sold batik and other souvenir items at their stall.

The highlight was a fashion show featuring traditional costumes of the various ethnic groups in the three countries.

The audience was held enthralled by the exotic Balinese costumes, *cheongsam*, *baju Melayu* and *kebaya*, *sari* and the Vietnamese *ao dai*.

There was also a musical showcase featuring traditional and modern performances. An Indonesian student presented a Balinese dance, to thunderous applause.

"Just like a big, happy family that comes together to celebrate the birthday of a family member, the students at UCSI gathered to celebrate our Independence Days," said UCSI Student Council president Stephanie Liew.



It was brisk business at the batik booth set up by the Indonesian students during the Independence Day Fiesta.