



## An Evening of Arts

By Christina Lio

The German School Kuala Lumpur (DSKL) celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Friday, 25 of January 2019, together with its school community. The jubilee festivities were kicked off by welcoming speeches by invited guests to a packed auditorium.

Dr Gundula Stadie, President of the Board and on behalf of the School Association, welcomed the parents, students and friends of the school. Head of School, Dr Ulrich Mayer, then outlined the development of DSKL, time and again sparking associations to his own story. His speech was followed by German Ambassador Count Lambsdorff, who drew comparisons between Malaysia in the year of the school's foundation in 1979 and the Malaysia of today.

Emmelie Fiedler and Ainara Zander, two student representatives, addressed the guests as well. They shared their stories of having a personal relationship with DSKL. The Sonora Quintet, which was founded especially for the anniversary celebrations, accompanied the speeches with a Concerto in G major by Georg Philipp Telemann.

Then Year 10 students caught the guests' attention. They had chilled out in colourful



Talented moves from the Gymnastics and Dance groups.



Kindergarteners put on a great show. All photo credits: Gerhard Burchhardt

bean bags and eloquently narrated the school's history in the form of a poetry slam while also drawing attention to the inconspicuous supporters of the school. At last, the Theatre AG took the guests on a journey through time back to everyday life at school in its founding year.

### Amazing Performances

Right after, the scenes changed and guests gathered at the entrance area where the red carpet had been rolled out for the 'birthday child'. On the red carpet, the extracurricular working groups of the school and kindergarten presented an interesting insight into daily school life.

The little ones from kindergarten started off with a colourful presentation, singing a birthday song and drawing the audience's attention with gaudy confetti bombs. A number of talented kindergarten children impressed the enthusiastic audience with their Capoeira skills. This was followed by the Kids Band, the Gymnastics and Dance Groups as well as the Student Band who treated the guests to amazing performances.

Meanwhile, Power-Point-presentations by the MINT (Mathematics, Informatics, Natural Sciences and Technology) and Photo Groups enriched the festive program. The Photo Group had organised an attractive photo competition whereby pairs of eyes of members of the school community had to be

identified. Furthermore, artworks by the Arts and Crafts and the Handicraft Groups were beautifully displayed at several exhibitions. Not to be left out, the Potter Group had immortalised their artistic pottery plants on one of the school columns.

### Nostalgic Recollections

Two exhibitions at the school's foyer were inaugurated on this auspicious jubilee event: Retrospectives and Moments. One tells the story of DSKL since its inauguration in 1979, while the other presents recollections of former school personalities about the school during the various stages of its evolution. Both these exhibitions will remain open during the coming weeks to invite students, parents and visitors of DSKL to pause and read the stories. The exhibitions will also be touring the country and will be installed at various German-Malaysian institutions in Greater Kuala Lumpur and Penang in the coming months.

Finally, a huge birthday cake was brought in as a fitting tribute to mark the grand birthday of DSKL. Dr Stadie and Dr Mayer cut the giant cake, thus marking the end of the wonderful presentations and kicking off the festive social activities of this commemorative event. The festivities ended with much mingling and fun for the entire school community, who also enjoyed freshly made rotis, curry and satay skewers as well as a grand buffet. 