Anime comes alive
Students don costumes of popular manga characters

OUTSIDERS wandering about Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (Utar) would have had a shock when coming across young adults clad in neon wigs and swinging around huge weapons.

There was no need to worry though as aliens had not invaded the university’s campus in Kampar, it was merely a group of cosplayers dressing up as their favourite Japanese anime characters.

Naruto Uzumaki, Natsume Yuujinchou, Medusa Gorgon (from Soul Eater) and the Keroro platoon came alive as Utar students took on the persona of the popular manga characters during last week’s Cosplay Night.

Cosplay, short for costume play, is a popular performance art amongst youngsters.

They don costumes and accessories to represent a specific character, mostly from popular Japanese fiction.

Banking and Finance student Sushi Lim, who impersonated Miku from singing synthesizer programme “Vocaloid”, sang an endearing Japanese song before a 400-member audience.

With a modified Japanese yukata (casual summer kimono) and a long turquoise wig, the 21-year-old cosplay fan said she did not hesitate in spending RM400 just to create the perfect look for her character.

“I designed the entire look based on Miku’s image,” she said, adding that she enjoyed sewing cosplay costumes during her free time.

Advertising students Isabelle Yip and Rain Chong, both 19 years old, had also designed their own dresses though they had only picked up an interest in cosplay some six months ago.

“I know some basic sewing techniques and would like to learn more in order to create more exquisite cosplay dresses,” said Isabelle.

The two cosplayers from Ipoh, who dressed up as characters from Vampire Knight, had purchased their wigs and other accessories online.

Utar Cosplay Night adviser Foo Chein Ling said many cosplayers who took part in the event were first-timers.

“Some even watched video clips online to learn how to sew costumes of certain manga characters,” she said, adding that the students had put in a lot of hard work to ensure they came up with a good show.

Foo said that experienced cosplayers had offered the newcomers tips on how to dress and pose.

She said the event was the closing show for the Language and Culture Bonanza Fiesta organised by Utar’s Language and Linguistics department.

Other activities held during the two-day fiesta included the screening of a Japanese film, yukata-fitting and origami-making sessions.
Smile: A character from the Keroro platoon posing for the camera.

Fans: The audience excitedly taking pictures of cosplayers performing on stage.
Anime comes alive

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In character:
Sushi Lim, 21, striking the signature pose of Miku, a character from singing synthesiser programme Vocaloid.

Photo moment: Utar student Alex Ng (left), 21, posing with a character from manga series Kuroshitsuji.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headline</th>
<th>Anime comes alive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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An image showing a group of cosplayers at an anime convention. One character is dressed as a character from the manga series Vampire Knight, holding a bouquet of flowers. Another character, with pink hair, is performing on stage.

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*Keeping the Image: Bai Cheng, 19, dressed as a character from manga series Vampire Knight.*

*Entertaining the crowds: Megu Ruru, a character from single performance programme, performing an English song.*