



CYLLADDA report Genting 2006



On July 14th 2006 the CYL Lion and Dragon Dance (CYLLADDA) team left for Malaysia to compete in our very first international competition. Being one of only two teams representing Australia, our team, along with the Brisbane's Khuan Yee, would be competing against the likes of world champions Malaysia, China, as well as other world class teams such as Hong Kong, Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan, Macau, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia and the USA. We were all extremely excited and nervous about what lay ahead.

Once we arrived in Kuala Lumpur, it was straight to the hotel in the sleepy town of Shah Alam, and then off to the training compound nearby. Shah Alam could be best described as a quiet laidback 'Kampong' with not much in the area to distract us, from our preparation

for the competition except for a few occasional stares from curious locals. The heat and humidity in Kuala Lumpur took a while to get used to, but the local food and drinks were an instant hit.

The first team we met was the Indonesian team who were not only staying at the same hotel but were also training at the same location as us, and by witnessing each team's routine at training, we were all given a little taste of what to expect at the competition. In between training sessions we were shown the popular sites of KL and also had the chance to visit a Lion making factory where some of the boys were able to purchase their own custom made lions.

Unfortunately, luck was against us and injury struck our team midway through the week. This however, did not deter us, and training continued up until the night before the competition in Genting Highlands, with the hope that participating would still be a possibility. It was with deep regret and disappointment that our team chose to withdraw from the competition, but the safety of our members would always be our number one priority.

On a more positive note, the experiences and memories of this trip will be something that our team will never forget, where we met teams and instructors from all over the world, in an environment where



people of different backgrounds and cultures come together to share their interest and passion for lion dancing.

The team would like to thank CYL and our sponsors for their continued support and encouragement, as well as acknowledge the unwavering support, dedication and hard work by our coach Jason Ng and team 'mother' Annie Leung, who both worked tirelessly to organise and plan this trip. Without the support of these people CYLLADDA would not possibly be able to achieve any of its past and present goals.

"The CYLLADDA group has come back from this trip even more determined to compete next year now that we have had a taste of what level of skills and dedication is required to participate in such a world-class event. Our team has hit the ground running and preparation is already underway for next year's competition, where we hope to return and finish off what we started."