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## Dolls showcase Malay culture

PRETTY porcelain dolls dressed in intricate traditional costumes complete with accessories like hairpins and shoes were used to showcase Malay culture in an exhibition in Beaconhouse Sri Inai school.

"Many of the young people these days have actually forgotten about their own cultures. That is how the idea to have this exhibition came about," said Beacon-house Malaysia regional director Zarina Mobarak.

About 50 students and 10 teachers worked together to put up the one-day exhibition featuring dolls from the collection of Dinah Salvador-Lai.

"She was gracious enough to lend us the dolls for the exhibition and the students worked together to do research and work on the backdrops," said Zarina.



Pretty maids in a row: The dolls in Malay costumes of all styles on show at the Beaconhouse Sri Inai school

She said that initially, only the girls were interested but as the project developed, even the boys started to take an interest.

"The students learnt a lot not only about Malay culture but also about the different cultures in Malaysia and around the world," said Zarina.

Salvador-Lai, an ardent collector of dolls, said that she also makes porcelain dolls by hand and sews the traditional costumes worn by the dolls.

The exhibition also featured dolls that she had collected during her travels around the world.

During the exhibition, students of the school in Taman Sea, Petaling Jaya, were seen greeting guests and giving explanations about the various dolls arranged according to the region they were from.