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Tips from local TV personality

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STUDENTS of Kolej Damansara Utama recently picked up some valuable tips on abroad about from television personality Mahadzir Lokman.

Many students were warmed by the witty humour of the newscaster-cum-businessman during the hour-long talk at the college Resource Centre.

Some could not believe they were actually meeting the TV3 and TV2 newscaster in person.

The event was organised by the college's Career Club.

Arriving punctually, Mahadzir was ushered into the resource centre by its co-ordinator Ginny Wan Zaid for a briefing.

Mahadzir then went about the whole affair on a light-hearted vein, relating his experience of studying at Ohio University to the setting up his own public relations company with much humour.

He gave the students some sound advice on how to prepare themselves for studying abroad.

Mahadzir, who speaks fluent French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, encouraged his audience to take up a foreign languages as they could prove quite useful.

"I used to hate my father for enrolling me for French classes during my summer holidays but now I cannot thank him enough as these languages have given me the edge over other job applicants," he said

He added that mastering foreign languages was important.

Mahadzir also gave an idea on studying in the United States.

"America is perhaps the most flexible when it comes to education," he said.

"Whatever you study there, they will give you the freedom to choose on any combination of courses.

"That is why you see some students still undecided over their major even in their fourth year in university."

Mahadzir himself had chosen music as his minor besides majoring in business during his time at the Ohio University.

After obtaining his Masters in Business Administration, Mahadzir had the chance to pursue his PhD but dropped idea because he said tongue in cheek, "two Dr Mahadzir (Mahathir) will be too confusing for this country".

A former exchange student of the ABM (Antara Budaya Malaysia) programme, Mahadzir lived with a foster family in the United States from 1974 to 1975.

Upon graduating in 1983, Mahadzir returned to Malaysia and took up part-time lecturing at Institut Teknologi Mara, careful to avoid his father who had insisted that he considered a job with a bank.

"Working in a bank was the last thing I wanted to do. I was holding back everything hoping that I would stumble upon a suitable job."

The right moment arrived when his friend pointed out to him that the new private station TV3 was auditioning for newscasters.

He went to the audition and gave it his best shot. During the audition, he met his future colleague Robert Lam for the first time.

"I was not sure whether I got the job. If the criteria was based on looks, I would definitely not have been chosen," Mahadzir said.

After going through three interviews and one heart-breaking moment where he thought he did not get the job, Mahadzir was finally hired as one of the pioneer newscasters in TV3 on a RM1,000 salary.

Many people had asked him whether he had chosen the job because of the

glamour that comes with it.

They didn't know that it was his love for broadcasting that made him take up the job.

Mahadzir was very proud to be associated with the first batch of newscasters in TV3 when the station first started.

"We were the ones who built the image which is still enjoyed by the station today," he claimed.

Mahadzir left TV3 in 1994 after a 10-year stint.

"I left because I have always wanted to set up my own public relations company. There were no rifts between me and the management," he stressed.

The way was now clear for him to set up his own company - Dale Lokman Communications Sdn Bhd.

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