Kulit Manis

A Taste Of Terengganu's Heritage
Cinnamon *cinnamomum zeylanicum*

An evergreen tree 10-15m tall, the cinnamon belongs to the Lauraceae family and has been cultivated from time immemorial in Sri Lanka and grown commercially from Bangladesh to Zanzibar. Known as *kayu manis* in Indonesia where it is cultivated in Java and Sumatra, its bark which is harvested with curved knives is left to ferment for twenty-four hours and the corky layer is then scraped off leaving the light coloured bark which curls into quills as they are dried. High in antioxidant activity, cinnamon quills can easily be ground. The essential oil of cinnamon is known to have antimicrobial properties which can be used in the preservation of certain foods, whilst cinnamon leaf oil has been found to contain compounds effective in killing mosquito larvae.

*Kulit manis*, as cinnamon is sometimes called, is chosen as the title of this significant publication not only to reflect a taste of Terengganu’s culinary heritage, but also to personify and resonate the spontaneous oneness as a nation, regardless of race or religion.

Yeoh Jin Leng
Artist, Art Educationist
AMN, Kmm, PJG (Terengganu)

Yeoh Jin Leng was trained at a time when art schools stressed on the discipline of learning to draw the human figure which forms the foundation of learning the art elements of line, form and space. The four-year course at the Chelsea School of Art included oil painting, sculpture and zinc-plate etching. Lectures on European history of Art and Architecture were given once a week. In later years, he came to realize that “art cannot be taught, it can only be found.”

Jin Leng has represented Malaysia not only as artist but also as a cultural ambassador to ASEAN countries, USA, Germany, France, Australia, China, Taiwan and Japan. He was also responsible for the artistic direction of the opening ceremony of the International Quran Reading Competition (Musabaqah) for 7 years from 1976 to 1982, officiated by the Agong. Apart from private collections, his works are represented in the National Art Gallery in Kuala Lumpur and many other art museums in the country and overseas.
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