

## An Awesome Sailing Adventure

*Pelayaran KLD Tunas Samudera* is a program specially devised by the Royal Malaysian Navy *Tentera Laut DiRaja Malaysia* (TLDM) to expose youth to maritime life besides instilling discipline, leadership qualities and team spirit.



I

I was one of the three students from Kuala Lumpur chosen to embark on a ten-day journey from February 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> on board the Malaysian Sail Training Ship *KLD* ( *Kapal Layar di-Raja* or His Majesty's Sailing Ship) *Tunas Samudera* (voyage 234/09 ) sailing from Lumut to Langkawi.



Prior to the ten-day journey on board the *KLD Tunas Samudera*, the three of us together with another 19 students from different states of Malaysia were given special training to prepare us physically and mentally for the unique sailing adventure. We had kayaking and wall climbing activities on Pangkor Island.



Once on board, we were divided into different *Watch* (groups) and each one of us was given a pair of shoes, uniform, a cap, a bag, a handbook as well as a safety harness which was to be put on at all time. The harness was secured by a lifeline as a protection equipment to prevent us from falling into the sea or from being washed overboard or against the ship's structure.



The ten day training exposed us to the basics of ship operation, sea language, mental and physical training as well as leadership skills.

Some of the activities in the morning were morning workout, footdrill and climbing the foremast!



Next we were required to clean up different parts of the ship and polish all the brass items (aka "Brightwork"). (front - foxle, middle- midship and back- quarterdeck )





In the afternoon we had practical sessions on “piping” or blowing the whistle or making *Bosun Call* which was the Navy’s method of passing orders. For example, when the whistle was blown for eight seconds at high pitch and on cue, the Jalur Gemilang would be raised !

We had classes on when and how to set and furl the sails. We were required to name and identify the many types of knots positioned on the ship. There were also fire drills as well as lessons on how to execute safety equipment.



At night there were various activities and competitions like creating the logo, motto and theme song for the group or Watch.



At night we had watch duty and took over as helmsmen . The first watch : 8pm-11.59pm, middle watch: 12.01a.m.- 4 am and morning watch: 4 am to 6.30a.m. We were given the responsibility to navigate the ship. We had to read the radar by taking into account the speed of the wind, the various weather conditions and finally report to the Officer on duty. Binoculars were used to look out for ships sailing in the sea. Green light denotes the Port or the left side of the ship while red shows the Starboard or the right side of the ship. The ship is sailing if the light on top of the ship is blinking.

Besides lessons on the basics and know how of sailing we had fun activities too. There was a cultural night where we had a karaoke competition!

The ten-day training on board came to an end with an Excellence Award Ceremony



I was awarded *Sijil Cemerlang* or the Certificate of Excellence for being the most outstanding trainee on voyage 234/09. My Watch (group) was also the overall champion! The various challenging activities, great lessons and fun moments were indeed awesome and enriching!

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