

Countdowns draw them all



Attractive: A fireworks display in full swing at the Sibü Gateway.

Rain does nothing to water down spirit of revellers as Kuching and Sibü usher in new year

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REVELLERS braved the rain to usher in 2013 at a countdown party organised by the Boulevard shopping mall in Kuching on new year's eve.

Despite a steady drizzle, a crowd started gathering at an outdoor stage for the party, which got underway shortly after 8pm.

They sheltered under umbrellas and raincoats to watch a series of performances.

Kicking off the party were children from Morning Bell Kindergarten performing two dances, including the wildly popular Gangnam Style by Korean singer Psy, followed by a make-up show involving elaborate costumes.

Finalists from Boulevard's Kid Talents competition also took to the stage with song, dance and drum performances.

The mall also brought in artistes like Athena, Kit and Feasible Crew to entertain the crowd.

The mall also extended its opening hours to 11pm for its Boulevard City Mega Store and 11.30pm for its hypermarket and department store.

Let's make that wish but at the same time don't forget that we dare to wish because there is a general confidence among us that the future is bright.

— DATUK TIONG THAI KING

The party ended with a countdown to the new year and fireworks.

Meanwhile, in Sibü more than 1,500 people from all walks of life attended the countdown at the Sibü Gateway.

The five-hour event was made more joyous and colourful with the presentation of traditional and modern dances and a spectacular firework display.

In his speech at the event, Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Wong Soon Koh urged



Popular: Dancers performing 'Sibü Style' to the loud applause of the audience.

townfolk to continue to help make Sibü a happier and more peaceful place to live in.

Wong called on the business community to help create more job opportunities to make the town more attractive to the working group.

He said on the Government's part, it would continue to address healthcare issues, infrastructure needs and the security of the general public.

He also called on everyone to continue building friendship and strive at harmonious living,

saying tolerance, goodwill and social cohesion among the various races would make it easier to bring more development to the town.

Earlier, Sibü Municipal Council (SMC) chairman Datuk Tiong Thai King said everyone had something good he would want for a new year.

"Let's make that wish but at the same time don't forget that we dare to wish because there is a general confidence among us that the future is bright."

He said such confidence was the result of the mutual respect the people had for one another despite differences in cultural and religious backgrounds.

"Under the 1Malaysia concept, we must further enhance racial harmony, religious tolerance and practise fairness," the Lanang MP said.

SMC deputy chairman Daniel Ngieng and secretary Hii Chang Kee were among those at the countdown.



In sync: Children from Morning Bell Kindergarten dancing 'Gangnam Style'.



Glitzy affair: Models in elaborate costumes parading on the stage.



Cheers: Wong (centre), Tiong (fifth from left) and Ngieng (fifth from right) welcoming the new year with SMC councillors and community leaders.



Out in numbers: The crowd sheltering under umbrellas to watch performances at Boulevard's countdown party.



Malaysia: Performers from the Hornland Dance Theatre presenting a traditional dance.