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## Portuguese Is Worth Learning

This year the Youth and Affairs Bureau again organized the program "Summer Tour for Language Culture" --- to study in Portugal program. This program was held in the Coimbra University of Portugal and lasted for one month starting from end of June to July. In order to encourage students to learn Portuguese and improve their presentation skills, broaden their horizon and understand local culture of Portugal on site, the language promotion centre selected 15 students from the registered participating secondary students to study in Portugal. The registered participating students needed to pass two tests: the first was listening comprehension and writing in Portuguese and the second was personal interview.

The followings were interviews with several selected students by the «Talking» magazine, sharing their study and experience in Portugal and their views on the opportunity to study in Portugal provided by the Youth Bureau.

I was called Eduardo Lei. I was a secondary student from Yuet Wah College. Portuguese was a compulsory subject for junior secondary grade three students. Therefore, I started to learn Portuguese and became interested in it gradually. That day when my teacher suggested that I join the selection of this program, I followed his suggestion to make registration and accept the challenge. Before the tests, I had made a lot of preparation. I spent great efforts especially in learning Portuguese and Portuguese-related knowledge. Also I practiced Portuguese dialogue with my teacher. At last I passed the test and was lucky to be selected to join the summer course in Portugal. I was really very happy. Through this opportunity I made a lot of friends and understood more about Portuguese culture. At the time when I knew that I had been selected, I felt that the effort and hard work spent on learning Portuguese language and culture were worthy. Thank you.

Hello, everyone! I was Terry Wong. I had been learning Portuguese for five years. At the beginning I learnt Portuguese with my own initiative, mainly because I wanted to learn more languages to communicate with others. Then I found that Portuguese was very interesting but hard to learn. Therefore I thought that it would be a valuable opportunity to learn Portuguese in school. This year my teacher encouraged me to join this program. Firstly I needed to undergo test on Portuguese listening comprehension and writing, followed by a personal interview. My teacher and I together had done a lot of learning preparation to improve listening ability, dialogue understanding ability and response skills. That day after the tests, I did not know if I could be selected. Therefore I was

very nervous in the long course of waiting for results. At last the result came out and I was successfully selected. At that time I was specially happy and excited. I felt very happy for the tour in Portugal.

My name was Nathanael. I grew up in an American family, but was born in Macao. I had been living in Macao for 15 years and learning Portuguese here for 7 years. I liked to learn language and learning Portuguese did bring great happiness to me. Of course, it was very difficult to learn Portuguese which required us to distinguish between masculine and feminine, single and plural as well, but I found it was interesting in the course of learning. I had met many good teachers. Now Mr. Nuno taught me Portuguese and he helped me to make a lot of progress. I wanted to thank him for his tireless teaching. I was one of the 15 students chosen to join the program for learning in Coimbra City. I felt very proud to get this valuable and unbelievable opportunity. I had never been to Europe and therefore I was especially excited and emotional. In this tour I made a lot of new friends and elevated my Portuguese level. It was also the longest period of time that I had ever left home. After this valuable experience I felt that I was grown up. At last I wanted to thank the Youth and Affairs Education Bureau for providing this valuable opportunity to me. It allowed me to learn more new thing and became a more qualified person through the tour to Portuguese.

Nuno Capela  
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