



PSM eNEWS – September 2025

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF MALAYSIA

马来西亚摄影协会

Report on the Second Outdoor Photography Activity

The Photographic Society of Malaysia successfully held its second outdoor photography activity of the year from September 7 to 9, in conjunction with the annual The King of Hades (Tai Su Yeah) Festival in Bukit Mertajam, Penang. Around 20 members participated enthusiastically. Besides focusing on the solemn and unique scenes of the The King of Hades (Tai Su Yeah) rituals, the event also specially arranged several folk and traditional subjects for members to capture, including the making of dragon joss sticks, traditional coffee bean roasting, and the handmade crafting of wooden clogs.

Through their lenses, members carefully documented these precious moments—ranging from the solemnity of religious culture to the heritage of folk craftsmanship. The themes were diverse and rich. Particularly during the The King of Hades (Tai Su Yeah) burning ritual, the blazing fire created a dramatic scene, prompting everyone to eagerly press their shutters. Many members found themselves so absorbed that they didn't want to stop shooting. The activity not only fostered greater interaction and collaboration among members but also deepened everyone's appreciation of the charm of traditional culture and the value of photography in preserving it.

The Society will continue to organize such photography outings, and more members are encouraged to join in capturing and showcasing the unique essence of local culture through images.

Notice of the Third Outdoor Photography Activity

The Photographic Society of Malaysia (PSM), in collaboration with the Kluang Photographic Society, will hold the third outdoor photography activity of 2025 from December 5 to 7.

Themed "Island Charm – Dancing with Flowing Silks," the event will take place at Pulau Pengerang, Johor and Temple Village Pengerang, areas known for their beautiful coastal scenery, rustic fishing village atmosphere, coconut groves, and turquoise sea—an ideal environment for photography.

Activities will feature a wide range of outdoor portrait and landscape shooting, including beach sunrises, sunsets, flowing-silk dance poses, traditional Hanfu shoots at temples, and village cultural scenes. Combining natural light with live performances, the event will provide photographers with abundant creative opportunities. At the conclusion, a photography competition will be held, with cash prizes and medals awarded to outstanding works.

Interested participants may contact:

President: Harry Woo – 012-3344396

Secretary: Chong Kit Han – 016-8306206

Event Leader: Tan Song Chuan – 019-7159993

Country of Heaven Circuit 2025

This marks the fifth consecutive edition co-organized with the Chengdu Digital Photographers Association (CDPA) of China and the Asia Photographers Union (APU) of Singapore. Each past edition has achieved excellent results, with more than 20,000 entries submitted, exceeding expectations.

This year's competition is completely free of entry fees, and all members are warmly encouraged to participate and showcase their artistic talents. Full details are available in the attached prospectus.

PSM Distinction Examination Notice

The Distinction Examinations are held twice a year, in May and October, under the direct supervision of the President. The submission deadline for the second season of 2025 is October 31, 2025.

Starting September 2025, all applications and submissions must be made online. This update not only boosts members' interest in applying but also simplifies the process, eliminates printing costs, and offers greater convenience.

RULES & REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE AWARD OF DISTINCTIONS

A OBJECTIVE

The objective of this examination is to examine the applicant's standard of photography and to promote photographic art.

B TYPES OF DISTINCTIONS

- The Associateship (APSM) is open to members who possess a high degree of proficiency in photography.
- The Fellowship (FPSM) is open only to members who are already Associates and denotes distinguished ability in a particular field.
- The Honorary Fellowship (Hon. FPSM) - This distinction only conferred by the Society to members or any other person who has made a very distinguished contribution to photography or to the work of Society. The conferring of Hon. Award must be nominated by a minimum of 2 (two) PSM Members, review by the Distinction Council and approved by the Committee of PSM.

C CATEGORIES

1. The Associateship

- Thematic (Pictorial / Portrait / Travel / Documentary or Nature) & Free of subjects is allowed for the submitted portfolio.
- For the Free of subjects portfolio, it shall consists of at least 8 of the following subjects, e.g. Scenery / Landscape, People / Culture, Documentary, Journalism, Close-up, Architecture, Night Scene, Nature (Animals /Floral/Insects), Sports, People, Portraiture, Sunrise / Sunset, Events, Motions, Creative etc.
- The portfolio shall expressed the general knowledge of the principle of photographic technique such as Composition, Sharpness, Space, Colours, Lighting, Colour Temperature, Shadow/Highlight combinations etc.

2. The Fellowship

2.1 Pictorial Section:

Principally based on photographic imagery with technical and imaginative skills through digital or analogue processing, in order to reach the best visual effects artistically.

2.2 Portrait Section:

To the illustrates of human characters as the principal, to show an understanding of the subject's lifestyle and activities.
Digital manipulations are restricted and confined only to enhancement of colour, contrast, saturation, highlight and shadow.

2.3 Documentary and Visual Journalism Section:

Photography which has a specific purpose to documenting by presenting a real story of a person or event.
Manipulation by digital or other means, which significantly alters the truth of the situation or event, is unacceptable.

2.4 Nature Section:

The relevant subject areas are those which embrace freedom and unrestricted in a natural or adopted habitat including zoology & botany.
No kind of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement is permissible, except for the removal of mirror distractions or blemishes.

2.5 Travel Section:

Submission should express the feeling of a time and place, and portray a land or landscape, its people or culture.
Manipulation by digital or other means, which significantly alters the truth of the situation or event, is unacceptable.

- The evidence of application for the Society's distinctions shall be submitted in the form of prints. Prints may be in colour or monochrome (Black & White) only.
- The evidence submitted must be the original work of the applicant.
- Should there be any query in relation to the submitted work, the applicant will be informed by the Distinction Council and required to presence and provide verbal explanation.

D ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

- Application for Distinction is open to all member and non-member and must be 18 years of age and above.
- All ordinary members (local or oversea) who have successfully conferred either Associateship or Fellowship, it is mandatory to convert their membership to become a life member within a month, non-member applicants who is successful must join The Society within a month in order to receive the Distinction, otherwise the Distinction will be withdrawn automatically.
Should you be awarded a Distinction, you are only entitled to use the Distinction while you remain a member of The Society.

E EVIDENCE REQUIRED

- The distinction application only accepts digital submission.
 - Applicants who apply to be an Associateship member are required to submit a portfolio 15 digital images. Fellowship 20 digital images, either all in colour or in monochrome, no combination is allowed.
- Submission must be in JPEG digital files with sRGB format.
 - The longest side of image should be less than 1920 pixel, 300dpi and maximum digital size is 4MB.
 - The images must be numbered and name in short form (example: Harry Woo can be use as HW-01, and so on)
 - "Hanging Plan" is required, maximum arrange all the images not more than 3 row.
 - A statement of intent not exceeding 120 words is required.

F APPLICATION FEES

Applicant	APSM	FPSM
Local applicants:	RM 150.00	RM 250.00
Foreign applicants:	USD 40.00	USD 70.00

G MISCELLANEOUS

- The assessment for distinctions will be carried out by The Society twice a year. Closing date will be on May 31st & October 31st each calendar year. All applications must reach the Distinction Council of The Society before the closing date.
- All applicants must follow the procedure to submit their application form, fees, portfolio of work, hanging plan and statement of intent as required, and sent to the Chairman of Distinction Council below:

TO : HARRY WOO

HP : 012-3344396

Email : harrywoo47@gmail.com

NOTE: Payment transfer to THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF MALAYSIA, UOB A/C: 194 305 1025

- Application fees will not be refunded for unsuccessful applications. Your portfolio will NOT be returned unless sufficient return postage is accompanied.
- Applicants are NOT allowed to show nor consult with any Distinction Council members for advisory before the assessment regarding their submitted portfolio, this may jeopardize the assessment of your portfolio.
- Applicants are NOT allowed to alter, exchange of documents and/or the portfolio after the submission of application.
- The Society reserves the right to exhibit, publish any submissions beyond the date of assessment to promote The Society and its Distinctions and there shall be no fee payable, otherwise it will be returned within reasonable time.
By submitting your application, you agree to these terms. You will be notified if your submission is to be retained.
- The decision of the assessment panel is final and and no correspondence will be entertained.
- The rules and regulations governing the awards will be subjected to change without prior notice.

Jointly Organized by the Photographic Society of Malaysia and the Kluang Photography Association Outdoor Photography Event & Competition

"Island Romance — Dancing Veils in the Breeze"

Date: December 5–7, 2025

Venue: Pulau Pengerang, Johor

Set against the picturesque backdrop of a charming fishing village and coastal landscape, this event offers a visual feast that blends natural scenery with artistic expression. Azure seas, swaying coconut trees, crashing waves, and rugged coastlines form a unique tapestry of beauty. At dawn, models draped in flowing veils will stroll along the beach, their dresses fluttering in the sea breeze—evoking a gentle and romantic atmosphere. Every glance, every subtle movement becomes a moment worth capturing, offering photographers the perfect fusion of portraiture and nature.

Veils in the Light — Dancing Through Youth

Along the tranquil coast, golden light at sunrise and sunset shimmers on the water's surface. Young women in airy chiffon dresses dance gracefully in the sea breeze, their skirts swirling like waves—spinning, leaping, and pausing in perfect harmony with the light and shadows. This ethereal and fleeting moment of beauty—veils intertwining with glowing skies—brings to life a dreamlike, poetic romance.

Temple Glow — Elegance in Hanfu

The warm glow of the setting sun falls on the weathered red walls of an ancient temple, casting a gentle light. A graceful model in traditional Hanfu attire turns softly, as if stepping out of history. In that moment, classical architecture and youthful beauty merge, creating timeless images filled with nostalgic charm.

Photography Theme & Style

- * Main Themes: Romantic youth, aesthetic ambiance, traditional elegance
- * Key Elements: Flowing chiffon, graceful sensuality, ornate Hanfu, light-and-shadow contrast
- * Photography Types: Landscape portraits, motion portraits, traditional-style portraits
- * Artistic Atmosphere: Romantic poetry, vintage charm, strong visual impact

Event Information

Event Fee	: RM700.00 (<i>Includes accommodation and photography competition entry; only for full-payment participants</i>)
Not Included	: Transportation, breakfast, lunch, and dinner
Insurance	: RM100,000.00 travel insurance (<i>covers accidental death and permanent disability only</i>)
Meeting Time & Point	: Daily at 6:00 AM in the resort lobby
Health Preparation	: Bring personal medications: high blood pressure, diabetes, cold medicine, pain relievers, anti-inflammatory meds, band-aids, etc.
Safety Reminder	: Exercise caution during beach shooting. Wear non-slip footwear and avoid entering dangerous areas alone.
Protective Items	: Sunscreen, hats, mosquito repellent, and drinking water
Punctuality	: The schedule will be followed strictly; latecomers will not be waited for
Emergency Contact	: Names and phone numbers of event coordinators will be provided separately—please keep them safe

Note:

- * The event schedule and photography sessions will be conducted according to the distributed itinerary. Any changes will be announced promptly in the group chat.
- * Participants who need to leave the group must inform the person in charge in advance. The organizers will not be held responsible for unnotified departures.

Jointly Organized by the Photographic Society of Malaysia & Kluang Photography Association
3D2N Photography Trip – "Island Romance: Dancing Veils in the Breeze"

Date: December 5–7, 2025

Venue: Pulau Pengerang, Johor

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 05/12/2025
(Friday) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 12:00 PM – Arrive at <i>Nelayan Beach Resort</i>, check-in and rest. * 04:00 PM – Head to <i>Liuwan Temple Street</i>, named for its eight traditional Chinese temples. First photography session: Models dressed in elegant Hanfu posing among classic temple architecture. * 07:45 PM – End of Day 1 shooting session. * 08:00 PM – Dinner in Pengerang town (self-paid). * 09:30 PM – 10:30 PM – Evening photography sharing session. |
| 06/12/2025
(Saturday) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 05:00 AM – Morning call; bring your own breakfast. * 06:00 AM – Depart for <i>Tanjong Balau</i> beach to shoot the sunrise (free shooting). * 07:00 AM – Themed session: "Dancing Veils in the Breeze"
Models in flowing chiffon create a dynamic and romantic visual style. * 10:30 AM – End of morning shooting. * 12:30 PM – Lunch in Pengerang town (self-paid). * 04:00 PM – Depart for <i>Ramunia Beach</i> for a romantic beach session with chiffon-clad models among rock formations. * 07:15 PM – End of Day 2 shooting session. * 08:00 PM – Dinner in Pengerang town (self-paid). * 09:30 PM – 10:30 PM – Evening photography sharing session. |
| 07/12/2025
(Sunday) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 05:00 AM – Morning call; bring your own breakfast. * 06:30 AM – Depart for <i>Ramunia Beach</i> to capture the final scenes: coconut trees, waves, and dynamic poses by models at the shoreline. * 10:30 AM – Conclusion of all photography sessions. Return to the resort and check out. * 11:00 AM – End of trip. Safe journey home! |

Note:

Should there be any changes to the schedule, updates will be promptly shared in the official group chat. Please stay tuned for notifications.

"Island Romance – Dancing Veils in the Breeze" Photography Competition Rules

Awards	
1st Prize	: RM500 Cash + PSM Gold Medal
2nd Prize	: RM400 Cash + PSM Silver Medal
3rd Prize	: RM300 Cash + PSM Bronze Medal
Honourable Mentions (5 winners)	: RM100 each

Event Date : December 5–7, 2025

Event Location : Pulau Pengerang & Temple Village, Johor

Competition Rules

1) Eligibility

Open to all PSM or PSK members who participate in this event and have paid the full fee of RM700.
All submitted photos must be taken during the event period.

2) Submission Requirements

Only digital photos (color or black & white) are accepted.
Cropping, minor color correction, and light/dark adjustments are allowed.
Any artificial manipulation that alters natural elements or excessive editing is strictly prohibited. Violators will be disqualified.

3) Submission & Judging

Judging will be based on a set-of-photos system.
Each participant may submit 1 set of 5 photos.
Each photo must feature at least one difference model or maximum 4 model.
File naming format: [Photographer's initials] + number
Example: Woo Hong Sang → whs01, whs02, etc.
Scoring: Each photo will be scored from 1 to 5 points. The total score of all five photos determines the winner.
Judging will be conducted online.

4) Participant Information

Before submission, participants must provide the following:

- a) Full name (in English)
- b) Mobile number and email address
- c) Mailing address
- d) Affiliated photography club: PSM / PSK

5) Judging Criteria

Photos will be evaluated based on:
Creativity & originality
Technical execution
Composition, color, lighting, and perspective
Relevance to the environment/theme (close-up headshots will not be accepted)
Photos not meeting the above standards will be disqualified.
Judges' decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

6) Usage Rights

All entries are solely for this competition.
If any entry is used for commercial or advertising purposes without permission, the organizer reserves the right to pursue legal action and claim compensation.

7) Right to Amend Rules

The organizers reserve the right to revise, add, or remove any rules without prior notice.

8) Submission Specifications

Email to: harrywoo47@gmail.com
Image Dimensions:
Landscape: Max 1920px, Min 1400px width
Portrait: Max 1080px, Min 900px height
Resolution: 300 dpi
File Format: JPG

9) Submission Deadline

All entries must be submitted **by December 20, 2025**.

10) Prize Announcement

Winners will be notified on a separate date to be announced.