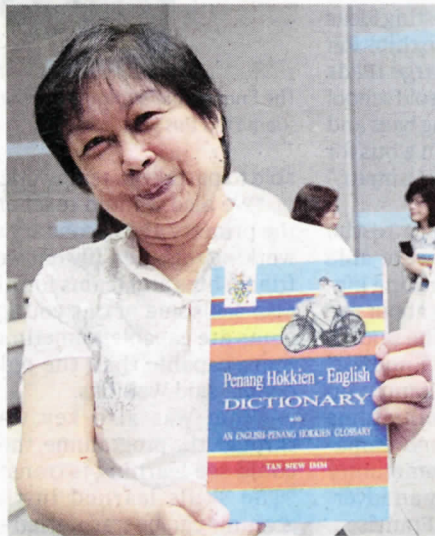


First Penang Hokkien dictionary compiled



Tan Siew Imm with the Penang Hokkien dictionary.

SUNWAY University recently launched the first comprehensively compiled Penang Hokkien-English Dictionary.

This labour of love by Tan Siew Imm, who previously taught English at Sunway University's Centre for English Language Studies (CELS), is aimed at helping maintain the language in the face of growing influence and use of Mandarin by the ethnic Chinese in Malaysia.

This painstaking effort by Tan involved nearly five years of research and dictionary development.

Published by Sunway Education Group, the project was funded by a research grant during Tan's tenure with the CELS.

This is the first comprehensive dictionary for Penang Hokkien, a dialect which includes words derived from Malay and English.

With more than 12,000 word as well as phrase entries, the dictionary is designed to be user-friendly for both native speakers

and those wishing to be more familiar with Penang Hokkien.

Apart from the definitions in English, there is also a glossary for English words and their Penang Hokkien translations.

Entries in the dictionary also feature explanations and examples on how words or phrases are used.

To make it easier for non-speakers to find particular words, each entry is listed separately and there are no sub-entries.

The dictionary was launched by Sunway Education Group and Sunway University senior executive director Dr Elizabeth Lee.

Also at the event were Sunway University Vice-Chancellor Professor Graeme Wilkinson, deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Pua Eng Chong, and CELS head Professor Stephen Hall.

The dictionary's recommended retail price is RM48, in bookstores as well as online.

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