### 06-11-T033.WAV

说话人1 00:00  
Be quiet on set and gurney introduce yourself. What's your name? What do you do?

说话人2 00:08  
Hello. My name is girly tan. I'm actually from malaysia and I was involved in dragon boats since the year 2000. That time I was just pretty much involved in peddling and joining teams. But later on, I I was just taking part in events like a dragon boat, malaysia and out of malaysia until the year 2020, when I was the president of the malaysian dragon boat federation.

So since then I have been organizing a lot of dragon boat races internationally and malaysia or malaysia. And I have been going overseas or so. For instance, this how I was involved.

说话人1 01:06  
most chinese people think that dragon boat festival is a very chinese sport, but that's certainly not just celebrated in china.

说话人2 01:15  
Yeah, dragon boat is not all I it started in china. But now it has already spread all over the world and it's becoming very popular. From year to year, the popularity of redwood is considered top at the moment and people from all over the world. Not only chinese, but those who are even like the africans, those from kazakhstan, argentina, and all that, they are all taking part in a dragon boat. Because a it's a deep spot that people are very interested in at the moment, because if you are going for a individual sports is actually maybe just.

说话人1 02:02  
jesus is right in the rain to actually, let's continue.

Great.

说话人2 02:19  
As a team sport, it is a very good spot and healthy spot for people. To be together. They breached friendship and unity. It's not only a traditional sport anymore. It is now getting more and more modern. As it gets more and more modern, you have many people, women, men, even children are already very interested in it. And is a played all over with even elderly people that I have come across, ladies or even men who are in the 80s and they still pedal. We have the youngest who was 12 years old and the oldest was 83 years old. It's a sports for all.

说话人1 03:20  
What about specifically in southeast asia where you're from and particular malaysia?

说话人2 03:28  
In malaysia, we started with actually very few, but there was In the 80s, as you started in penang, in penang, and the spot was among factories, corporate companies, and mainly men.

I wouldn't say we have women that time. It was all men and it was just competing with each other, but as the years go by, it slowed down, slow down, maybe because like in penang example, because although penang surrounded by sea, but with erosion and all that, so the spots has slowly died down.

But this past, I would say 10, 15 years, it has started to grow and people. The economy is growing because of dragon boats in malaysia. I take, for example, in sarawak, as the I organized in sarawak, we started with only three teams. The three teams are from singapore, indonesia, and malaysia. That's all. The second year we had only about eight teams. And until last year, twenty, 2003, we had 60 teams from 25 countries. We've people of all ages. We even have people with disability, the handicap, those without legs, those with one arm, also they do pedal with just one arm. Those who can't see the blind. They are taking part. And the other one is recalling the cancer survivors, race. Cancer survival series actually started with just breast cancer. But since 2 years ago, I started with all types of cancer. Why I started this is because people with sicknesses, they do not have anywhere to go. They are always very down. So we try to bring them out from their home to get involve. Now they are increasing. That is why they bring even the bride will be coming with the handicap, those without legs and they are coming for more.

So we now form them up and called it as para dragon. That is how we are getting more and more coming in. It.

说话人1 05:55  
It gives people a sense of community.

说话人2 05:59  
Yes, in community, we even have the community, sports, our community, dragon boats also where people from the same district, they come out and even from others. And when they meet up, they become friends. So this is always reaching friendship.

说话人1 06:22  
Let's talk about malaysia being a multiracial country and how that part which is discussed ok.

说话人2 06:29  
as we all know, dragon boat is it started with the chinese, but when it comes to malaysia, we also started with chinese only. But as the years go by because malaysia is a multi racial country, so we do not only want the chinese to be in one because as a multiracial country, we want everybody to be with each other to know each other and to know who your friends and the community is.

We started with having the indians, the muslims, even the sara watkins, the ethnic groups, and all that. With that, we managed to wish everybody together, not everybody are just friends with each other. Everybody is happy not only from being a bachelors, but also as technical officials and working committees.

说话人1 07:18  
And a that's a really great. It's a in a multiracial country, in a sport like this, probably like really.

说话人2 07:31  
important. It actually brings unity to the country.

说话人1 07:41  
Why is triangle so popular in this region where in china? Okay.

说话人2 07:49  
yeah. Dragon boat actually started in china. As it started, people from villages, those farmers and all that they come out to compete with each other. And harvest for good for them is a belief of good harvest to the community. And it brings boost up the economy of the place. So it is actually very popular because chinese is what I believe is that they like sports, majority of them, we like sports and they want to be very competitive even in the as farmers or even when they have a say they want to compete with each other.

Dragon mood is just one of the sports that they find it competitive and to prove to each other that i'm better than. So that is why it is very, very popular here when.

说话人1 08:58  
we bring dragon worship into this like historically this route at the guangdong region worships dragon because of the rivers and praying for.

说话人2 09:11  
We go when the emperor julian, when he committed suicide and because of his failure, his people or his countrymen. They search for him and when they couldn't search for him, they just to make dumplings and throw in the river to look for him. So with that, it becomes, people used to say that it is a spot where you worship, where is something to do with god. But to be very frank, it is getting more than that. People don't see it as something religion or something that you worship. Okay? Dragon is still dragon ball because dragon to them is unity, is strength, and is it brings prosperity. I personally I have an experience in malaysia. There was one time that dragon boat is allowed. The name is still dragon boat, but you are not allowed to fix the dragon head until because to some community, they think that it is worshipping. I experienced this personally, and when we did the explanation to them and telling them that this is not worshipping.

So now for these past 10 years, in malaysia now is getting popular and the dragon boat the dragon hit until is already there. Because there was one time they even put just flower, the national flower of malaysia, which is the hibiscus as the heat.

This is the experience that I had in malaysia, but there is one in indonesia. They put butt butts hit. Yeah.

So now everybody has changed to synchronize everything the same.

说话人1 11:19  
Let's talk about the women in dragon boats. You can start with historically women. Women are not participants in, yeah.

说话人2 11:33  
women of those days, they were not allowed.

说话人1 11:36  
into this spot in.

说话人2 11:38  
the olden days, in the olden days. It's just like women should stay at home, the men should come out. So when there is this reasonable competition or races, it's only the it is the men who are fighting with each other or competing with each other. And women are not. But women of the modern days, they think that they can be at par with the men. And slowly some they come out, but they started with just a mix, the men and women. When they have started with that, these women, they think that women can still do it, what men can do we can do.

So that's how it come. Although not many, we had the first experience to know that brunei, since last year, they do not allow women to take part and it's happening again this year. No women is allowed to take part in doing what in brunei. A is a country in brunei is actually a muslim country. Yeah, it was only last year the women they have been paddling and training together with the men for many years. But since last year started that no women is allowed in dragon boat because to them, they say that women cannot, women is not as strong as men. We had some women from brunei who came over to malaysia, and they joined the malaysian team. When they went back to the country, action was taken against them. Yeah, so the same happens again this year.

说话人3 13:19  
And they are not allowed.

说话人2 13:21  
The brunei, the women from there. They are asking us to try to help them, but we can't have it, because michelle, when we are two countries, we don't have any problem because brunei is ruled by the sultan.

So we do not want to have any problem. So what we can tell them is you have to abide by the rules of your country. But in all other countries, we do not have problem. Women are coming up. And some women are even stronger than men. They can compete. We had a race in helping yesterday. We were in the final race of six races. All the teams, five teams, were all men. My team, it was the only team with women and men. We were competing with the all the men's team.

说话人1 14:14  
We are recording channels. Yeah, do that. Can you share your experience? Tell early about your experience in the race?

说话人2 14:29  
Yesterday.

说话人3 14:31  
I had a race with the purely women's team. And I felt that the women was really energetic and they were trying hard just to prove themselves. And this is what the power that I found from women. Nowadays, they are stronger than before. And will you get more women's in future to take part in this sport?

说话人2 15:00  
Of course? Of course, because I always believe that women is not just to stay at home or not that the women cannot get involved in sport because this is a sport for all and is men or women. You can be as equally as energetic, energetic. And the spirit of women is actually higher compared to men, because they want to compete with the men, compete to win and compete to show that they are better.

说话人3 15:37  
I was really afraid that I will fall into the water.

说话人2 15:42  
I think you are not the only one who's thinking that and it's very common. Every first timers will always think that way a it is a very common thing to think it that way, especially when do not you do not have experience. So by looking at the boat, is it both of those days they are wider, not.

Now it's actually more narrow compared to those days. It's more balance, whereas even in china is the main production of dragon boats. We have boats, which we call it the ferrari boats, which is fast, is narrow. And the bottom one we call the hull is actually sharper. So this is actually makes not only women is actually men as a that they think that once they go down, if they capsize, what are they going to do? So like for us, what we always do is there are water safeties of this was once you go for water safety and once you're on the boat, you will just forget about the danger of it.

说话人3 16:52  
Because I saw there was a race in zhejiang and the man was falling off from the boat, but they managed to rescue him like after a few seconds. I was thinking if I ever fall into the water and they will just abandon me there or I just swim myself away or or I I was struggling in that question, but yeah, I think that the team working is very important.

说话人2 17:21  
but you have your life vest with you, right? That's the safety of it.

That's a safety. But when you capsized, you should not be under the boats. If you're under the boat, then it's a bit risky, but it is always a must or is compulsory that you must have the rescuers. The mindset of being positive is very important.

说话人1 17:54  
And we wanna touch on so girly talk about, say, something like traditions, because women are now part of the sport, but that's because traditions can evolve, just because this tradition doesn't mean it stays the same for thousands of years.

说话人2 18:11  
Traditions, like I said, women of do of last time in the olden days, is not allowed. Yeah. This is a tradition which as we started with just men. But as the years goes by, you have the women in it and peddling. So I would not call it as tradition anymore. It's actually a modernization, modernization of trading books, whereby you started with the traditional type and even the traditional. So you have the traditional boat which is the long boat. They suffer actually not the name dragon boat, they started with long boats. Yeah, or traditional boat so slowly, it comes into it where people of all ages, genders, male, female when they come in.

So the tradition part is always like in china. You have the the praise, and when you win, you have roast pork, roast a pig, actually like what we received yesterday. And we for big jar of rice wine so that I would say is a tradition in china. But in any at all other parts of the world, no, we do not follow this, because if I take, for example, malaysia, indonesia or even singapore, we do not follow this because we have different types of people. It is in terms of religion wise in belief. So china still practice this, but all other countries they don't. China practice this as that would be called as a tradition. When it comes to out of china is no longer tradition, but the tradition wise is only the day, the 55 5th.

说话人1 20:23  
What's the? Yeah, let's talk about dragon boat outside of china. Is it like from what is it like? Where are the regions where it's getting more popular, where people are kind of either taken up this court or celebrating this festival as a cultural phenomenon?

说话人2 20:48  
As cultural, what I can see is china and hong kong as a cultural sports. But from other countries, they would just observe, they know that 5th double 5th is always the dragon boat festival. So there will be more events or more dragon boat races or competitions going on it. It's a matter of getting the sports to go on because that is usually the time when they boost up tourism economy.

Like when we have it in malaysia, the biggest now at the moment is in sarawak. So that one is actually to boost economy, tourism, the the benefits of it from dragon boots is always very high for the past. It is first 2 years was just try out, but the third year onwards it has already gone up tremendously and the tourism and the economy economy in that place, sarawak in malaysia is one of the top. This is how I it's out of the country. Even in singapore, they have a lot of races, they have a lot of teams. It is a sport where in bringing economy.

说话人1 22:25  
Is there anything like like when you came to china that you were shocked by that you can share with them? With her I come from malaysia anything to talk about there related to the dragon boat not necessarily, but it's better if it's related somewhat.

说话人3 22:44  
Something that gave me shot was the because in malaysia we don't have rivers and most of the places they do the dragon boat is and the seas, right?

So what are the difference when people are doing this sport in the sea and the river?

说话人2 23:03  
There is a long difference, because in the sea is you have a reef, it's wavy, and yet you have to see the tide. You see the months of the year, usually when it's monsoon season, you cannot go out. But in the river or in the lake lake is still the best, but river for now we can because malaysia you cannot find many lakes.

Okay, even if you have lakes is actually very small lakes, distance we really need will be two hundred twenty fifty meters minimum risk. And then we still need a space for that. We need to have, if it's just a short distance, we need to have at least 500 meters distance. So implant started with the sea, and now they are doing it at the reservoir reservoir. So it's still water. But we still do it. Ii I still organize in the sea. But safety is always very important. And I have to check the type first before we do it, the sea compared to lake or even river. But river also, we have to be very careful, because really, we have the current undercurrent against current. Or when the type is high, the current. Every time when we do it, we have to check the water condition first. It is easier in the lake still water.

说话人3 24:33  
but I was experiencing the drifting part of the dragon boat.

And i'm sure about this. And do you think the competitions in the sea can do the drifting as well?

说话人2 24:50  
No, you are bound to capsize. That is for sure the drifting part is actually my first time to watch that in camping. No, in guangzhou not camping, it was in guangzhou itself on the day I arrive on the 8th. Yeah, I find it very very dangerous.

But to the participants from china, they find interesting. It is an interesting spot, but it needs skill. You don't have a skill, you cannot go for drift. If in the sea, if you go for drift, you could you capsize this? Before you turn because of the wave, but you must know how to study the sea conditions. Otherwise, you can't do drift in the sea. Did you try on that?

说话人3 25:44  
The drift? No, ii cannot imagine how ii will end up there and.

说话人2 25:50  
and to be very skillful in that.

说话人1 25:52  
What's the most important quality of a winning dragon boat team?

说话人2 26:04  
The quality is actually your strength, the strength, and the skill is actually the main quality. There are people or there are teams who are taking part in dragon boat because of money, because there are organizers who are paying lots of money.

So especially in indonesia itself, indonesians, they are very poor. And dragon boat is not their living, but some they go for dragon boat for living, so they need the money. This is what it is, but still the quality of it is still your skill and fun of it.

说话人1 26:54  
Okay, I didn't know like there are people who could like a make a living for it in indonesia. A is that a new thing? It's not new.

说话人2 27:10  
I can give an example of malaysia itself. We have a lot of indonesians coming over and innovations they are very strong. They have been reading. But now the people in sarawak and the people in sabah in malaysia itself, they are buying the peddlers from indonesia. They are paying them very good to peddle and to win, to get a price. And your pay is as a living because they are too poor. So dragon ball is always something for them to look into. And they are always asking around who wants to take them, how much you will pay. And they get paid, we get a title. There's always it this has been happening, actually.

说话人1 28:01  
Do you see that as a positive or negative, or you don't see that way at all? I see that as negative.

说话人2 28:10  
because you cannot use dragonball as something for a living.

See? Because when the team is peddling, you always have losers or winners. You can have five teams from indonesia who are trying to win, but maybe one, only one or two, they won the top prize. What about the rest? If they are not paid, I if they lose, they get maybe have to pay or maybe just 1/4. It's something very negative. And it has become into something as gambling. Because for those who are taking in the emissions as an example and pay them, they want to make sure that they win. And if they win, then it is something like the gamble. They do a bit that my team can be better than yours. So let's make a bet.

That's why I find very negative when it comes to battling or going for dragon boat because of money.

说话人1 29:13  
Is the gambling just between the different racers? Or are people gambling on the race? Both actually? Is that involved? Yeah. Can you say the whole sentence like because my question wouldn't be so like? Okay.

说话人2 29:30  
Some of these teams, they are actually going in for dragon boss to get the money. And some of the team leaders, all the bosses of that particular team, they get the initials example to peddle, to win, just because a they have a bet among each other, that, let's say we have five teams.

So the person, it will say that team c will win, the other one was a team a will win. Then they put in the bets that if this team wins, okay, how much are you going to bet on that? So this is something that they are using money into dragon boat, which is very negative. And my personal point of view is it should not happen because in the long term, it's not going to be a spot of unity. It's going to be a spot where money is involved. Although dragon boat you made, people may think that dragon boat is a normal sport, but it's actually an expensive sport. Because example like I take my team, I brought my team here, I have to pay for the air tickets, I have to pay for the accommodation and everything, and for them to train before they come, we have to pay, we do not pay them, but we have to take care of the trainings, take care of the food, the supplement, and all that.

So it's not a cheap spot, but it's a wonderful spot.

Actually. If you do it the right way.

说话人1 31:21  
But like you said, if it's so expensive, what's wrong with them gambling and then making their own money back and then to continue the sport for next year.

说话人2 31:33  
I feel that they won't really win that much. Yeah. Because please, if you're looking at team, a doesn't mean that team a will win all the time. And maybe the leader is the one who's winning all the time. There are other teams who may come up. So once they come up, this one will go down, because it's a sport that of people of all ages and as they grow. And when the age gap, there's a different age gap. And this they may be other teams who come up may be younger and stronger.

So doesn't mean that you can read any every time.

说话人1 32:18  
at this moment who are the involved in gambling.

说话人2 32:24  
This is something that I cannot really disclose this much.

说话人1 32:29  
but it's happening at you brought you just brought me like the the general, even like any anybody, right? Is.

说话人2 32:39  
it can be anybody, but it is not really in countries, like big countries, not in china, definitely not in china, not in malaysia, not in singapore, or even in europe. No. What is happening to countries where people are poor? So that is where it happens.

说话人1 33:08  
Have you been enjoying the food in guangdong, of course?

说话人2 33:14  
But nothing spicy because I don't take spicy food.

说话人1 33:17  
Giselle is always telling us about like a lot of similarities between the food here and the food in malaysia. Like, what are some examples of that?

说话人2 33:32  
I think now the most modern food is the malawi. It is a molar one.

说话人3 33:39  
Actually, this I think because in all the days, a lot of guangdong people they went down to nanyang. That's why they will keep the most traditional cuisine in malaysia actually like they still keep it and then develop into different style. This is formed guangdong food. Malaysia has got a lot of guangdong cuisine, a lot like those we have roasted goose, you can also find very good roasted, poor, roasted goods in malaysia.

So it's almost the same. There's no like culture shock between these two region. Okay?

说话人2 34:31  
Yeah, that's true.

说话人1 34:33  
You just find a check.

说话人3 34:49  
Any other to have the handicap already said?

说话人1 34:52  
I think we mentioned the handicap.

说话人3 34:55  
Yeah, I don't know what else.

Do you want to share with us your goal? With this sport?

说话人2 35:11  
I actually want to bring this spot up to bring in people together, because I see that this sport, there is a lot of political issues, especially these days, these few years. Just people want to be involved, especially the leaders, the management part, they want to get involved because of fame name. They want to be popular. But in order to be popular, they need to know the sport. If you do not know the sport and you bring in politics, the spot is going to collapse. This is something that I hope it will not happen in the long term. Just, for example, from, as I said, the icf and idbf and not easily split.

Okay? And for them to combine back is not really easy. So to bring to olympic sports, who is the actual federation or association to bring the sports to the higher level into olympic? It has potential to go in the olympic. It really has potential, but everybody has to work together and not to bring in politics in order to bring it up to olympic. This is what I hope will happen and make this as a spot of unity.

说话人1 36:49  
Your head of the association of, is it the Malaysian drinkable federation?

说话人2 36:57  
I'm actually leading that?

说话人1 36:59  
Yeah. What's the goal of the organization?

说话人2 37:04  
I what I'm doing now is I want to bring in as many to form up as many teams as possible for the teams to compete with each other, for the teams to experience and for everybody to know each other.

My goal is not to bring in politics. I always make sure that there's no politics in general mode in Malaysia. We may experience that, but trying to minimize as much as possible.

说话人1 37:35  
when you are in ice dragon boat races, are you trying to are 11 or in different regions when people do the dragon boat?

Are they looking to China and then trying to like, let's see what they're doing or are people kind of making like this? Our river is shaped like this? Let's figure out something let's adapt, right? Like more to our region. Like, what's the philosophy you wanna come to that?

说话人2 38:06  
We cannot compete with China. China is very much advance in dragon boat and China has got a lot of rivers where we do not have in Malaysia. We have to see wish we still do races, but not many. We have the reservoir we do, but is limited. Outsiders cannot simply just go in and say that we want to organize. We have to go through the local authorities. Same goes to in Kuala Lumpur, also the same to say that we battles or our teams, they come to China and then to bring something back or back to Malaysia and the copy, I think, is not possible. So China is very much advanced.

Another thing about China, especially with the organizers, is that they invite teams from international. They pay them as an invitation. They pay them, but we do not pay for accommodation or even internal transportation. We only pay for our fs and paying for fs is always very expensive, especially these days. I notice that this year fs is even more expensive to get teams to come over to China. I have a lot of Malaysian teams who are in China recently. And they come in because they love to take part in China, because it's cheaper to take part in China rather than you go to Europe.

All right.

说话人1 39:55  
How is the dragon boat races helping or not helping them the economy in the Malaysia?

说话人2 40:05  
It is helping because when teams go for the races, they do not only go in the team. They would go with supporters, family members, most of them they do, especially those from international countries, even locals. So when you travel from one state to another, they also bring. So as they bring all these supporters or even the peddlers or the participants themselves, they bring higher economy in terms of shopping, food, or traveling tourism. So main one is still tourism in Busa. Mhm.

说话人1 40:49  
And like Europe apparently has a lot of dragon boat races nowadays. What do you think is drawing attracting the Europeans into this sport?

说话人2 41:01  
Europeans are coming in very strong now because we have the international dragon boat federation. I think they have 80 over members or reaching up to hundred.

Now they have in the region in we call the edbf which is the European dragon boat federation. We have the international dragon boat federation world championship. Like in September, September is going to be a world championship. We call the club crew championship in Italy.

So from the international level, they are coming not only surface issue. International world level is coming up very fast.

说话人1 41:41  
but the European individuals who partake in the race, what are they? Because they have a lot of water sports that canoe, they got kayak and like why Dragon Boat Festival for them.

说话人2 41:57  
A friendship ok it's always the first one friendship why dragon boat is because they want to have new friends to meet up with new friends. And some they coming to tour and all that. But still the first thing is always friendship. And it's always a norm, very normal for those international teams like those in Europe and they come over and they exchange dishes to exchange the team. Dishes is always friendship. The friendship is already there.

This is how it is blending, not only southeast Asia, but all over the world.

说话人3 42:41  
exchanging t shirt. That's quite interesting culture.

说话人2 42:47  
Although it's just something very normal. Ii have a lot of teams almost every year during we do have the celebration dinner or the celebration party. They will be putting on their t shirts just like we are all putting up. They were just in the open. I take off my dishes. I exchange you, give me yours, I give you mine. That's what they will do. And we even have there for our teams who will bring a bundle of t shirts with them, then they start going exchanging. So it becomes a culture, actually. Yeah.

说话人3 43:23  
You were saying this is a very expensive sport. Were you find it hard to do a fundraising when you organize on events?

说话人2 43:34  
It's not easy. Fundraising is not easy. Why expensive is because of the equipment, the boats are very expensive. Boats in China are very much cheaper compared to any other countries, but the transportation of the boats over logistic wise is very expensive, and deems when they train the timing of the working time.

If they do not have equipment, if you have a club, but your club, you do not have dragon boat or any other equipment. The only thing is to rent and able to rent each time this money involves. So that is why it is expensive because teams of people cannot afford to buy full equipment. And nowadays, training. Last time we used to have wooden petals, now everybody is using carbon petals. So carbon petals, they are not cheap for training. If you noticed yesterday, maybe when you were racing, I think they were using carbon pedals. Is there wooden or wooden?

说话人3 44:48  
I was using a wooden one, and obviously it was heavier than the carbon one.

说话人2 44:55  
The common one is about three hundred and four hundred groups, whereas the wooden one can come up to eight hundred nine hundred or even 1 kilo.

说话人3 45:06  
for the beginner, for beginners. If they want to join this sport. Is there any specific platform they can easily find their best team internationally?

说话人2 45:19  
No, they have to actually start with any club or any team.

If they want to go to the best team, they still must start somewhere. Before a good team from any other teams will want to accept them. We have the experience over in Poland. It's also the same. We have one team wishes. I I would say very good, but they are quite good. They will not, if I am a novice, I do not know how to peddle. They will not accept they want the best of the best and good players because to them, because they are actually sponsored by AA factory. They want best of the best to go into the team. If you are just a novice, you go to the team there to them is they're wasting their time.

So the new ones, like me, I always take new ones why I want to take the new ones, because you want to build up and we want to give them opportunities. If those new ones they want to try and we do not give them opportunities, where do they go? They can, because this is not an individual sport, a it's a team sport. If I'm just one person or two person, I want to go and nobody wants to set me where can I go? It's always my way of forming up the new movies. And then once they are good, then we go step by step for them, and we give them opportunities to lead them to maybe better teams.

说话人1 46:53  
Ok. Great. That's it. Thank you. Thank you so much.