Sunway’s maths wizard
King of Chess
Mozart on silk road
Equipping the trainers
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Advisor : Elizabeth Lee
Editorial Team : Jerrine Koay (Editor)
Katherine Kee (Editor)
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Should you have comments, kindly contact:
The Public Relations Department
Sunway Education Group
Tel: 603-7491 8622
pr@sunway.edu.my
www.sunway.edu.my/college

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The Sunway Education Group institutions and services are:-

Sunway University
Tel: 603-7491 8622
info@sunway.edu.my
sunway.edu.my/university

Sunway College
Tel: 603-5514 6000
info@sunway.edu.my
sunway.edu.my/college

Monash University Sunway campus
Tel: 603-5514 6000
info@monash.edu.my
www.monash.edu

Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences
Tel: 603-5514 6000
info@monash.edu.my
www.med.monash.edu.my

Sunway International School
Tel: 603-7491 8070
info@sis.sunway.edu.my
www.sis.sunway.edu.my

Sunway College Johor Bahru
Tel: 07-359 6880
infojb@sunway.edu.my
www.sunway.edu.my/jb

Sunway International Business & Management
Tel: 603-7493 7023
info@sibm.com.my
www.sibm.com.my

Shanghai Sunway Financial Training Co. Ltd
Tel: 603-7491 8622
info@sunway.edu.my
www.sunway.edu.my/college/ssft

Sunway Le Cordon Bleu Institute of Culinary Arts
Tel: 603-5632 1188
lecordonbleu.com.my

Sunway College Ipoh
Tel: 09-545 4398
info@sunway.edu.my
www.sunway.edu.my/ipoh

Sunway College Kuching
Tel: (082) 232 703/236 886
info@swck.edu.my
swck.edu.my

Sunway-TES
Tel: 603-7491 8622
info@sunway.edu.my
sunway.edu.my/college/sunwaytes

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SUNWAY’S MATHS WIZARD

SUNWAY College’s How Si Yu represented Malaysia at two separate international competitions recently and won two silver medals. He emerged 57th out of 550 competitors at the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) and was in 45th placing beating 299 competitors in the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI).

Both competitions are grouped under the International Science Olympiads. When he first heard that Malaysia was going to participate in the Mathematics Olympiad, Si Yu immediately jumped at the opportunity. He had, in fact, heard about the events, when his sister first participated in the Mathematics Olympiad during her primary school days.

“I was exposed to the Mathematics Olympiads from a very young age,” he said. “And like other young Math Olympians, I dreamt of participating in IMO, the world’s most prestigious and well-known mathematical Olympiad competition.”

His dream came true when, together with five other A-Level students participated in the IMO held at Santa Marta, Columbia from July 18-28. He then joined three other students and competed in the IOI, which was held in Brisbane, Australia in July 6-13.

To win both competitions, Si Yu spent about 1,500 to 2,000 hours to prepare for the IMO and approximately 1000 for the IOI. The contest were both extended for two days, where participants were required to solve three problems every day.

“For the IMO, the time given for each day was 4.5 hours while in IOI, five hours were allocated. There were no elimination rounds,” he said. “We were required to write a full-fledged proof for every IMO problem and write a computer program for every IOI problem.”

The problems were tough; in fact, the median score was usually around one third of the total score for both competitions.

After his win, Si Yu is thinking of pursuing his undergraduate studies in the field of Computer Science, Mathematics or Physics.

“I am satisfied with my performance and my achievement especially during the IOI with just one year’s worth of preparation,” he said. “Even competitive programming legend, Gennady Korotkevich received a silver medal at his first IOI. However, I felt disappointed receiving a silver medal at the IMO as I have received a gold medal before.”
A MATHEMATICS WIZARD IN THE MAKING

SEAN Lim Wei Xinq, 24, is currently pursuing his Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics at University of Oxford. Recently, when this former Sunway College AUSMAT student returned to Malaysia for his holidays, UP team met up with him for a chat.

1. What is it like studying at University of Oxford?
   Oxford is a very interesting place. The university itself does not have a specific campus, but you have department and college buildings scattered around the city. It is the only university (apart from Cambridge) which has a collegiate system. This means that every full-time student is associated with a college. As an undergraduate, you have lectures in the department, but have small group tutorials in college. The tutorials consist of two to three students and a tutor; so, there is that added personal attention that not many universities can offer. As a postgraduate research student, however, instead of attending tutorials, I am the one conducting it.

   In terms of the PhD work, there really isn’t much difference between here and other universities. You have an office where you go to everyday and do your research. You also have to meet up with your supervisors on a regular basis to update them on your progress and also get feedback on the direction to should take. The people in Oxford are really helpful and supportive, at least in the Mathematical Institute, and it’s a great environment to work in!

2. How is the environment being away from home?
   It’s definitely a learning experience being away from home. You learn to be independent and do many things you would have otherwise taken for granted. But as I said, it has been a great experience so far partially due to the environment. In terms of the learning experience, the people around are helpful and supportive. I meet a lot of people from different parts of the world and have been fortunate enough to have a good mix of Malaysian and non-Malaysian friends here. This is really important because I get to learn about their countries and the cultures helps to open up one’s mind and see things from a different perspective, which I otherwise would not have done if I had stayed back home.

3. Did Sunway AUSMAT prepare you well for your studies now?
   Well, Sunway AUSMAT helped to prepare me for my undergraduate studies. I went to the National University of Singapore (NUS) for my Bachelor's degree. What AUSMAT has done is that it has provided me with a very good foundation for my undergraduate level. For sure there are things that I may not have learned that other people have in a different pre-university course, but there will be things that I have learned that they haven’t as well, so it’s pretty much the same for everyone. What’s important is that the foundation has been laid, so any gap in knowledge can be bridged easily. I would say that Sunway AUSMAT did prepare me sufficiently well, which I am thankful for.

   My Sunway experience unfortunately not as exciting as some. Most of my time was spent in the library, classroom or lecture theatre. I wasn’t so much involved in all the extra-curricular activities, but I did enjoy participating in some of them. It’s not necessarily a bad thing, but it probably would have been better if I was more involved in some sort of student activity.

4. What scholarship are you under and how much is it worth? What research are you currently working on?
   I am being sponsored by BP Exploration UK at the moment. It’s quite a generous sum – as it covers my tuition fees and there is a stipend for my daily expenses, as well as extra grants for travel to conferences and trainings and for relevant books and journals, which is really great!

   Currently, I am doing some research in seismic exploration, which involves the processing of data, in the search and discovery of oil reservoirs. It’s the same concept used by bats. Bats have poor vision, and therefore rely on their supersonic waves and reflections to help them “see” what’s ahead of them.

   In seismic, this same concept is used. People bring seismic equipment to an area where they suspect there is hydrocarbon in the ground. They make a so-called “bang”. The acoustic wave then travels into the ground and at certain points it gets reflected and refracted to the surface, where devices are used to pick up these echoes. Next, we bring this data back into our offices, put them into the computer, which will help determine what is underneath. The problem is that we get a lot of interferences and unwanted signals when we pick up the echoes. There is therefore a degree of uncertainty as to the results we obtain. My research is primarily based on quantifying this uncertainty.

5. Where do you see yourself five years from now?
   Well, in terms of my short to medium term goals, it would be really great if I could be involved in some sort of industrial research somewhere. I would like to be involved in some sort of R&D in any field. And with mathematics you really can go anywhere. For the moment, it seems as though I will be in the energy industry, but the future is hard to predict. Something else may come along that’s more attractive, jobwise, so at the moment I am just taking my life one step at a time and see what happens.
7. **Why do you think students should join the Sunway AUSMAT?**

Sunway AUSMAT is a good foundation to have before one enters university. When I did it in 2006, it gave me a lot of freedom to choose the subjects I wanted. Most other pre-university courses would give me set combinations of subjects, and some could simply not be paired with others, but AUSMAT gave me a lot of freedom to pick and choose. To me, it is as good as any other pre-university course, in terms of the syllabus it is pretty much similar, at least for the sciences. Some people may argue that within one year you do not learn as much as, say A Levels, where it takes roughly 1.5 years, but at the end of the day, it is not really just how much time you spend in class, but learning outside of it.

8. **How were the teachers at Sunway?**

The teachers in Sunway (at least in AUSMAT) were really great. They were particularly helpful during our one year of study and they teach really well. As someone who has been teaching, I recognize how non-trivial a task it is to teach, and they do it really well in terms of giving clear explanations feedback during the year, the teachers showed that they were very open to suggestions on how to further improve their teaching quality. They were also very approachable, especially when we needed help on either academic or career advice.

9. **What are your goals and dreams?**

Depending on what one is exposed to and experience along the way, one’s dreams and goals will keep evolving. At present, my goal is to be a teacher. I would like to educate young minds, and teaching is something that I have always enjoyed. At the moment I cannot see myself doing anything else, but who knows?

Sean Lim Wei Xinq is currently pursuing his DPhil Mathematics at University of Oxford.
THERE are many job opportunities for those with SAP experience. Consulting firms such as Accenture and Deloitte are hiring more to be a part of their teams of SAP experts worldwide. The recruits will be exposed to business-enabling SAP programs and given the chance to develop their careers. They will be extending their skills and working together with SAP experts to enable the enterprises of all sizes to become high performing businesses.

Enterprise Resource Planning software, or ERP, attempts to integrate all business functions across a firm onto a single computer system that can serve all business units within an enterprise. When ERP combines all functions through one integrated system, the various business units and business partners can easily communicate with each other and make timely business decisions. For instance, in an order fulfillment process, a customer service representative enters a customer order into an ERP system, he has all the information required to fulfill the order. The information such as the customer's credit rating, order history, outstanding orders, the stock levels of the goods, etc. are at his finger-tip. If there are insufficient stocks in the warehouse, the production may be kick-started as well. He may then make a promise to the customer about the delivery date. Consequentially branding is about keeping of promises.

But the reality is much harsher. An ERP package is a generic representation of the ways how a typical business does its business. In other words, each industry/sector/firm has its quirks that make it unique. ERP often challenges
the enterprise & its workers to change how they do their jobs. It is not just about customising a new system to suit the real needs of a firm, it also involves changing the ways people do their jobs in order to derive greater benefits from an ERP system. So, there is a social-technical approach to ERP implementation.

In short, implementing SAP solutions and extracting full value from an implementation is not just about technology. It’s also about focusing on what drives business value. The SAP specialists with business know-why & know-how are better positioned to exploit the SAP’s business solutions that include tools, solutions, and methodologies.

The 18-month VU MBA programme offered at Sunway College KL is a unique MBA programme. It is probably the only MBA programme in Malaysia which incorporates SAP as teaching software. SAP is the appropriate industrial software used to prove the business concepts and processes related to enterprise resource planning, supply chain & logistics management. The SAP training in VU MBA programme posits that both SAP experience and business experience are advantageous to one's career development. It echoes the common belief that ERP experts must be adaptive to operating in virtual teams across multiple locations & time zones to navigating variations in local and regional business practices, regulations and cultures, in order to maximize benefits and manage business risk.
Remarkable Achievements

LIEW Ziqing, one of the 12 students at Sunway College who scored 4 A*s in his A-Level examinations recently, has been accepted by the University of Cambridge to pursue his degree in Engineering.

A recipient of the “Top in Malaysia” for AS-Level Mathematics at the Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards, Ziqing’s studies at Cambridge will be fully sponsored by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF). He was also a winner in the 2011 Math and Logic Competition, which made him a recipient of a bursary worth RM 16,000 to pursue his A-Levels at Sunway College.

“I never thought of applying to Cambridge until I read about Oh Coyin, a former Sunway College student and a senior from my school,” Ziqing said. “Coyin had successfully entered Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). It was her success that motivated me to apply to Cambridge.”

Ziqing also recently represented Malaysia in the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) in Russia and came home with a bronze medal. The trip was sponsored by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation.

Other Top Scorers

Fellow student, Calvin Chung Jia Hao also scored 4 A*s in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics. He plans to pursue his studies in Medicine at International Medical University (IMU).

Jia Hao attributed his success to the different teaching methods of his A-Level teachers. “For instance, my Biology teacher uses multimedia presentation to explain in detail whereas written notes are preferred for Mathematics,” he said. Calvin is also a recipient of the JCF Entrance scholarship.

Yap May Yi, who also scored 4 A*s in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology, is heading to Monash University, Sunway Campus to pursue a degree in Food Science and Technology._attributing her success to her sisters who were her role-models, May Yi says her A-Level teachers also helped a great deal.

UP
STILL AN ACHIEVEMENT

SUNWAY College’s A-Level student, Liew Ziqing recently represented Malaysia in the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) in Russia and came home with a bronze medal.

Ziqing, whose dream was to compete in the IChO, invested time, dedication and commitment throughout the competition while juggling his studies back at Sunway College.

Approximately 400 students participated in the tedious selection process. After numerous tests and training sessions, Ziqing was one of four students who were selected to represent Malaysia in the competition. This was the first time students from private institutions were invited to participate.

Ziqing competed against participants from 77 other countries around the world. During the competition, each participant’s chemistry knowledge and skills were tested in a five-hour laboratory practical and five-hour written theoretical examination. A cumulative score from both the tests were gathered and the results were announced at the end of the competition.

Ziqing, who bagged the bronze medal, attributed his success to Sunway’s A-Level programme, which he said prepared him well for this competition. “I am grateful to Leong Lai Wan, my Sunway A-Level teacher for giving me a strong foundation in physical chemistry that enabled me to achieve my full potential during the theoretical examinations,” he said.

When asked about his preparations for this tournament, Ziqing said he had worked hard to maintain a balance between his preparations for the tournament and his mock examinations in college. “Learning is a process that I have fun with. It is an entirely new and different journey that everyone should experience to understand,” he said.

In the past, Ziqing was a member of the Academic Research Society in Chong Hwa Independent High School, Kuala Lumpur. The society was formed for students with advanced learning abilities to better grasp science and mathematics.

Apart from promoting the study of sciences, many training modules were conducted. It is through this society, Ziqing learnt about the Olympiad and aspired to be part of it. “I was hesitant at first as I thought I would never be able to participate in this competition. However, I was thrilled to learn that this year, private institutions were also invited to participate,” said Ziqing who was the runner-up for the Math and Logic Competition organised by Sunway College in 2011.

Ziqing received a bursary worth RM16, 000 to pursue his A-Levels at Sunway College. He was also awarded “Top in Malaysia” for AS-Level Mathematics in the recent Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards.

Ziqing has been accepted into Cambridge to pursue a degree in Engineering. “I did not think of applying to Cambridge until I saw an article of my senior, Oh Coyin who has been accepted to study at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the newspapers. Her success encouraged me to look beyond my imperfections as I applied to study at Cambridge,” he said.

Ziqing’s trip to Russia was sponsored by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF).
'MOZART on Silk Road' was a special concert, featuring a 12-piece world-class Perak Society of Performing Arts (PSPA) International Ensemble, renowned for its innovative concert programming and versatility. Response to the concert was overwhelming, judging from the standing ovation it received, especially when the PSPA played ‘Matsuri’ on encore.

Led by its music director, Eugene Pook, an established music producer, orchestra conductor, clarinetist and music arranger, the ensemble is in its sixth season tour of Malaysia.

The concert, held at the at Sunway University, also featured the Sunway University Ensemble led by its Conductor and Consultant, Rockie Siew.

All proceeds raised from the concert was channelled to the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Community Scholarship Fund to enable 9-year old music prodigy, Magdalene Ho realise her dreams to pursue her studies at Purcell School, England.

Magdalene, from Johor, has been accepted into Purcell School, a prestigious music school for children. The School was awarded the UNESCO Mozart Medal in 2003.

“Magdalene’s talent is of such quality that at such a tender age, she has been accepted into the enviably reputed school for musical education,” said Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group.

In conjunction with the concert, special workshops were held on August 29, where talents from the PSPA International Ensemble conducted classes at a nominal fee to the public, aimed at assisting to improve their skills in a range of musical instruments which included the violin, viola, cello, flute, gu-zheng, yanqin, dizi and erhu.

Their mission was to encourage the development of an appreciation and understanding of the performing arts, while contributing to the growth and advancement of artistically inclined individuals.

This is the second time the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF) is sponsoring a concert by PSPA to promote local talents and raise funds for gifted individuals to pursue their dreams.

There are also other categories of scholarships which the JCF sponsors and awards to students in the Sunway Education Group and other Ivy League universities. Since its inception in 1997 as a Trust Fund then and now as a Foundation, the JCF remains committed towards giving back to society in perpetuity by contributing towards quality education and research. To date, over RM132 million worth of scholarships has been awarded to more than 16,000 students.
The inaugural Monash Investment Challenge 2013 saw twelve teams of selected pre-university students taking part in a race to win the title, “Best Trader of the Day”.

The students were placed in the Monash University Sunway Simulated Trading Lab, one of the firsts in Malaysia where they were tested on their stock picking skills and trading strategies. The Grand Prize, a 50% Tuition Scholarship for any undergraduate studies at Monash University Sunway Campus, went to both Monash University Foundation Year Programme (MUFY) students, Chan Fang Lek and Grace Ong Sing Ling.

Fang Lek and Grace had the highest cumulative sum average of returns from the investment challenge. Fang Lek also bagged the first prize together with fellow MUFY student, Aleeza John.

According to Fang Lek and Grace, watching the excitement on television and getting information from books alone, was not enough. The ‘real life’ experience got their adrenaline going and boosted their analytical thinking skills.

Aleeza John said she was in awe, when the event came to a close. “The Trading Room was cool! I was so surprised and impressed by the setup. It is so real!” she said, with excitement.

From Overseas
Students from the Asian International School in Sri Lanka, Adil Chattoor and Velupillai Pathmanathan, said they found the challenge tough and tricky but encouraged them to think analytically.

Harin Dhanushanka Deegoda Gamage, Accounting and Business lecturer at the Lyceum Business School in Sri Lanka, made the effort to take her students to the Colombo Stock Market to observe and conduct their research.

Both Timothy Jevon Lieander and Jessica Puteri of SMA Santa Maria Pekanbaru, Indonesia expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to experience stock trading in a safe, simulated environment. This challenge has provided them with a better grasp of the factors at play in “real life” trading where real monetary risks exist.

Professor Kwai Choi Lee, Head, School of Business at Monash University Sunway Campus, Professor Kwai Choi Lee said that the primary objective of this investment challenge was to inculcate greater awareness of the accounting and finance discipline.
Happenings

SIM Yi Qi from Chong Hwa Independent High School, KL emerged champion during the recent ‘VU Business Challenge’.

Besides taking home the trophy, Yi Qi also walked away with a full scholarship, amounting to RM 69,400 to pursue the three-year VU Bachelor of Business degree programme at Sunway College.

The inaugural competition also saw another student from Chong Hwa Independent High School, Wong Jun Ren, emerging as first runner-up and taking home a scholarship worth RM 24,000, while second runner-up, Ng Eu Ee from Hin Hua High School, Klang a scholarship worth RM 15,000. The scholarships are also for them to pursue the three-year VU Bachelor of Business degree programme.

According to Greeja Hemalata De Silva, Head of the Australian University Programme (AUP), a total of 72 students from nine schools had participated in this event. Each school had sent two teams, each comprising four members. “It was a grueling experience for the finalists to be interviewed in front of a large crowd, comprising their peers, teachers and the Sunway organising team, but a few managed to be entertaining with their humorous responses,” she said.

The VU Business Challenge was designed to test the students on their intellect, logic and problem solving skills and provide exposure to various aspects of business and management.

Participants were evaluated based on an academic test, which determined their level of knowledge on various aspects of business and general knowledge, while another set of assignment known as the business project encouraged critical thinking in a challenging business situation. The third part of the competition, known as the “VU Race”, required team members to have effective communication as well as time-management skills. The top five scorers were chosen to proceed to the final round, where they had to sit through an interview session, which was considered the highlight of the challenge.

The panel of interviewers evaluated the five finalists based on their responses to questions posed to them. These questions covered current issues related to politics and the environment, and other social and financial issues. The five finalists were assessed based on their language proficiency, relevance and depth of their responses and their deportment.

At Sunway College, the AUP offers the VU Bachelor of Business degree.

FULL SCHOLARSHIP

SIM Yi Qi holding her winning trophy and mock cheque with Teo Ee Sing, Executive Director of Sunway College.

1st runner-up, Wong Jun Ren

2nd runner-up, Ng Eu Ee
FOR three consecutive years, Sunway TES has been selected to conduct the “Sunway TES ACCA Platinum Train-The-Trainers Conference 2013” for delegates from Chinese universities.

According to Sunway College’s Executive Director, Teo Ee Sing, the seminar saw the participation of 40 university programme leaders and lecturers from 18 institutions of higher learning in China.

Speaking to the delegates, Teo said he hoped that by the time the conference ended, the delegates would have gained insights on the efficient and effective management and delivery of the ACCA programme, as it is being conducted at Sunway TES.

Delegates given the opportunity to learn how the ACCA programme is taught at Sunway TES, were presented with a platform to discuss practical and effective teaching methodology with Senior Lecturers from Sunway TES.

This, being the tenth year Sunway TES is awarded the Platinum status by ACCA, UK, the conference carried with it the commemorative title, ‘platinum’. The event was jointly organised by Sunway TES and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) China.

YB P Kamalanathan, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Malaysia graced the opening ceremony. In his speech, the Deputy Education Minister said that with Sunway TES’ impressive track record, he is not surprised that ACCA has selected Sunway TES to be its collaborative partner in its outreach programmes in China and other parts of the world. He also commended Teo for inspiring ACCA Approved Learning Providers in the region to aspire to achieve the highest standards of excellence.

Sunway TES is the leading professional accountancy and finance institution in the Asia Pacific Region with a stunning track record, nurturing as many as 3,049 ACCA affiliates and ACCA World Prize winners in the past 19 years. In any examination sitting, more than 40% of ACCA affiliates in Malaysia are produced by Sunway TES. Graduates from Sunway TES are highly sought after as they have proven to be high achievers.

EQUIPPING THE TRAINERS

Chinese universities sent 40 delegations to the recent Train-The-Trainers Conference 2013 jointly organised by Sunway TES and ACCA China....
ON BECOMING AN ACTUARY

Yap Tze Yue, 19 is currently pursuing a degree in Actuarial Science at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

Yap Tze Yue was a pure science student but as she was completing her Form 5 examinations, she realised she did not see herself pursuing a career where she would be working in a laboratory.

The former Australian Matriculation Programme (AUSMAT) student then decided to specialise in something else instead. As her strength is in Mathematics, she decided to pursue a degree in Actuarial Science.

Since applying to enter London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) in January this year, she has been interning as an Equity Research Analyst in a security firm. “My task was to help with the morning news publications and conduct financial research internally,” she said. “It has been an insightful experience so far.”

Asked about her experience as a Sunway’s AUSMAT student, Tze Yue said students were given plenty of freedom and autonomy during the duration of the course. “We were forced to socialise with people as we never had the same batch of friends in each class,” she said. “We expanded our circle of friends and that created more exposure for us. The AUSMAT programme required constant revision right from the start. However, maintaining a balance between work and play is vital.”

Tze Yue keeps her feet on the ground by reminding herself to always be humble and keep improving throughout the course. “There will always be someone who is better than you out there. Use that to your advantage, keep striving and work hard,” she added.

As Tze Yue joined the AUSMAT programme a month after the intake, she said she had to work extremely hard to catch up with the rest by studying religiously daily. She also asked her peers for notes and materials that helped her to catch up. She received plenty of assistance from dedicated teachers who were always available for consultation. This helped her tremendously with her studies. “I remember some of my teachers who would even skip lunch to make time to assist me,” she said.

It has always been Tze Yue’s dream to get into LSE. “I know most students would prefer to get into a university in Australia, but LSE has always been a goal,” she said “Getting accepted into this reputable university is truly an achievement.”
WHAT better way to teach young people about the role United Nations plays to fulfil its mandate as a world body than to bring students together in a three-day Model United Nations (Model UN or MUN) conference!

The conference is an academic simulation of the United Nations, where delegates get to role-play as diplomats representing a particular country or NGO in a simulated session of a committee of the United Nations, such as the Security Council or the General Assembly.

According to Heath Kondro, Canadian International Matriculation Program (CIMP) lecturer who teaches Communications Technology at Sunway, he hopes to bring a larger group of students to the event in the future. “At the conference, one other school had about 50 delegates, we only had ten,” he said.

The group of students – four from Sunway International School (SIS) and six from the CIMP – attended the MUN Conference in Singapore last September. They were accompanied by Heath, and a fellow colleague who teaches Dramatic Arts and History at SIS, Brendan Narancsik.

On the first day of the conference, which was hosted by United World College, South East Asia-East Campus, a total of 240 delegates from eight schools around the region attended.

The delegates were then grouped into their different committees, which addressed a wide array of issues related to Disarmament, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Human Rights, Politics, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Security Council.

On the final day, all delegates were grouped according to the country they represented for the General Assembly. This provided an opportunity for the students to work together with other delegates from the different committees.

MUN Club Activities
“We have plans to include students from grades seven and eight from SIS. The club is currently into its second semester and we are hoping to recruit more members.” For the first semester, Heath said, the students conducted their in-house mock debates and learnt to conduct proper research. “At first, the students were terrified of public speaking, but over a period of time, they became used to the idea and now they are really enjoying it!” he observed. “After attending the recent conference, they are now even more excited and looking forward to attend such conferences in future. We plan to attend at least two conferences per semester.”

Students Feedback

Lydia Cheah (Malaysian)
President of MUN-SIS
I started MUN without knowing anything of the world. And I was nervous at first, it sounded like it was a lot of work but I’ve learnt a lot of things since the conference. I’m now less ignorant of world issues and care more. And for someone who didn’t know anything to being President of the Club is like WOW!

Ardalan Mahdavieh (Iranian)
President of MUN-CIMP
I didn’t know anything about MUN before joining the club. But I’ve found that I really like it – the debating and researching. The MUN Conference at Singapore was just amazing! I learnt so much! I miss it a lot and would love to go for another conference.

Ahmad Addeen Syah bin Shahar
Grade 11-SIS
I have always been interested in world issues and knew about MUN. When it was announced that a club would be set up, I was interested. But I was nervous about speaking in public. By attending the conference, I can speak confidently, it makes me want to do more speeches.

Wellney Yarra (Indonesian)
1st semester-CIMP
When I was studying in Indonesia, I was in a debate club. So when I came here, I had two choices – the debate club or MUN club. I decided to try something new. In debate-there are the pros and cons, either way you have to win but in MUN, I get to learn a new perspective, put myself in other people’s shoes. It’s a really good experience as I learn to think about other people.
The 20-year-old ACCA student while preparing for the ACCA examination in a classroom, said her friends started complaining why they had internal examinations, such as progress tests and mock examinations, which they had to go through in order to pass the ACCA.

The answer is now nicely woven into her song. “It talks about the ACCA Premier Plus and Platinum Status and how as students, we have made Sunway TES proud with our achievements,” she said.

The inspiration came during a conversation between Sunway TES Executive Director, Teo Ee Sing, Director Financial Courses Division, Sandra Ong and Adeline one fine afternoon. “Mr. Teo was broaching on his plans for the Sunway TES ACCA 10 Years Platinum Award celebration and I suddenly had this inspiration to compose a song to celebrate our success. I completed the first draft of lyrics within three days but I had to go through many rounds of changes before I was finally happy with the composition. I then improvised the music scores.”
THE Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) recently held a seminar, titled, “A gift from nature, a gift for life” to educate students about the oil palm industry.

Faudzy Asrafudeen, Director of Marketing and Market Development of MPOC, delivered his keynote address on the history of the palm oil industry and how it has developed to what it is today – an integral part of the Malaysian economic growth.

Other speakers included Mohd Muslimin Bin Hashim, Manager of the Science & Environment Division, MPOC; Jyunichi Washizaki, Technical Programme Officer at Wild Asia; Raymond De Gracious, Head of the New Employee Engagement and Employee Branding Unit under the Human Resource Department of Sime Darby Plantation and Dr Diana Ramirez, a veterinarian from the Sabah Wildlife Department.

Environment and Nutrition
The seminar, which was attended by 250 pre-university students, featured two important segments about the industry – an environmental talk and a nutritional talk.

The environmental talk tackled the environmental concerns and practices by the palm oil industry, which included conservation related issues. Students were encouraged to participate in an open forum, with environmentalists to discuss issues concerning the palm oil. They also learnt about the environmental position of other oil seed crop producing countries such as Canada and Europe, and the environmental challenges in those regions.

Students also learnt of “attacks” on the palm oil industry in countries such as Australia, New Zealand and the United States and how they affect the global outlook for the commodity.

The nutritional talk focused on the technical usage and application of palm oil and its advantages, compared with other oils with regards to its nutrition, taste and practical usage. Different cooking techniques like frying and baking were also demonstrated.

Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group said she hopes the students will be interested and inspired to volunteer, contribute and even consider a career pathway in the palm oil industry. “For those who do not already know, MPOC has been working closely with the Sabah Wildlife Society to ensure the survival of the natural habitats,” she said. “I am sure we have some budding or young environmentalist here who will want to volunteer for such good causes.”
Happenings

KING OF CHESS

For two years in a row, Sunway College students have once again emerged as champions at the International Chess category during the recent MAPCU event. *UP* team chats with them to find out the secret...

SUNWAY College students, Ng Shyue Jer, Teh Wee Zhun, H’ng Eng Ngee, Chan Sheng Yip, Winnie Hong and Evelyn Law beat participants from ten other private institutions to emerge as Champions for this year’s MAPCU International Chess Competition 2013.

What’s the secret behind their success?

According to Shyue Jer, who is President of the Sunway Chess Club, they had first conducted an internal tournament within Sunway College to pick the best players to represent Sunway at the competition. “We needed a strategic and well-balanced team to complement each other during the tournament,” he told *UP*.

Preparation for the tournament was intensive and varied. Wee Zhun, an ICAEW student, for example, said he constantly evaluated all possibilities of a move with the help of a special software, known as Fritz13. “The software has given me a comprehensive understanding of the game,” he shared. “I have picked up the skills of reading patterns while playing.”

The other members relied more on reading materials and practice.

But, the biggest help was a special coaching by Mok Tze Meng, Malaysia’s best player and International Master, who taught them how to play, analyse and improve on their moves in every single game.

Returning player, Wee Zhun said the level of difficulty continues to rise every year as it is becoming more and more challenging. Also a change to the dynamics of the group affects each team every year when someone leaves.

“Finding someone suitable as replacement is also a challenge,” said Wee Zhun, who emerged 4th in the National Junior Chess Championship 2011. He, together with Sheng Yip regularly participates in chess competitions, their last being the International Chess Competition held at Mid Valley recently where Sheng Yip finished fourth while Wee Zhun finished tenth.

The MAPCU chess competition is an annual event by the Malaysian Association of Private Colleges & Universities (MAPCU). It attracts participants from major private colleges and universities including INTI, HELP, Taylor’s, Monash and Nilai.

*UP*
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