

The true Test

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MY classmates and I from GIIS Queenstown had the unique honour of being selected for the iGlocal seminar at the Singapore Management University. The other participating schools were St Hilda's Secondary, ISS International School, Northlight School, Dunman High and St Anthony's Canossian Secondary.

The project – a joint initiative of the United World College of South-east Asia, the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre and the Lien Centre for Social Innovation – aims to stimulate volunteerism among youths. The hope is that taking the initiative to help the needy will simultaneously develop skills which will be useful to them personally and to society at large.

After being introduced to the concept of iGlocal, the participants were shown how to set objectives and targets using the Smart plan. Smart stands for Specific, Measurable, Agreeable, Realistic and Time.

We were encouraged to identify and discuss some of the common problems that affect the world with students from the other schools. Next, we had to embark on our individual school projects. Our guidelines were simple; we had to make a project that would help diminish the harsh effects of any one of the problems identified by our group.

Armed with new Smart skills and a burning desire to do something, we returned to school. After rigorous brainstorming sessions, we settled on the idea of teen empowerment and fitness. It came as a result of us realising how all of us have faced problems such as rivalry and bitterness towards other schools, being made fun of because of being unfit, or being stressed before exams.

We started our project by drawing up a plan to spread awareness about the benefits of leading a healthy lifestyle and to help students make changes to their lifestyles. At the same time, we also hoped to improve the social relations between youths from different schools.

After hours of discussions, we came up with our project called Test – the Teen Empowerment Sports Tournament.

We plan to hold tournaments in three different sports in our school: Tennis, basketball and football. The invitees will be teens from numerous schools all over Singapore. However, rather than playing in their school teams, all the students will be shuffled and put into teams with students from other schools.

As a part of the programme, which will be implemented this month and the next, they will also be given a presentation on the benefits of eating a balanced diet.

Also, since we are one of the few schools which practise yoga, we will give a presentation explaining the benefits of yoga.

iGlocal has provided a great platform for us students to express our opinions which are normally not given much weightage in the world of adults. This obviously goes a long way in helping us hone our skills and develop our sense of social enterprise.



Social effort... the GIIS Queenstown team taking part in the iGlocal seminar.

PHOTOS: DPSIS



from Global Indian International School