

Science Tour to Singapore 2014

Presented in morning Assembly on 5.11.2014

Mr. Yuen, Father Philip, teachers and fellow schoolmates, good morning. I am Ivan Sin from 4C (Roy Lee from 3F) and he is Marcus Kwok from 4C (Ryan Yip from 3F). During this past summer holiday, when most of you were probably taking a good break away from tests and exams, we had a group of junior form students who still had to attend school. It is only that our classroom has switched from the classroom in SPC to that in Singapore. In the next 10 minutes, we will share with you our experience in the Summer Science Tour to Singapore organized by the Science Department.

Accompanied by Mr. Au Yeung, Ms. Chan and Ms. Yu, we set off our voyage to Singapore early in the morning on the 21st of July. After meeting up with our local guide, Peter, we started off our first day in this tour. Our starting point is at a place called Raffles Landing Site, where Sir Raffles, who founded Singapore as a trading post, first landed back in 1819. From here we walked along the Singapore River. On the two sides of it, we found different styles of skyscrapers, highlighting Singapore as a key economic driver on the world stage. We soon arrived at the iconic landmark of Singapore, the Merlion Park, which is often regarded as the archetypal symbol of Singapore. We were completely captivated by the sophistication shown by the carving on the statue. From here the Marina Bay was right in front of us and the magnificent skyline was simply unforgettable. During our visit to the Marina Barrage, we got to understand in depth the role of the reservoirs in the water catchment of Singapore and the mechanism behind the reservoirs. We also learned about the three benefits brought about by the Marina Barrage. They include the

flood control, water supply and lifestyle attraction. When the day was about to end, we dined in Lau Pa Sat where the food was reasonably priced, yet of very good quality. For most of us, Hainanese Chicken Rice would probably rank top among the other dishes as it is often known as a Singapore's national dish. Another signature dish is Laksa, which is a Peranakan dish consisting of noodles, fishcake, eggs and cockles, cooked in a spicy coconut broth. On top of these two signature dishes, you definitely should not miss out 'Mango Milk Ice' as it is probably the most popular dessert amongst us in this tour as its freshness appeals to all of us.

On the second day, we woke up very early for a morning walk at the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. The hill is named the highest in Singapore though its height is in no way higher than that of a ferris wheel. Walking up the hill was not tough at all, compared to any of those hiking trails in Hong Kong. It was undoubtedly enjoyable. The Nature Reserve and the Tropical Rainforest are extremely alike. They are both rich in a huge variety of rare species which cannot be found in Hong Kong. We were amazed by the biodiversity and the natural habitats in Singapore. We were very impressed by how successful Singapore was in striking a good balance between conservation and economic development. This explains why Singapore is seen as an economic hub, but at the same time a large source of natural habitats. It took us approximately an hour to reach the top of the hill and return to the starting point. Before long, we headed to the most breathtaking tourist attraction in Singapore - the Universal Studio located on Sentosa Island.

The Park consists of seven parts, the Lost World, Madagascar, Far Far Away, Ancient Egypt, Sci-Fi City, Hollywood and New York. Each zone was built on basis of a blockbuster movie or a popular TV show, featuring its own unique attractions, character appearances, dining and shopping areas. We rode on a lot of roller coasters and watched some shows, such as the Shrek 4-D adventure in Far Far Away, and the Water World. Certainly the most enjoyable one is Transformers, a hyper-realistic 3D ride in the Sci-Fi City based on the action flick of the same name as the game. The day might have been a tiresome and grueling one, we could not deny that the day was perfectly satisfactory. Our visit to Universal Studio certainly made one of the most enjoyable parts of the tour. At the same time, it helped us reflect on how crucial technology development was in the long-term planning of tourism.

On the third day, we paid a visit to the Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCELSE) at the Nanyang Technological University. There, we were introduced to a research project about biofilms. We found out more information about what they were, how they were formed, their history and applications. After a talk given by the postgraduates, we went to their laboratories, which are well-equipped with a number of delicate and sophisticated instruments. All of us were completely fascinated by the microscope which is able to display the 3D image of microbial structures. The most impressive one should be the super computer, its capacity in handling 500 TB of information in 1 second is absolutely remarkable. Then, we had our visit to the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, which is a nature reserve in the northwest area of Singapore. We had a more concrete picture of what a wetland is and we could even view Malaysia across

the river. After the visit to the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, we traveled to the NEWater factory to learn how it produces NEWater. It is able to convert sewage water to bottled water that is safe to drink by three steps: Ultrafiltration, Reverse Osmosis and Ultraviolet Disinfection. You might have no ideas what these three steps mean, but surely it was an eye-opening experience for us all to see how sewage water was then all clean for our consumption. We were so delighted to be given a bottle of NEWater. The taste of it – is just as good as a bottle of Perrier.

On the fourth day, we had an exchange program with Anglican High School. First, we attended a science lesson on renewable energy. We built our own solar toy, and immediately took it out to the outdoor for a test. Although the lesson was of a respectable duration, it was undoubtedly meaningful. After that, student ambassadors of AHS took us on a campus tour and had lunch with us. We learned about the history and the facilities of the school and also the efforts done by the school in the maintenance and preservation of a green environment. We also knew more about their school life in Anglican High School. We definitely had a good time with the local students – they are so warm, friendly and unreserved. In the afternoon, we went to the Science Centre. We learned a lot more about various theories of different branches of science and their implication to our daily life. After an early dinner, we visited the Night Safari where we watched an animal show and went on a tram ride to observe night activities of nocturnal animals like Malayan tigers, lions, elephants, oxen...

On the fifth day, we went to the Jurong Bird Park. In the park, we could have a chance to have a closer look at the birds of different kinds: the

flamingos, parrots, owls, penguins... After looking at the birds we had a marvelous bird show where we saw birds flying around as instructed by a tamer. Our last destination at Singapore was Chinatown. Many of us started to miss home and traditional Chinese food. After getting our family and friends some souvenirs, we headed to the Changi airport to catch our return flight. This trip has been so much fun, enjoyable and overwhelming for all of us.

Hong Kong and Singapore. Both have so much to offer the world and they share so much in common. They are both Asia's international cities, melting pots of culture and influential financial hubs. We feel that Singapore is one of the most forward thinking cities. Like Hong Kong, it is one of the most densely populated cities in the world; however when it comes to green city planning, we feel that they are doing a lot better than we do. The Singapore Government has made great efforts to ensure that the development is sustainable. We should look to Singapore for inspiration to align ourselves with the quality attained by Singapore.

Here will be a video showing our 5- day tour to Singapore. Please sit back and enjoy.

On behalf of the group, our sincere gratitude goes to the College Council for their immense support for this tour. I am also very grateful for Mr. Au Yeung, Ms. Chan and Ms. Yu, for their devotion and dedication in making this tour so successful. Thank you.