

THE ASIAN JOURNAL

A SCHOOL OF TOMORROW[®], ASIA PUBLICATION



Dear Readers,

Welcome to School of Tomorrow, Asia's first publication of *The Asian Journal*. This newsletter serves to share information on what's happening in our region over the year. School of Tomorrow, Asia is one of the five continental divisions of School of Tomorrow[®] dealing specifically with certain countries inside Asia. We service the following countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, China, Guam, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, the Middle East, Mongolia, Myanmar/Burma, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Saipan (N. Marina Islands), Singapore, Taiwan, Timor Leste, Vietnam, and Yap Islands.

You might ask, are there really that many Asian countries using the School of Tomorrow curriculum? Yes, there are! *The Asian Journal* will bring you closer to each one that offers this program and have schools in those areas share with us their blessings, joys, and prayer requests.

In this very first publication, let us journey to School of Tomorrow, Asia Malaysia (SOTAM) which covers both Malaysia and Singapore. Made up of thirteen states and three federal territories, Malaysia is separated by the South China Sea into two regions - Peninsular Malaysia (also known as West Malaysia) and East Malaysia (also known as Malaysian Borneo). Despite her status as an Islamic state, Malaysia is home to diverse cultures. Although less than ten percent of the population in this country of about twenty-eight million people are Christians, it has not stopped passionate educators in starting their own schools using the A.C.E. Curriculum. Located at the tip of the Malay Peninsula is her neighbor, Singapore. Although this city-state is physically small, she is home to 5.7 million residents and has been known as Southeast Asia's most modern city for over a century. This island country which lies one degree north of the equator consists of one main island along with 62 other islets. With its unique local customs and cultures, Christianity is one of the four main religions practiced in Singapore where Christians constitute approximately twenty percent of the country's population.

SOTAM has currently more than 60 schools that are actively operating. Aside from school services, SOTAM also offers homeschool services in both Malaysia and Singapore. Should you need more information, do not hesitate to contact the SOTAM Office at sotamalaysia@gmail.com for more information. Alternatively, if you are interested in reading up about School of Tomorrow, Asia, feel free to visit our website at <https://www.schooloftomorrowasia.com>.

Meet the Consultants

The Men and Women Behind the Scenes

As soon as there was approval to have Malaysia and Singapore come under SOTA, under the leadership of Mrs. Penny Olson as the Director, we were already appointed to our positions. I have found it both joyful and challenging serving as a Consultant these last six years or so. It's so much easier, I believe with a few of us here to help shoulder the care of the schools and even the annual events, compared to some other places where there might be only one or two Consultants. It is always encouraging to see the gradual growth in number of schools and to be especially involved with Training twice a year where we get to invest into the preparation of the many lives who have answered the call to Christian education. The only challenge, I personally find, is not having enough time to serve more with SOTAM. I am personally burdened with knowing schools that are either challenged with staff shortage, or with having problems in effectively implementing the procedures. I only wish I could "lend" myself to these school for a couple of weeks or months, to help them get things going on track and see them succeed. My prayer request, at this point, is to see more schools planted, especially in the marginalized and poverty-stricken communities of our country and beyond.



REVEREND JOHN KIRBY AND MRS. ESTHER KIRBY

I have been serving as a Consultant since 2012 though I felt unqualified and not ready for it, but I responded in obedience to that calling. It has been my great honor and privilege to host the first SOTAM Administrators' and Supervisors' training at Faith Anglican Academy, the first school where I served as a Principal, and the first time serving under the leadership of Mrs. Olson, Director of SOTA. That happened in November, 2011. My life has been enriched tremendously with all the experiences in making tough decisions, facing awkward situations and dealing with tricky relationships. God is indeed good all the time! Due to my being sent out with my husband, Rev. Tan Chor Kee to Thailand as a missionary Pastor and Principal at Rangsit Anglican Church and Manorom International Christian School respectively, I had to hand over some of my responsibilities to other Consultants based in Malaysia in December 2013. However, with the trust and encouragement of Mrs. Olson, I have been given the privilege to continue my responsibility as a SOTAM Consultant, and presently I am still looking after 9 schools in the southern region of Peninsular Malaysia where I usually visit them after attending Christian Educators' Convention in Malaysia in March and during my long break in July. Whereas in Thailand, I have been invited to assist with SOTA Far East's CEC, Regional Student Convention as well as school visits to some schools. I have been hosting SOTA's ESL Trainings in my school which has very much enriched my life too!

My challenges and prayer requests:

1. To have good time management skills in order to cope with my responsibility as a Principal as well as a Consultant based in another country
2. To help schools who need more assistance in following procedures fully
3. To gather all schools' heads to meet up together for fellowship in order to build closer relationships

I give thanks for:

1. Schools that are always pursuing excellence in training their students
2. Dedicated and passionate staff
3. CA Christian Resource Training Centre who celebrated its 20th Anniversary and moved into its new own property in July, 2018



MRS. LILY TAN

2018 has been another very busy year, having seen more schools established and also others newly ready for Quality Status. I have had to travel to West Malaysia to visit schools almost every month in order to cover the schools there. This year we also have the first ever new schools set up in Sarawak, one in Kuching and one in Sibu. Once again, I found having the “Heads of schools” meetings in Singapore and in Kuala Lumpur very helpful for the schools to network and be in touch with other SOTAM schools in their areas. I have had good feedback that the school heads enjoy meeting together like this, and they wish they could have it more often! Some schools in the central KL area have also initiated their own informal Whatsapp group to keep in touch and inform each other of local events that may be useful for students to participate in. In the past month, I was able to attend 4 different awards and graduation ceremonies in KL and Kota Kinabalu and had the joy of witnessing the different schools celebrate their students’ achievements and school’s successes. Like a proud parent, I feel honored and blessed to witness their growth and successes. This year’s Regional Student Convention in Tawau also went very well, thanks to the support of the local church in Tawau and the very good and faithful team of RSC Coordinators and helpers. We learn each year how to improve and make the next year’s RSC better. We have already been offered a venue for RSC 2019 in Kuala Lumpur and we thank God for the early provision. ICCE (International Certificate of Christian Education) coordination and moderation has increased as we see more students graduate and move on to higher education. We thank God that our local colleges and universities continue to offer places to our ICCE graduates as the qualification gets better known in Malaysia. We want to keep up the mission and vision of the ICCE program and the high standards expected of our graduates. We are encouraging more ICCE students to complete to the Advanced level before they graduate. Currently most of them choose to exit after the General level. I also thank God for the opportunity to link up with the MQA (Malaysia Qualifications Agency) last month to discuss the validity of the LCA (Lighthouse Christian Academy) US High School Diploma for tertiary studies in Malaysian Universities. At the moment, we are still waiting for their feedback on their evaluations. Please continue to uphold this important matter in prayer as we move into 2019. One of the major challenges is for our Ministry of Education (MoE) to recognize the ACE program as an international program on par with other international curricula. We do know that God is always with us and continues to guide and help us through every challenge as well as new opportunities. So we look ahead with great anticipation to another year of adventure serving the Lord in the SOTA region!

DATIN MARY VUN



Sowing and Reaping

A Graduate's Testimony

Being in All Saints’ Anglican Academy (ASAA) for seven years has changed my life for the better. Prior to attending this school, I was a gamer and uninterested in academics. The school has taught me to be more responsible, independent, and improve in my social skills. My Supervisors, friends, and PACEs have led me to believe in God. Although I do not attend church because my parents are Buddhists and do not approve of me going to church, I spend quiet time with God, doing devotions in the morning. I am very thankful to my Supervisors because they played an important part in my character change. They not only encouraged me, but also disciplined me because they love me like their own son. My friends treated me like a sibling and backed me up whenever I was discouraged, sad, or in trouble. Although my parents have not come to know Jesus, they have unknowingly taken a step of faith when they enrolled me into ASAA, where I’ve personally come to know the Lord. I am proud to call All Saints’ Anglican Academy my second home.

SHAWN HUNTLEY QUAH
ALL SAINTS’ ANGLICAN ACADEMY
GRADUATED WITH ICCE GENERAL CERTIFICATE



Answering the Call - Making a Difference

Testimonies from Staff

All these years, I have been tutoring and mentoring students from the mainstream in Singapore. Although I was doing well in this business, there was always a stir in my heart to start a school, but I couldn't quite put a finger to the type of school I wanted. Looking back, I realised God has put the desire in my heart to impact the lives of youths, and the circumstances that we were in seemed to put Rodney and me, husband and wife, to work as a team. We started as homeschool parents solely because we wanted to educate our second son, Amos, who had learning disabilities, which were ocular visional disorder and auditory processing disorder. Although Amos was already attending a school then, Rodney, my husband felt that he was called to take over Amos' and Abel's educational journey, and I gave my full support to Rodney, him being the head of the house. TLS Academy was birthed in 2009 when we decided to take over our two sons' education. Together with another two families, who had entrusted their sons to us, we worked with the four boys using the A.C.E. curriculum. Gradually, by word of mouth, people came to know us and started to enrol their children into our little school, which is our home. It grew to a point that the authorities came to take notice of us and checked us out. We were told to move into a commercial property and to apply for our licence if we wanted to continue to educate the existing students we had. We did just that. Abel graduated with a high school diploma and was offered a full scholarship to study pre-medicine in a teaching university in the US while Amos' learning disabilities disappeared, and he gradually became a very good student and successfully entered into University of British Columbia in Canada. Even though we are a small school, we are not affected by the small number of students we have since the Lord is the One who has called us into partnership with Him to groom the students to be spiritual giants of tomorrow. He has been faithful in providing us with the wonderful students we have. He has shown us that if He can prosper the lives of my two boys, He will do so for the students that He has put in our hands. If we are faithful with the few He has given to us to educate, then I believe that He will entrust more students to us in time to come when the time is right.



Esther Chua
Principal of TLS Academy, Singapore

"One child at a time..." has always been the mission of A.C.E., and I was that one child. My parents decided to pull me out of mainstream education and put me in this thriving but blessed church-school in the Philippines, Christ Baptist Academy. I was blessed with the opportunity to get to know more about God and His Word through the PACEs, Supervisors, Monitors and Pastors. The dedication of the Supervisors in my Learning Center and everyone in the school was truly a reflection of God's grace and faithfulness in my life. The Bible based training and teaching I received were seeds that took root in my heart and were used by God in many of my adult life circumstances. My schoolmates and I were the first batch of students who enjoyed a week that truly lasted a lifetime. The 1994 National Student Convention was the highlight of our high school years. That was where we realised how vast A.C.E. is, and that our little church-school is a part of something bigger in the Lord's ministry. Like some schools using the program today, we faced persecutions from the Philippines government and didn't get recognition which led to unacceptance to my choice of university. But God being the all-knowing that He is had better plans. He blessed me with an academic scholarship in another university followed by a flourishing career in Training and Development in the corporate world until He called me in to the ministry in 2001. I had the privilege of being a part of the National Curriculum Department (NCD) of School of Tomorrow(R), Philippines. The NCD was the team that helped write the national curriculum PACEs. Later on, I was asked to join the School Services and Living Heritage Academy (Homeschool) Departments respectively. The years spent in the School of Tomorrow, Philippines headquarters were the most rewarding years of my career knowing and seeing the hand of God at work in the lives of many Pastors, Supervisors, Monitors and students fulfil the great commission through the A.C.E. curriculum. 1 Corinthians 15:58 has always been the verse I hold on to - to always abound in the work of the Lord for as much as we know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. October 2009 was a year of greater blessing for me as I began serving in Victory Life Christian School (VLCS). Over the years, I have witnessed how God has used A.C.E. to touch the lives of many students, their families and school staff as well. God used and is still using this curriculum to further His kingdom - to make people prepared for the Lord, one child at a time.



Ginkee Mahalia Golfo
Supervisor at Victory Life Christian School, Singapore

The Students' Voices

Featuring Regional Student Convention

SOTAM had its 7th Regional Student Convention in Tawau, Sabah where more than 500 people were in attendance. Here are some of the testimonies by the delegates.

As a new student to this curriculum and the school, I was privileged to join the Regional Student Convention. Although I registered late and was unable to participate in any events, I was glad that I went to support my friends. Being at the RSC is one of the best experiences I've had because I got closer to my new schoolmates, made friends from different schools, and attended night rallies. As a new school (being only 1 year old) attending the RSC for the first time, all of us at Level 7 Academy were estatic that we managed to bring six medals home with us!

- Christine Joan Navia -
Level 7 Academy



I am 11 years old, and this is my second year joining the RSC. I was encouraged to participate in some solo events this year to help me overcome my fear of speaking and performing alone in front of a crowd. Just before competing in one of my events, I became scared and was on the verge of tears. My coach encouraged me to do my best, and my friends waited outside the competition venue to show their support for me. It was comforting not having to perform in front of so many people, and it put me at ease to perform my best. I received a placing for this event! I am thankful to God for holding my fear in check, thankful to my coach for the many months of practices, and thankful to my supportive friends. *"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."* (Deuteronomy 31:6)

All praise, honor and glory to God for His promise and faithfulness in my time of need!

- Mikaela Tan -
The Seed Resource Centre



I have been in this curriculum since I was 5 years old and have been attending the RSC from 2013. Attending RSC as a participant has really taught me to be humble and strive harder to do my best at every event I joined. When I turned 18, I signed up as a 24/7 squad member and have been serving at the RSC as a 24/7 for the three consecutive years since then. Heavier responsibilities and higher expectations are demanded in order for the RSC to run smoothly, but being a 24/7 squad member has taught me to think and respond quickly under pressure and in demanding situations. I will be graduating level 12, completing the ICCE Advanced Certificate soon. Over the years, being in the A.C.E. program has helped me to keep pushing forward no matter how difficult times were. Never stop working hard, never stop believing in yourself, and most importantly, never stop trusting God to get you through anything!

- Maegan Chin -
St. Patrick's Anglican Academy



Captured Moments

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words



2019 SOTA Calendar of Events

Educators' Conventions

Country	City	Dates
Japan	Yokohama	November 1
Korea	<i>To be announced</i>	March 15
Malaysia	Selangor	March 11-12
Thailand	Bangkok	March 7-8
Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh City	March 4-5

Interschool Fellowship

Country	City	Dates
India	Secunderabad	March 26

Administrators' and Supervisors' Training

Country	City	Dates
India	Dimapur, Nagaland	January 7-12
India	Secunderabad	April 15-20
Japan	Yokohama	March 18-22
Korea	Cheonan-si	January 14-18
Korea	Cheonan-si	May 13-17
Korea	Cheonan-si	August 19-23
Korea	Cheonan-si	November 25-29
Laos	Vientiane	June 24-28
Malaysia	Sg. Petani, Kedah	May 27-31
Malaysia	Sg. Petani, Kedah	November 18-22
Myanmar	<i>To be announced</i>	July 22-26
Thailand	Bangkok	April 15-19
Thailand	Bangkok	June 24-28
Thailand	Chiang Mai	July 8-12
Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh City	June 10-14
Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh City	September 16-20

Supervisors' Training

Country	City	Dates
Thailand	Bangkok	October 14-18

Regional Student Conventions

Country	City	Dates
Korea	<i>To be announced</i>	November 4-7
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	August 26-31
Thailand	Chiang Mai	November 24-29

Interschool Competition

Country	City	Dates
Japan	Yokohama	November 15