

A hand holding a small green seedling against a bright sun in a blue sky with clouds.

The Bearer -

Racing On



A 22nd Executive Committee Production



Foreword

Dear all,

Welcome to the second Newsletter of the 22nd Executive Committee!

Since the publication of our first Newsletter, OSA has moved on to another level – activities and changes whirled into our daily lives almost every second. The start of the session was already a big challenge for the nine of us: when we had to juggle between schoolwork and office work; when we had to change our sleeping habits; when we had **to overcome the phobia of sending external emails... We moaned about the heavy workload at the start of the session, and that was only the beginning. The past few months presented to us an even taller hurdle to leap over – how we spent many sleepless nights just to prepare for our very first external project; how we desperately looked for OSARs to join our service sessions and internal gatherings; how everything seemed to be in a mess and we were all so hopeless...**

However, in darkness, we found light, and our hard work paid off. In just a moment, you will be able to read the fruits of our efforts. These activities may not be the best **accomplished in OSA's 22-year history, but in each word flow our tears and perspiration, determination and persistence. We hope that as you read the following articles, you will find the specialty in the nine of us – the endurance to perfect details of the event so as to mark fond memories in each and every OSAR's heart.**

Looking back, we have gone through a long way which is full of obstacles, but seeing the smiles of InCon participants, feeling the support from our Advisors, looking at the thumb-up signs of participating OSARs, our endless nights of work proved to be **worthwhile after all. Themed "Racing On", we know clearly that we are in the midway of the track and we have to continue our way to the finishing line. With full speed and passion we shall race on, and make the rest of this session more rewarding than ever!**

Ladies and gentlemen, allow us to present to you the pride of rising up to challenges – **The Bearer "Racing On". Happy reading!**

The 22nd Executive Committee
Hong Kong Outstanding Students' Association



International Convergence—The Crucible of Culture Traversing Our Flat World

*"I wish we could have InCon Day 4, 5, 6, 7...
I wish it would never end!" - Participant*



Introduction

Blessed with a team of committed Organising Committee members, crucial timing and a bit of luck, the 22nd Executive Committee is ready to present to you all its early success in its first external project of the session 2008 – 2009: International Convergence – The Crucible of Culture.

This is the fourth year OSA organised the International Convergence and while keeping the structure of the programme, several noticeable changes were made to further perfect the scheme: the days were grouped according to topics, for example, Day 2 was a day of languages and linguistics, so games and sessions by guest speakers alike encircled these areas. Furthermore, a Day 3 “Booth Session” was introduced. This new concept proved to be a very auspicious innovation and received many positive comments.

This year's theme was “Traversing the Flat World”. In view of the increasing significance of globalisation, we decided to star this phenomenon as our theme. We aimed to increase our participants' knowledge on the topic in our programme through providing them with relevant talks and cultural sessions.

The scheme spanned over three weeks from 8th November 2008 to 30th November 2008 and included 3 main days, a cultural experience fortnight, and a closing banquet to which prominent guests were invited.





International Convergence—The Crucible of Culture Traversing Our Flat World

Day 1

With the topic of globalisation, Day 1 took place at Diocesan Girls' School. To allow participants to learn more about our theme, we had the privilege to have invited Professor Gordon MATTHEWS from the Chinese University of Hong Kong to talk about this hot topic. Prof. MATTHEWS brought twelve asylum seekers with him to share their experiences with participants. The purpose of this activity was to allow participants to feel how cultural diversity contributes to globalisation. Many felt touched by some of the **asylum seekers' life stories**, and in general, participants could feel the **cultural distinction** between Hong Kong and the backgrounds of these refugees. One of the asylum seekers, a Somalia school teacher, raised the topic of Peace – how it is defined, and whether living a simple life with nothing spectacular to do every day is really what a happy life is about. Besides from this interesting interactive session, fun mass games were also organised by our devoted OCs so that participants can learn through exciting ways.





International Convergence—The Crucible of Culture Traversing Our Flat World

Day 2

The emphasis of the Day 2 Workshop was on cultural diversity. Participants first gained an insight of how globalisation is affecting our present world through a lecture given by Professor Desmond HUI from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Followed by that, student advisors of various nationalities were present to interact with participants and undergo cultural exchanges. Participants got to learn some simple formulaic expressions in different languages, which they later made use of to deliver their sincere gratitude to the student advisors. Afterwards, participants also engaged in an interesting cultural diversity game led by Mr. Lee SCOTT. Through sharing the difficulties they encountered **during the game, participants learnt that respect for different countries' culture is vital for constructing a harmonious world.**





International Convergence—The Crucible of Culture Traversing Our Flat World

Cultural Experience Fortnight

There were more than 20 cultural sessions which encompassed a large range of activities this year. Participants from different groups found themselves engaged in various activities, including visiting temples and Consulates, cooking local dishes, music-making and also dancing.





International Convergence—The Crucible of Culture Traversing Our Flat World

Day 3

The newly introduced Booth Session was intended to allow participants to share what they had learnt with others in a more interactive way. This idea was based on the observation that participants in past International Convergences knew little about other countries' cultures and the Booth Session was an experimental remedy. It turned out to be a great success! The booths were well-decorated and participants put a lot of effort into making their booth stand out and informative. In the end, many booths not only created posters and mini-display boards to advertise their country's hotspots and cultural curiosities, some also provided self-prepared food for participants to try out. To effectively promote participants to visit all the booths, a stamp system was devised; the group which most actively participated in visiting booths and playing their games won a prize. Besides from a prize to the most active group, prizes were also awarded to groups judged on aesthetics and the ability to inform.





International Convergence—The Crucible of Culture Traversing Our Flat World

Banquet

Marking the official closing of the International Convergence, the banquet was held at the Regal Oriental Hotel. It served as a chance for participants to conclude what they learnt in the 3-week programme. The banquet commenced with the grand parade of flags, symbolising peace among all countries in the world. It was indeed our honour to have Mr. Achim SCHKADE, Deputy Consul-general of the German consulates, to join us in the evening and present certificates to all our participants as well as Organising Committee members. During the banquet, participants from each group gave their well-prepared presentations and shared what they learnt during the whole scheme. Some groups even performed the traditional dances of their countries, which added zest to the banquet. The enthusiasm of participants was definitely an evidence of the success of this programme!



Project Chairpersons
CHOW, Raphael
FONG, Jaime
TANG, Joey

Reported by
CHOW, Raphael
TANG, Joey



Future Young Leaders' Forum

This year's Future Young Leaders' Forum proved to be a fun, spectacular yet educational event for more than two thousand primary and secondary students all over Hong Kong. Organised by The Outstanding Young Persons' Association (TOYPA) and co-organised by the Hong Kong Outstanding Students' Association as well as other prominent organisations, the Forum was successfully held on 2nd December, 2008 at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium. Bearing the theme 「傑青新一代 無毒由我創」, the Forum was a kickoff to a one-year programme – 「傑青禁毒大使」, an anti-drug abuse ambassador scheme which aims to promote awareness on drug abuse within the local school community.

The day's programme was packed with multifarious activities, ranging from thought-provoking talks to relaxing dance sessions, heartwarming sharing to energetic band and singing performances. These enjoyable sessions were all effective in conveying the theme of this year – the importance of nurturing a new and outstanding generation



The 22nd Executive Committee, along with OSArS Cherlyle CHAN and Sharon YUEN, also had their chance to shine on the stage. To convey the message that there would not be any chances of turning back once drug enters your life, OSArS performed a self-written and directed drama entitled 「毒一無二」. The drama revolved around the life and encounters of a female protagonist, who grew up in a loving family but eventually became a drug addict under adverse peer influence. In order to obtain enough money to buy drugs, she resolved to all sorts of illegal acts such as stealing and selling drugs. The story ended with the protagonist losing everything she owned, including health, self-respect as well as family love since her father died of a heart attack upon seeing her abuse drugs. Through the drama performance, we hoped to bring out the message that apart from being self-destructive, the abuse of drugs would also affect the family and lead to various social problems. Since the impact of drug abuse is so great and negative, one should never allow oneself to try abusing drugs. We were greatly encouraged when the performance



Future Young Leaders' Forum

positive responses from the audience. We were even invited by TVB to shoot a short extract of our drama at Tseung Kwan O TVB City, which was released during an educational programme 「文化新領域」 a few weeks afterwards.

The 22nd Executive Committee also helped out in hosting an interview session between Mr. WONG Yan Lung, Secretary for Justice, and a few representatives from the audience. Moreover, we were given the invaluable chance to interview Mr. WONG personally after the Forum, exchanging views on drug abuse and related laws.

Special thanks must be given to Mr. CHEUNG, Benny, President of TOYPA and Honourary Advisor to the Association; Ms. PONG, Scarlett, Vice-president of TOYPA and Chairperson of the Organising Committee of the Future Young Leaders' Forum 2008; and Honourary Advisor Ms. LEUNG, Doreen for their unfailing guidance and support. This year's Future Young Leaders' Forum was indeed another occasion for everyone to learn more about how to lead a fruitful life far from drugs.

Reported by
LAM, Chaminade



「傑青新一代 無毒由我創」



Christmas Gathering—Our Everlasting Song

*"Hand in hand...
Let's sing this everlasting song..."*



Christmas has always been a joyous festival and perfect opportunity for warm reunions of families and friends. The Christmas internal celebration 2008 – “Our Everlasting Song” – was successfully held on 27th December 2008.

In this first internal gathering of the session, the 22nd Executive Committee members, together with OSArS, from 17th OSArS to 23rd OSArS alike, had a remarkable experience re-recording the all-time favourites of fellow OSArS in the Boom Music Studio in Kwun Tong. The two songs are 《回憶》, a song allowing us to recap our memorable moments with our friends in this big OSA family; and 《青苗》, our Association's song depicting the indomitable spirit of fellow OSArS.

During the recording of the songs, OSArS showcased their outstanding talents in music. A few bars of the version of 《青苗》 we now sing actually differ from those of the original melody, and we OSArS had to learn to sing the correct tune and to spend some time getting accustomed to the changes. However, starting from practising the correct tunes of the songs, it took OSArS only three hours to eventually sing harmonious melodies which filled the whole recording room. Every one of us sang hard, hoping to contribute our efforts to our beloved family. The newly-recorded versions of both songs were finally **prepared after three weeks' time, and they will be played during the external projects** which follow, including the Volunteer Training Scheme 2009 and the Hong Kong Youth Summit 2009. We hope that both songs would be passed down from generation to generation in the near future, bonding and uniting all members of the big and welcoming

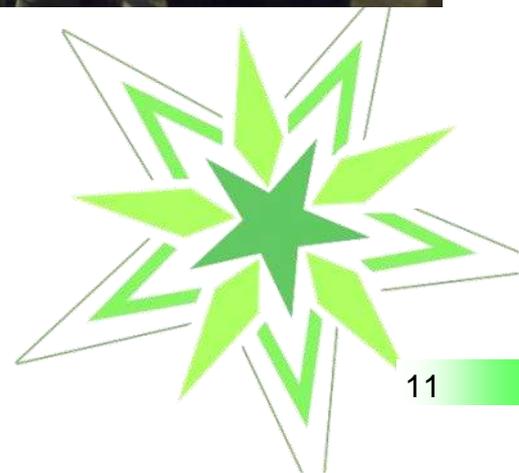


Christmas Gathering—Our Everlasting Song

The session was followed by a hot pot dinner gathering at Sure Rich Seafood Restaurant in Jordan. During the warm dinner, OSArS, senior and young, sat together to recall the happy memories in the Association. They also shared with one another what they were up to recently, such as studies and work experiences. Despite the cold weather that day, the atmosphere was cozy and cheerful.

All in all, OSArS had an enjoyable and meaningful day in the Christmas holidays. Special thanks must be given to Mr. TSANG, Kevin, for his valued assistance and support to the re-recording of the songs by offering technical help. The 22nd Executive Committee would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to every OSAr who showed his/her generous support towards the recordings of the songs and the hot pot gathering.

Project Chairperson and Reported by
FONG, Jaime





“All's Right with the World” Movie Screening cum sharing session City Walking Tour in Sham Shui Po

The “All's Right with the World” (歌舞昇平) Movie Screening cum Sharing Session as well as the follow-up activity, City Walking Tour in Sham Shui Po, were held on 23rd November 2008 and 20th December 2008 respectively. In the financial metropolis of Hong Kong, the needs of the deprived are often overlooked by society, particularly during these times of economic difficulty. The 22nd Executive Committee, along with other OSArS, supported the community by showing care and concern to the needy and learning more about the lives of the less privileged.

“All's Right with the World” (歌舞昇平) Movie Screening cum Sharing Session

More than two hundred young professionals and teenagers were invited to watch the movie “All's Right with the World”. The movie depicts the lives of several families in Hong Kong, all of which receive comprehensive subsidies. The reasons leading to their poverty as well as living conditions may be different, but they share a similar state of existence – accustomed and adapted to poverty. The idea of hidden poverty in Hong Kong surfaces and the movie allows the audience to realise the huge wealth gap in Hong Kong, which is actually the fifth highest globally.

After the movie, the audience engaged in an interactive discussion on the issue of youth poverty. The session aimed at developing a better understanding of the underprivileged among the audience as well as cultivating a caring heart for the poor. The director Mr. King Wai CHEUNG, student representatives (including OSArS) and social workers all voiced out their opinions enthusiastically during the sharing session.



Follow-up activity - City Walking Tour in Sham Shui Po

As a follow-up activity to the movie screening session, OSArS participated in a city walking tour in Sham Shui Po. Through walking around the district, we looked at poverty in Hong Kong from different points of view and gained first-hand experience of what the actual living environment, culture, and social networking of the less privileged were like.

We visited several local craftsman shops, including those producing wooden trolleys, zinc cabins and vine furniture. We realised that despite the fact that people in Sham Shui Po were not very well-off, they were friendly and enjoyed their lives very much. Below you



“All’s Right with the World” Movie Screening cum sharing session City Walking Tour in Sham Shui Po

First stop: Crystal Handicrafts

May, an expertise in crystal handicrafts, rents a small sheltered area in Sham Shui Po to teach those who are interested in the art. In spite of increasing rents, she is determined to continue to stay in the original location. She cherishes the relationships established with her students and she finds the afternoon hours teaching curious and hardworking students most rewarding. Even though May is not very well-off, she only requires her students to pay the material fees. This shows us that she is not holding classes for making profits, but for the most invaluable experience every afternoon. She taught us a true and useful lesson: happiness is about doing what you want, but not about conforming to societal norms.



Second stop: Zinc Cabins

After walking through many streets, we entered an alley and at the end of it stood Mr. HO, welcoming us with a broad smile on his face. Mr. HO is famous for his professional skill in making zinc cabins. Upon the request of curious OSARs, he demonstrated the different skills used in making such cabins, for example, how to attach two pieces of zinc together without using screws and how to strengthen hinges. From the miniature zinc trolley made by his apprentice sitting in the small corner of his place, we can see how much he wants to share the skill with others even though he cannot earn much from giving classes. During our conversation, we also found out that he had experience in making props for TVB programme! It was indeed a nice stop in which we learnt more about a traditional skill which was new to us.



Third stop: Wooden trolleys

Mr. and Mrs. LI have been producing these wooden trolleys since their young times. The experienced couple told us of the mechanism behind their famous trolley, which was most durable and easily operated. We were surprised to find that the raw materials of these trolleys were actually used bed planks, used tyres, and used bearings in cars. When the couple shared their encounters with us, all OSARs felt how happy and abundant their lives were. Only a small deed – a customer coming all the way from Tuen Mun to Sham Shui Po to purchase one wooden trolley which costs around \$300 – can lighten up their day. We had an enjoyable chat with them and left for our last stop.





“All's Right with the World” Movie Screening cum sharing session City Walking Tour in Sham Shui Po

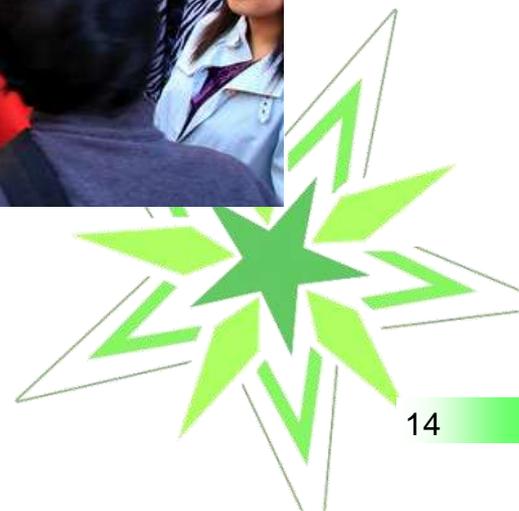
Last stop: Vine Furniture

Mr. Liu inherited his father's business in making vine furniture. He was very enthusiastic when he told us about his story of running his family business. We had the chance to take a look at the working area of his and tried out his chairs, all of which were very comfortable and nicely designed. (Phoebe, who was about to move to Yuen Long, decided to buy one of the chairs to place in her garden!)



After the tour, we recognised the difference between Sham Shui Po and other well-developed districts – the community bond is much stronger in this district despite its urban problems. Also, the sense of satisfaction in this district does not come from materialistic abundance or richness, but from the enjoyment and appreciation of life itself. The tour proved to be a meaningful and enriching experience for us, allowing us to see for ourselves the lives of the less fortunate. In fact, the tour inspired us to reflect upon the true meaning of happiness.

Special thanks must be given to Mr. CHAN, William, one of our Advisors, for his endless support and advice throughout the events. Also, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. TSE, Tak Man for guiding us in the tour and teaching us lessons about life.





“All's Right with the World” Movie Screening cum sharing session City Walking Tour in Sham Shui Po

Feelings of participants towards this project:

Eva Yu (1739)

Sometimes I wonder how some of the people in our society survive: Decent jobs at offices or shops are very limited as compared to our population, how do the rest of them make a living? The city walking tour gave an answer to the question. There are people who run their businesses in little corners of the streets. Their skills learned through years are basically all they need. When we talk about industries that contribute to our economy, they are the forgotten groups. It was a good chance to actually talk to them and learn about their businesses which are in fact still in demand! I hope that people will take them into account when discussing town planning.

Vincent Chiu (2011)

Nothing endures but changes. This tour strongly presents us the cruel fact that urban renewal has outpaced the preservation of precious local culture. Our society is certainly aware of the predicament in conserving the cultural legacy. Yet, even with a dedicated government agency set up, we still witness little progress. When we have lost all the artifacts that can tell the story of the past, we will then lament over the loss, and our new generation will no longer be able to appreciate what we saw during the tour. Pessimistic enough, I see little hope in the conservation campaign and I come to wonder if individuals can do much about it. A call for concerted effort by various parties in society is therefore mandatory. But, who is going to stand up for it?

Triangle Im (2318)

一束束火龍射上天空，然後爆炸，化成璀璨的煙花。政府每年年初二、回歸、國慶、除夕夜發射的煙花過萬發，花費不勝其數；但奪目的花火很快就變成過眼雲煙，輕輕散去，留下濃郁而瀰漫不散的煙霧，籠罩著整個空中。

眼看時下的香港，在繁華鬧市下似乎與貧窮很遠；事實上，有一少群被社會忽略而又歧視的人們的生活，又有多少人知道而明瞭？他們大多數是老人、新移民，但為何眾人在享受經濟繁榮的成果時沒有他們一份兒？

《歌舞昇平》帶我們看了幾個遇上不同濟遇的一少群的生活；其實，他們與大群人的分別可能只是接受政府的資助津貼和比別人多人份失落感。這就是現實的社會，縱然面對生活艱苦，他們能做的就是咬緊牙關捱下去。雖然五位受訪者背景、遭遇各有不同，但他們之間唯一的共通點就是勇敢活下去；窮，也窮得有志氣。

現在，我們只正等待一陣季風把濃煙吹散，迎接新節日的來臨。



“All’s Right with the World” Movie Screening cum sharing session City Walking Tour in Sham Shui Po

Feelings of participants towards this project:

Sharon Yuen (2342)

My encounter with the couple making the wooden cart is especially memorable. I am touched by the friendship demonstrated by the friends in the neighbourhood, and by the persistence of the old couple. I also gained a better understanding of the effect of reconstruction on the old district.

The 22nd Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Outstanding Students’ Association

The movie appreciation session and the city walking tour proved to be a very rewarding and eye-widening experience for us. Not only did we have a chance to look at poverty from a different perspective, the whole programme turned out to be a lesson for life.

Prior to the movie, we had never realised the dire situation impoverished people living in Hong Kong face. We had always made mental connections between poverty and children in Africa – but now we know that poverty in fact manifests itself in even the richest of societies. Depicting different stories of some poor families in Hong Kong, the movie has given viewers the opportunity to reflect upon the serious social problem. Whether sufficient measures have been taken to address the problem no doubts demand our attention and discussion. The sharing session after the movie, in this sense, has therefore allowed us to gain more insight into this complicated issue.

The City Walking Tour to Shum Shui Po was also meaningful. Led by the knowledgeable Mr. TSE, Tak Man, we visited several traditional shops and studied the social network there. Having gained this background information, we started to reflect on the features of our modern new towns, where shopping malls are ubiquitous and continuously replacing the old districts. Under urban renewal planning, this scenario will certainly appear in more and more districts. Striking a balance between preserving cultural heritages and city development therefore becomes very important. The tour to Sham Shui Po brought our feelings to another level – we learned that material poverty in reality does not always link to unhappiness, that well-being actually lies in the local fingerprints of Hong Kong, the last marks of which urban renewal will destroy if we do not act quick.

During the walking tour in Sham Shui Po, an old woman from the wooden cart shop told us about how neighbours in the area helped one another. When she shared her **experience, her face wore a beaming smile. A thought eventually come up, ‘It is the love between neighbours that adds colours to her life, but the new generation seldom encounters this special element of humanity – the world is a different one now.’** Let us join hands and create a world that is full of love and care, in which all of us, like the old lady, will smile for the blessings in life!

Project Chairperson
TOO, Whitney
Reported by
CHAN, Zita
TOO, Whitney



Cleaning Up Service 「家居粉飾迎新春」

Lunar New Year is a traditional festival of reunions. Families gather together to recount the happenings in the past year and anticipate the coming of another fruitful year. While most families spend valuable time together, a group of old people can only observe the celebrations of New Year at a distance. Under the lead of our Social Services Officer, a group of dedicated OSArS participated in a cleaning service named 「家居粉飾迎新春」 before the Lunar New Year holidays. In this service, not only did they clean the living places of the lone elderly, they also chatted with the elderly so that they would feel less lonely and welcome the Lunar New Year with a cheerful heart.

On 18th January 2009, fourteen OSArS assembled at the Chan Hing Social Service Centre at 9 am. After being taught about some basics of residence cleaning by the social worker of the centre, the OSArS divided themselves into groups of two and four. Cleaning equipment was distributed and they headed towards the assigned elderly residences in Tai Kok Tsui.

When some OSArS arrived at their designated flat, they were surprised to see how poorly- illuminated and equipped these old people lived in. This was indeed an invaluable chance for them to observe the living conditions of the lone elderly first-hand and not merely reading from textbooks or the Internet. From wiping the windows to scrubbing the washrooms, OSArS cleansed the flats of the elderly throughout the three-hour service. Also, they painted the walls in some of the residences. The younger generation in this era seldom had the chance to do household chores, and this was certainly an opportunity for them to serve others through practising housework.

Although exhausted after cleaning the flats, OSArS unanimously thought that this was a meaningful service. The grateful smiles of the elderly as well as the fulfilling expressions of the volunteers proved this service to be a great success for both parties.

Project Chairperson

TOO, Whitney

Reported by

KO, Phoebe





Tutoring Service for Children

In January and February, ten OSArS participated in a tutoring programme at the Precious Blood Ka Ling School in Sham Shui Po. The programme was funded by the Wing Han Educational Foundation Ltd, which was set up by one of our Honourary Advisors, Ms. Dora HUNG. The Foundation focuses on education for youth and is determined to offer all students an access to education resources in Hong Kong. Coherent with the beliefs of the Foundation, the tutoring programme aimed at preparing Primary six students for their interviews at secondary schools through performing mock interviews with these students.

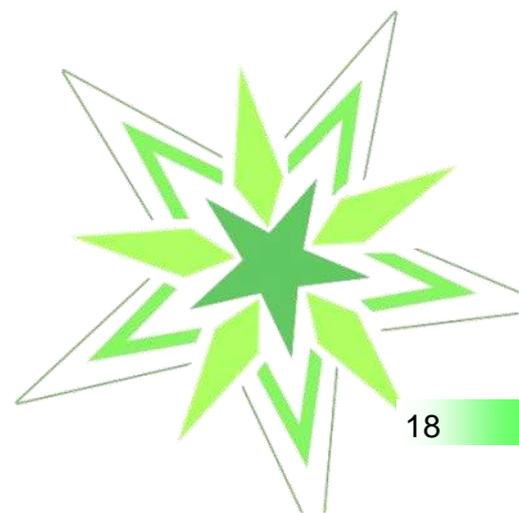
Under the student: tutor ratio of 2:1, OSArS took up the role of young teacher and carried out mock interviews with the students. These interviews were done in the form of casual chatting in English. In the beginning, we prompted them with easier questions, such as 'What is your name?'; 'How old are you?'; 'How many family members do you have?'; and 'What is your favourite food?'. After asking 'what' questions, we proceeded to ask some 'why' questions, for example 'Why do you like table tennis?' and 'Why do you think you have a good relationship with your mother?' We did exactly as Ms. AU-YEUNG, the Deputy Headmistress of the school, advised us to: 'Start with questions from the surface, then go with the flow and go deeper into the issue.'

In each session of 45 minutes, we tried out two rounds of interviews. In the first round, we observed their weaknesses and strengths, and then we gave them feedbacks. Afterwards, we did another round of interview to see if they could retain their strengths and improve on their weaknesses. We were all delighted to see that our students learnt quickly and coped with us really well. Chaminade was especially impressed by one of her female students. She said in amazement. 'I never knew that a Primary Six Student could give all-round answers with such depth!' The students' serious learning attitude urged us to teach them with full concentration, hoping to help them excel in their interviews in every way we can.

After the service, we all felt refreshed and satisfied. Growing up in a more privileged environment than these children do, we certainly shared what we learnt with them and aided them in this important milestone in their lives.

Our heartfelt gratitude must go to Ms. HUNG for giving us this precious opportunity to help those in need. Also, we must thank Ms. AU-YEUNG for guiding and helping us in the whole programme. We look forward to having similar experiences in the future!

Reported by
KO, Phoebe





Brainstorming Session

On 2nd November 2008, our Advisors and the 22nd Executive Committee gathered for a Brainstorming Session for the upcoming projects. The meeting began with a discussion on how fusing new elements into the ongoing project International Convergence—The Crucible of Culture would have it closer aligned to the theme, “Traversing our Flat World”. **We discussed the idea of introducing a new booth session to this year’s InCon, which could enable the participants to exchange ideas and learn the culture of other countries as well.**

We also exchanged ideas on how continuity, an element exclusively emphasised by Volunteer Training Scheme 2009, could be achieved plausibly. Our Advisors gave constructive suggestions as to how a continual and long-lasting relationship could be developed between the volunteers and workers. Ideas such as a pen-pal programme as well as monthly visits were brought up during the discussion, which we found to be very useful during our preparation for VTS.

Moreover, our Advisors shared their experience with us in holding the Hong Kong Youth Summit, giving us helpful reminders as well as food for thought for our theme this year. Although the nature of Commissions and Leadership Groups had not yet been decided at the time of the Brainstorming Session, our Advisors helped us devise several possible **themes and the direction of this year’s YS.**

The focus of the meeting was the discussion regarding our Summer Project, which, in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of People’s Republic of China, will bear a China-related theme. We explored the possibilities of the types of project that could be used, including camps, cultural-experiencing sessions, seminars and workshops etc. Since we did not have a very deep understanding of the Chinese culture and its current affairs, our Advisors gave us insight on different aspects of modern China and suggested several resources of help which we could make use of when planning this project.

Our Advisors indeed gave us invaluable and useful suggestions on the upcoming projects. However, more importantly, they helped us realise how senior members of the OSA family were willing to share their knowledge and experiences with the younger ones. Although they were not very familiar with us before the Brainstorming Session and did not know us in person, they still showed their support to us by attending the Session and providing suggestions willingly and sincerely. The 22nd Executive Committee here vow to follow their examples when the next year of OSAs and EXCOs are born – to share with them all that we have gained and learnt and to unite the new and senior OSAs.

Our heartfelt gratitude must go to Mr. Keith TIEN, Mr. Kenneth TONG, Mr. William CHAN, Miss Vienna NG, Mr. Vincent CHIU, Miss Annie LI and Miss Ida LEE for offering precious advice during the Brainstorming Session. Thanks you for spending the afternoon with us!

Reported by
LAI, Joanne



Mid-year Evaluation

On the third day of the New Year 2009, our Executive Committee met up with several Advisors to report on the progress over the past few months, reflect upon points of improvement and seek their valuable advice on various matters.

Although only four Advisors – Mr. Vincent CHIU, Mr. Bryce KAM, Mr. Bryan KAM and Mr. Felix YAM were present, a lot of progress was made. During the evaluation session, we were able to review many of the problems that surfaced throughout the first four months since our inauguration. However, in doing so, we also had a chance to realise how much **we had enjoyed ourselves, and how meaningful our Association's activities are. Starting with International Convergence – The Crucible of Culture, the first external activity of the session, we swiftly moved on to talk about our successes at the Future Young Leaders' Forum, our Social Services experience with DragoNation and the Christmas Gathering where OSArS had a chance to gather to re-record our Association's beloved songs: 《青苗》 and 《回憶》.**

Each member of the Executive Committee then recounted his or her experience in a brief overview of what had struck them as most difficult or interesting in the first few months of serving the Association, and each one of us was able to reconcile our weaknesses and receive commendation for our achievements.

After reflecting on the past and recounting our present experiences, we moved on to talk about the future. Not only did our Advisors give valuable comments on our upcoming projects, we also collectively thought one step further to the changing education system and discussed how the structure of the EXCO should change under the 3-3-4 system. Whether future EXCOs be Form 6 or Form 5, we are confident that through our network of passionate, committed OSArS, they will surely benefit a lot from this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Reported by
CHOW, Raphael





Moments of Joy



The blissful newlyweds — Ling Ling and her husband



Congratulations!





Souvenirs Catalogue



Note Pad: \$8 (NEW!!)



T-Shirt (exclusive for OSArS ONLY): \$50



Towel: \$25



Wristband: \$10
(Multiple colours for selection)



Water Bottle: \$45



File: \$5

If you would like to purchase any of the above souvenirs, please visit our website www.osa.org.hk for more details.

A hand holding a small green seedling against a bright sun in a blue sky with clouds. The sun is in the upper right, creating a lens flare effect. The seedling is in the lower left, held gently in a hand. The background is a clear blue sky with some white clouds.

The End

A 22nd Executive Committee Production

