



Report on IYEP 2011-12 Singapore Delegation Tour

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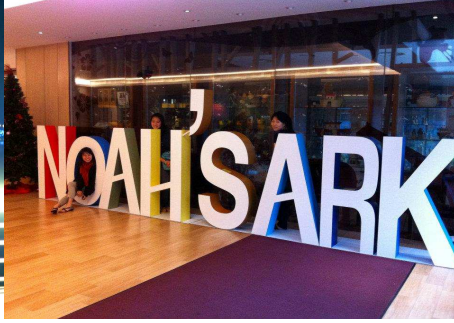
Going onto an exchange program is not only about meeting new friends and having fun in another country, it is also about cultural learning. Going onto an exchange program is not only about learning from what you've experienced and what you've seen, but also about sharing your home town's/ home country's culture to foreigners . Going onto an exchange program requires both giving and receiving.

Different from the previous exchange program that I've joined, the IYEP Singapore Delegation Tour included the inbound visit and the outbound visit. The delegates from Singapore came to Hong Kong for 7 days in December last year and we, the Hong Kong delegates, went to Singapore for 7 days in January this year. From the two visits, not only have we built up a very strong friendship among the delegates from both sides, but we also have learnt a lot from each other. We have shared and we have learnt.

The theme for this year's tour is "Servant Leader". Through the presentation and discussion sessions, we have understood more about the difference between an ordinary leader and servant leader. It is not something that we can understand simply by looking at the powerpoint. Rather, through the interaction with the delegates from Singapore, we can find out the qualities of being a servant leader, like listening, empathy, awareness and so forth. It was a really great opportunity for us to learn from each other.

Unlike going to a leisure trip, the Singaporean delegates did not visit Ocean Park or Disneyland when they came over to Hong Kong. Instead, they went to visit museums, community centres, youth organizations and Tung Peng Chau in Hong Kong to know more about our society, the development on youth and the conservation of our environment. Being the host of our guests, our knowledge of Hong Kong has been enhanced as well. Surprisingly, we had never been to some of the places they visited, like the Hang Out - Youth Outreach and the dialogue in the Dark etc.





Apart from understanding more about the youth development in Hong Kong, we had brought our guests to experience the local specialness as well. A home visit had been arranged to let them to get a real taste of our daily lives. We also brought them to try the local hawker food and to take different types of transport in Hong Kong. In the last two days of the inbound visit, all of us attended the sharing camp in Noah's Ark. Though we missed each other a lot while sending them off in the airport before they left Hong Kong, we knew very well that this was not the end of our tour. We were going to meet again in Singapore.

On 5th January, the 26 of us set off to Singapore to start our outbound visit. I would say this was a very fruitful trip. I've found the trip a very inspiring one despite the fact that I've been to Singapore for 5 times already.

In the trip, we got to know about how the youth get involved in community service, how the People's Association helps the whole Singaporean society in different ways. We had visited the Headquarter of the People's Association of Youth Movement (PAYM), the National Community Leadership Institute (NACLI), Cairnhill Community Centre as well as the South East Community Development Centre (SECDC). Through these visits, I've understood more about the whole structure of the People's Association, their work and their outreach. We were all very impressed not because Hong Kong doesn't have these kinds of services. Elderly care, training for unemployment, child care, leadership training etc. can all be found in the Social Welfare Department or the Labour Department in Hong Kong. Instead, we were all impressed by how the citizens in Singapore get themselves involved in all the community work voluntarily. In Hong Kong, all the services are provided, yet the departments will wait for people to seek for advice themselves. On the contrary, in Singapore, the department concerned will think of ways to approach those in need. They are able to find volunteers to assist them when necessary. I think Hong Kong may adopt Singapore's way that we can take the initiative to approach the needy, rather than waiting them to come over. If the change can really take place in Hong Kong, the services provided by the government can be fully utilized, It can also maximize the benefits of those in need. As a result, a double-win situation can be achieved.

What made the trip even more special was that I was able to have a chance to do





voluntary service in Singapore. I was helping out in the Artificial Kidney Heart Movement event of the New Kidney Foundation. I got a chance to work with the local youths in Singapore and contribute to their society which I felt very meaningful. Moreover, we tried out things that we could seldom do in Hong Kong, such as dragon-boating, using real gun to compete in the practice area in the Army Museum and so forth.

After spending fourteen days with the friends from Singapore, I was touched by their kindness and hospitality. When they were in Hong Kong, they were so friendly and had always been appreciating us while we accompanied them. When we went to Singapore, they were so hospitable that some of them even take a day off to meet us in the airport when we arrived. Even they had to pay for their own meals and entrance fee while we visited the night safari and the Singapore Flyer, they were still very willing to accompany us without any hesitation. Through interacting with them every day, we became very good friends and I am sure our friendship will last long, especially when distance is no longer a communication barrier to us in this era. (;

All in all, I've learnt a lot from this IYEP programme. I am very grateful that I could have this chance to join this programme. Thanks must be given to The Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong for nominating me to the Commission on Youth. Most importantly, thanks must be given to our dearest God for letting me to have so much exposure to the world outside Hong Kong. Able to gain all these experiences is definitely His plan. I know having all these experiences are going to equip myself, to get myself ready in serving Him in future. Lastly, I just want to say please grasp every learning opportunity for yourself as you don't know what are you going to encounter. You may somehow get inspired or be amazed by this beautiful world.

