

Asian Science Camp 2017 – Learning Report

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1. Introduction

In 20 to 26 August 2017, I am delighted to join the Asian Science Camp 2017. In the camp, I had dialogues with top scholars and technologists in the world including Nobel Laureates to foster international friendship and cooperation among science talents.



2. Cross cultural experience

2.1. Knowing more about Malaysia

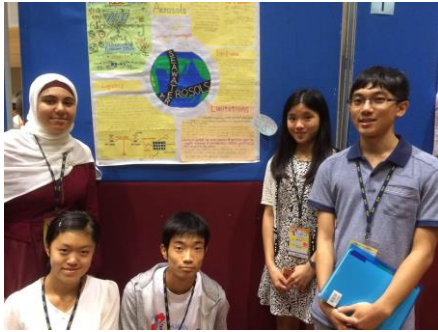
During an excursion in day 3, we have visited a tin dredge and a tin mining museum. I have learnt that tin mining is an important industry in Malaysia. Also, in lecture on “Palm Oil – God’s Gift to the World” given by Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Lee Oi Hian, I have learnt how palm oil is important to the development of Malaysia.

2.2. A small chat on linguistics

I still remember that while having lunch with participants from several different countries, we discussed the different characteristics of the languages we speak. It is a fresh experience on linguistics. It includes:

- A local Malay has shared with us how Malay is similar to Indonesian.
- My groupmate with Iraq ancestor introduced the different between Arabic and Persian.
- My Japanese groupmate surprised me by that he can understand so many written Chinese vocabularies in a Chinese paragraph.

2.3. Cross cultural friends



My Australian groupmate, who is currently in grade 12, might study medicine in Sydney after graduation. It happens that I will also have exchange study at the University of Sydney at the same time in 2018. I am excited to have the chance meet my friend again half a year later!

3. Academic experience

3.1. Reflection on the value of knowledge

I have always been pondering about the value of knowledge and education. The society nowadays put forth immediate economic impacts as the value of education. However, the pursuit of some fields of knowledge might have immediate economic return, such as theoretical physics. If so, what is the value of investigating it and discovering the mysteries of the universe? Despite having an interest in physics, the above question has always been on my mind. The lecture given by Prof. David Jonathan Gross has given me some insights:



- The universe is here, that's why we study it.
- Who know what it is good for?
- Quantum physics actually has many practical applications. Such as laser, integrated circuit, etc.

3.2. Category theory – a pleasure to my mind

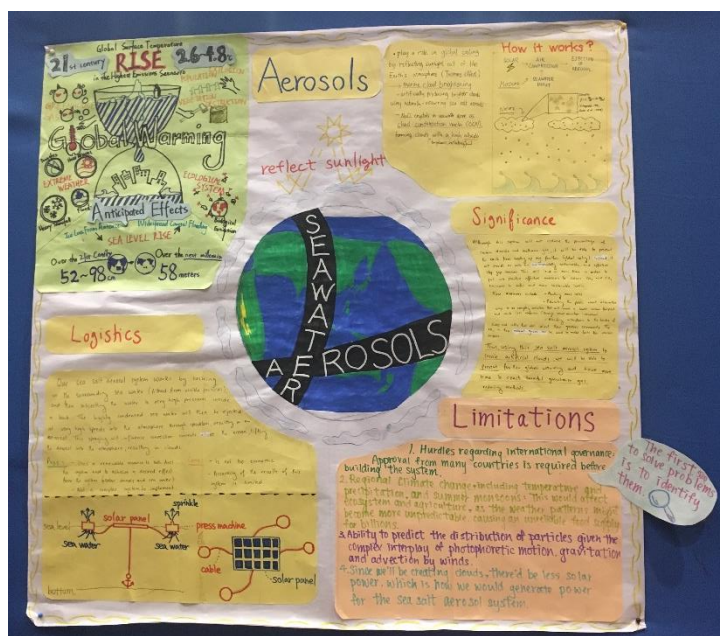


In the lecture given by Mr. Goh Peng Ooi on Category Theory uses a philosophical approach to question the relationship between knowledge and the reality. My favourite quote from the lecture is “Sigma is still sigma, nature is still nature. No matter how you look at it, it is still nature”. No matter how we study the universe, the universe is just is. It is an inspiring lecture to let me reflect on what knowledge means to me.

4. Conference

4.1. Poster competition

Our poster presentation was about Seawater Aerosol. Our idea was to propose a way of relieving global warming. We proposed using of sea salt aerosol to create artificial clouds. This could potentially buy humans more time to exact harmful greenhouse gas reducing methods.



Although we did not get any awards for the poster competition, it is a fruitful experience to draft a proposal regarding the relieving global warming – a serious environmental and sustainability issue at present.

4.2. Cultural night

During the cultural performance, Hong Kong team has performed a Cantonese song 我的驕傲, winning a round applause. Some teams invited all audience to come up to the stage and perform together. It was exciting to feel how people from different parts of the globe was very strongly connected at that moment.



5. Conclusion

By interacting with top scholars in science and technology field, I recalled my passion in science and technology since I was small. It has inspired me to continue pursue my dreams and explore my career path in this field.