

## Lionheart Society Trip to Japan

On the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2013, The Lionheart Society was invited to perform a community service presentation at two prominent schools in Japan namely, The British School in Tokyo and International School of the Sacred Heart.

The reception at the British School in Tokyo was quite overwhelming. Almost the whole of secondary attended the presentation with around 90 students from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. A number of teachers were also present as well as the entire student council. Everyone attentively listened to our speeches and watched our slide show as we shared our experiences and explained our various projects. After our presentation, it was their turn to ask us questions and speak about the community service projects they are currently doing. This was a great opportunity for us to learn about how they help their community and understand how significant these activities are to the school and the society. Following this session, we met with the student council and had a forum exchanging more ideas and more personal experiences.



The visit to the International School of the Sacred Heart was also a success. We met the student council in which the presentation came out to be a less formal but a more relaxed discussion. During our open dialogue, we exchanged experiences and talked about our various ideas as well as our future projects. It was interesting to know that their community service activities were quite limited as Japan has very strict rules on charity preventing them to do more than what they intend to.



The highlight of this trip was our intention of hopefully having a joint project with their schools. We suggested a number of interesting ventures that we may cooperatively work on and put into action in the near future. The following are some of our proposed schemes:



We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr.van den Berg for accompanying us on the trip and Mr.Farley for contacting both schools, making it possible for this trip to happen.



## Habitat for Humanity Trip to Nepal

- build bamboo houses
- around 7-8 days trip (including travelling)
- city tour in Nepal, fly to planned site of construction, 4 days of construction, travel back to Bangkok



## Mae Sot Refugee Camp (Thai-Burmese Border)

- refugees have been fleeing political conflicts in their country so they escape to the border
- no citizenship nor future for any refugee
- aim to provide proper qualification to have a brighter and better future
- perform a special play for the refugees



## Rainbow House

- CCD has been providing care and support to abandoned children with disabilities since 1986.
- It currently provides rehabilitation to approximately 500 children from government centers.
- Plan to perform a special play for the children, provide meals and spend time with them.



## Yaowawit (Tsunami) School

- Yaowawit School is a registered public welfare school located in the southern part of Thailand which provides long-term assistance to children who underwent terrible difficulties due to the Tsunami incident.
- Children suffering from the effect of disease and terrible social conditions are assisted in order to prepare them for the future.
- The aim of the school is to provide the children with the best possible chance of overcoming the vicious cycle of poverty, giving them a road map and proper guidance for leading successful lives.
- Spend time with the children; perform activities with them such as ploughing fields, harvesting crops, cycling and many others during their leisure time as well as visit nearby popular attractions.



During this trip, we also had the opportunity to learn and experience Japanese culture. We visited the Asakusa Temple, a very famous Buddhist temple built in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. We went up the Tokyo Skytree, the tallest building in the country giving a spectacular panoramic view of one of the most populated cities in the world. And finally, of course, challenged our taste buds to authentic Japanese food.

Japan is the world's third largest economy and a highly developed country yet there is still a considerable number of the underprivileged and people living in poverty due to its very high cost of living. Aside from this, Japan often experience natural disasters such as typhoon, tsunami and earthquake resulting in a large number of the population homeless and many children orphaned. The Japanese people are resilient yet humble. They are highly disciplined and indisputedly polite. We were very impressed with their kind ways and warm hospitality.

This trip truly gave us a bigger picture of how much effort should be placed on helping the needy. Every country has its own problems; some may have on poverty while others on catastrophe casualties. But whatever these crises may be, it is every individual's responsibility to help in any way one possibly can because there are countless ways we can extend our generosity and exhibit selflessness wherever we may be. As we genuinely answer to the needs of others and continuously find ways to ease the lives of the unfortunate, we will succeed in our collective efforts to make our society a better place for all of us.

