

St. Joseph's Institution International-Malaysia To Offer International Baccalaureate (IB)



On April 13, SJII-M received word from International Baccalaureate that “it is to become an authorized IB World School, Diploma Programme (DP).” This signifies, according to the letter, that: “you [SJIIIM] are part of a global community of schools committed to developing knowledgeable, caring young people who will be ready to negotiate their futures successfully and make contributions resulting in a more harmonious and peaceful world.”

Congratulations to Br. Tom Lavin, President, and the Leadership of the school for this commendable achievement!

The pictures on the next page, which show the remarkable development of the campus, are from the FaceBook page of SJIIIM Malaysia: <https://www.facebook.com/SJIIIM/>

Learn more about the IB here: <http://www.ibo.org/about-the-ib/>



First Bronze Founder's Statue in Hong Kong

April 7, 2016, the official church feast of St. La Salle was a day for the history books. For the first time in history of Lasallian mission in Hong Kong a bronze sculptor of the Founder was unveiled and blessed, at Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) Primary. The presence of the artist, Armando Benato, originally from Italy, made the occasion even more special. His presence was appreciated because he and his wife to came all the way from Thailand.

The priest who led the blessing ceremony, Fr Giovanni Giampietro, like the artist, also happens to be Italian. He is most fluent in speaking Cantonese and was able to explain the purpose of the whole exercise so that the youngest students could understand (but they seemed to enjoy being sprinkled with holy water even more).

Br. Patrick's in his keynote addressed highlighted that St. La Salle was our unseen Guest of Honour and we welcomed him wholeheartedly. (Br. Patrick Tierney FSC)



PARC Youth Coordinators Program 2016

"Engaging Young Lasallians towards greater collaboration in mission."

From 11 to 18 April 2016, Lasallian Youth Coordinators/Ministers from 11 countries in the Pacific Asia Regional Conference (PARC) gathered at De La Salle University Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) Philippines, for the PARC Youth Coordinators Program. Apart from strengthening collaboration of Young Lasallians in the region, the program intended to provide an experience for new Youth Coordinators/Ministers that would allow them to better understand and reflect on the role of the Youth Minister in the Asia-Pacific context. It also provided the participants with the necessary skills and techniques relevant to Youth Ministry today.

The week-long program served as an opportunity for reflection and dialogue among the participants, and we wish to thank all the resource persons who made this possible: Br. Richie Yap FSC, Br. Arian Lopez FSC, Br. Rey Mejias FSC, Br. Ricky Laguda FSC, James Camden, Amanda Proulx, Thea Quintos, Nelca Villarín, the Lasallian Community Development Center of DLSU-D, Beatriz Lim and Br. Dennis Magbanua FSC.

Our special thanks too, to the organising team that made sure that everything went on smoothly: Kenny Wong and Ed-Lindding Ong from Singapore, Isaac Stephen from Malaysia, KC Castillo and Patrick Lo from the Philippines. We would also like to express our gratitude to Br. Gus Boquer FSC for hosting and providing a home for all those who attended the program! (Keane Palatino)



Arts, Heritage, and Culture



National Kandawgyi Botanical Gardens (Maymyo Botanical Garden, Myanmar)

In 1915, a Forest Researcher Mr. Alex Rogers founded the Botanical Garden. He planned, chose, located, and established it as an international garden. Recently after the establishment of the garden, in 1917, Mr. Otway Wheeler Cuffe and his wife Mr. Charlotte Wheeler Cuffe helped Mr. Rogers with the ideas, formation, landscaping, and building the garden after London's Kew Gardens. Before it was only 150 acres in area.

On December 1st, 1924 the Botanical Garden was turned into the National Botanical Garden with a total of 240 acres. The garden was well preserved by the Ministry of Forestry. In 2000, the garden was renovated and now it has great landscaping and scenic view. There are 12 levels, where 10 levels are for viewing the beautiful scenes of the garden. And 11th floor is a Function Hall. (<http://www.bgci.org/garden.php?id=864>)

The Botanical Gardens has 514 species of indigenous trees and 74 foreign species, 75 species of bamboo, and 75 species of crotons. Of the 300 species of indigenous orchids, 178 were already collected in 1942. There are 25 rose species, and 6 land lily species. Medicinal plants for traditional medicines are also grown. The National Botanical Gardens is managed by the Ministry of Forestry. Forty two acres of the site are a protected forest area. The gardens are popular among tourists, who enjoy the rolling lawns and Alpine landscape reminiscent of those in England. Endangered wild animals are also kept in the National Kandawgyi Botanical Gardens, including Eld's Deer, Burmese Star Tortoise, Takin, Hog Deer, but there are also pheasant and water fowl. It has collaborated with the UK based Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) to conserve the indigenous orchids in their natural habitat. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Kandawgyi_Botanical_Gardens)

Pictures from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Kandawgyi_Botanical_Gardens

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