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Lasallians Awarded on National Children's Day. Thailand National Children's Day (วันเด็กแห่งชาติ) is celebrated on the second Saturday in January. Known as “Wan Dek” in Thailand, Children’s Day is celebrated to give children the opportunity to have fun and to create awareness about their significant role towards the development of the country. This year’s motto is: *“Be Disciplined, Enhance Knowledge, and Bring Thailand toward ASEAN.”*

Part of the celebrations was the awarding of the “Shield of Fame Youth Championship” to Thai youth who brought fame to the country. This was held last 9 January at the Santi Maitri Building, Government House. Thai Minister of Education, Mr. Pongthep Thepkanchana, awarded the plaques to children who are with good morals and ethics, integrity, diligence and gratitude, help parents, dedicated to the public and also those who brought fame to the nation in five areas: academics, art and music, morality and ethics, sports and recreation and the professional skills.

Among those awarded are three (3) Year - Six High School students



Br. Eugene Prapas FSC greets the Thailand Prime Minister.

from La Salle College in Bangna, Bangkok. They are Ms. Parichard Wimolthanachai, Ms. Thanawan Srikulpanich, and Mr. Pat Taranun Jessadaprawit. Accompanied by the school administrators led by Br. Eugene Prapas, these Lasallians and all invited and awarded young people from all over the kingdom also had an opportunity to meet her Excellency, Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand.



“Visiting The First LEAD Chapter”. “Dear Brothers of LEAD, I am sure you had a wonderful celebration of the end of the year and beginning of the new one. My hope and prayer is for only the best for each of you throughout the year. From the 26th to the 30th of December, the Brothers of the Japan Sector gathered in Sendai’s community house for our annual retreat. We try to be together at least once a year. On this occasion, it was not possible for Brother Fujita to be with us because he was caring for Brother Fujikami in Kagoshima at the time of the retreat.

“Brother Dodo conducted the retreat. He was assisted by Brother Thomas. Brother George Van Grieken who was visiting Japan joined the retreat also. Brother Rodrigo coordinated the retreat. Our purpose was two-fold: after a brief presentation by Brother Dodo, we needed time to share and develop the themes of the first LEAD Chapter and we,



STANDING (Left to Right): Jose (Bursar), George (Singapore / San Francisco), Domingo, Lazaro, Fermin, Antonio, and Victor.
SEATED (Left to Right): Rodrigo (Sector Leader), Mark, André, Dodo (Visitor), Tom (Auxiliary Visitor), and Ohtomo.



also, needed time for personal reflection, prayer and meditation. During our time together we refreshed and revitalized ourselves. We had time for prayer and contemplation and rekindled and deepened our relationship with God. After our retreat, the Brothers had a few days to rest and prepare for the start of school activities which began in the second week of January.

“Each year brings the expectations of a better world. With this in mind we ask God to grant us concord and peace, so that our aspirations for a happy and prosperous life will be achieved. My personal best wish to each of you is that you will have a fruitful year. May we all be together in the spirit of our Founder, De La Salle. Live Jesus in our hearts.” (Br. Victor Gutierrez FSC)



Reflections on the 22nd National Lasallian Leaders' Convention. “Take, take, take the lead, I will take the lead...”

“Armed with a tune and a strong team of 26 Organising Team (OT) members, the 22nd National Lasallian Leaders' Convention, which was recently held in La Salle Centre, from December 17 - 22, 2012 drew the attendance of almost 88 delegates from La Salle schools all over Malaysia and



Singapore. This year was also a special year for us, as we welcomed back the participation of Sacred Heart, Sibiu into our convention after an absence. Not only that, Br. John Pill, Director of Lasallian Services of PARC Region, stayed with us for 3 days to experience the convention process himself.

Throughout the convention, the delegates were exposed to the founder's story, of his challenges and how he tried to help the last, the lost, and the least, their immediate realities, social issues, as well as introducing the Lasallian spirituality of faith, service, and community. They were also introduced to daily reflection, every morning and night to reflect on their day and affirmation, whereby they are encouraged to affirm the goodness in one another. Indeed, it has been an enriching 5 days for the delegates, and it is our fervent hope that the national convention will continue to be a catalyst for change, and to continue to empower our young Lasallian leaders to take the lead and make a difference in their own realities." *(Written by Mr. Vincent Ooi; Photos credits to Alexander Leo Morris, Ow Jia Loon, and Andrea Chew)*

District of Vietnam Website. On 6 January 2013 the Brothers of the District of Vietnam launched a website as an opener to the celebration of 150 years since the arrival of the Brothers on 6 January 1866. Eight Brothers arrived from France with two going on to Singapore. The Brothers commenced their first school on 9 January 1866. You can access their website through this link: <http://www.lasan150.org> *(Br. David Hawke FSC)*





LEAD Leadership Team Meeting. The District Leadership Team met on 11 January at the LEAD Provincialate in Kowloon, Hong Kong. Br. Dodo convened the meeting with Br. Tom Lavin (*Auxiliary Visitor / Office of Senior Brothers*), Br. Steve Hogan (*Director for Mission*), Br. Victor Franco (*Director for Formation and Vocations*) and Br. Richie Yap (*LEAD Administrator*). Another member is Br. Jose del Coss (*District Bursar*) who will instead attend another meeting with an Economic team in Manila. The Leadership Team discussed various concerns and upcoming activities in the District as they assist the Visitor in the implementation of Chapter and District Council resolutions, as well as serve as a recommendatory body to the District Council. I am grateful to these Brothers for their generous service to the District over and above their current ministries.

Fraternally,

Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC
Philippines

50 Best Books for Teachers. This edudemic.com article takes a look at a great list of teachers' 50 picks of best books for everything from dealing with conflict to organization, science to games and everything in between: <http://edudemic.com/2012/12/best-books-for-teachers/>

30 Other Surprising (And Controversial) Research Findings About How Students Learn. You can access this article through this informEd website: <http://newsroom.opencolleges.edu.au/features/30-surprising-research-findings-about-how-students-learn/>