

# Cultural Exchange Programme India-Malaysia



St.Mark's Sr.Sec.Public School,Meera Bagh



## **ST. MARK'S SCHOOL**



The students of SMS are trained to handle curricular and co-curricular activities simultaneously. Care is taken to instill self-discipline in their receptive minds. They are schooled to become responsible leaders with a commitment to society. Under the canopy of the school motto “Loyalty, Truth and Honor”, the students, the staff and the management of St. Mark’s endeavor not only to enable students to compete with others for a place in the professional outlets, but also imbue them with social awareness, pride in their rich cultural heritage and a sense of responsibility towards the nation.

## **SMS GLOBAL PROGRAMME**

The SMS Global program is an initiative by the school to equip the students with a global perspective .The educational experiences offered in this program in the context of real world issues will widen their horizons and enrich their lives which will stand them in good stead .SMS believes in giving learning opportunities beyond geographical boundaries which allow the students to network with their peers overseas and make connections with what they have learnt in the real world.



## **CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

Student exchange programs are educational and cultural opportunities for the students of SMS. During such exchange programs, students live with host families where they are exposed to the host country's culture and language. Not only the academic and social development of the individual student plays a significant role in exchange programs, but also the foreign policy interest of each country that sends or receives exchange students.



Exchange programs present a golden opportunity for students to visit and live in different countries and gain crucial

***Cultural Exchange between India  
and Malaysia***

experiences and skills for their later careers. Such programs help in building relationships and strong bonds with student's abroad .Cultural Exchange Programs bring schools and classrooms together and bring in united strength into the students that benefits humanity.

As part of one such cultural exchange program between Malaysia and India, the students of **ST. MARK'S SCHOOL, MEERA BAGH** visited two schools in Malaysia namely **SEKOLAH MENENGAH SAINS MUZAFFAR SYAH** and **SULTAN ALAM SHAH, PUTRAJAYA.**



## Day 1, 22 June 2013

Our delegation was very excited to be a part of the student exchange programme to two schools in Malaysia. The first school we were supposed to visit was Muzaffar Syah (MOZAC). Muzaffar Syah (MOZAC) is one of the two boarding schools in the state of Malacca at present. It has an excellent track record in the achievements of government examinations nationwide. The school, which is situated in Ayer Keroh, continues to be one of the best schools in the country.

We boarded our flight from Indira Gandhi International Airport at 12:40 pm and reached Kuala Lumpur Airport, Malaysia at around 10:00 pm. We had a two hour drive from the airport to the school. The students at MOZAC gave us a very warm welcome.



## Day 2, 23 June 2013

The students of MOZAC accompanied us to the UNESCO World Heritage Building. We got to know about the history of Melaka. We also visited St. Paul's Church which was set up by the Portuguese. Late in the evening we went to Jonker walk. The whole market was so lively and we all felt fantastic. We were all looking forward for the third day.

## Day 3, 24 June 2013

We visited some heritage sites of Melaka.

We went to the ship museum where we saw spectacular views of a ship. We were accompanied by 2 students of MOZAC along with a teacher.



After visiting the museum we went for a ferry ride that took us along the amazing city of Melaka. It was a 45 min cruise that was a wonderful experience for all.



We, then, went to a mosque that was very beautiful and calm. Also, we went to a beach where we had a fabulous photo session.



Later, we came back to the campus of MOZAC, had some rest & then played football with our friends from MOZAC. It refreshed all of us. After dinner, we rehearsed our dance which we had to perform the next morning.

## Day 4, 25 June 2013



Day 4 was a very formal day with our performance and our presentations on our country, our school and our city. We also exchanged some souvenirs and mementos. That was the day when we attended the classes

with our Malaysian friends and tried to understand their curriculum. In the afternoon, we had a meeting on the United Nations. Since both our schools come under the UNESCO schools, it was a good learning experience to know about the work done by our partner school. After such a hectic day, we were taken to a pool nearby where everyone swam and relaxed themselves.

The icing on the cake that day was a special Indian dinner which had been arranged for us.





## Day 5, 26 June 2013

At 7 am in the morning, we left for the famous Genting Highlands. We travelled by Toyota Alfred, a luxury car. We reached Genting at around 11 am but unfortunately it started to rain and the outdoor rides were closed. So we had to spend our time indoors. We made up for everything by clicking some amazing pics.



We left Genting at 6 pm and after two hours, at 8 pm, we saw ourselves standing below the majestic Twin towers. We were just amazed to see it. The lights in the building



was just spectacular.

It was, indeed, a wonderful way to wrap up the day...

## Day 6, 27 June 2013

On the 6<sup>th</sup> day of our trip, we went to Sekolah Sultan Alam Shah, Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur.

Sekolah Sultan Alam Shah (in Malay), SAS or (Sekolah Alam Shah), is a premier, all-boys boarding school in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The school was previously situated in Bandar Tun Razak, a suburb in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur for 41 years, before moving to Putrajaya in 2003. The school is one of the only two boarding school in Malaysia (the other is MCKK) that are under the royal patronage. The school specializes in rugby and wind orchestra.

We were warmly welcomed by the staff & students of the school. We had an introduction with the Principal, staff and students.

Miss Siew Siew Chin was our official host teacher and she accompanied us to all the places that we visited. We were taken to ALAMANDA SHOPPING CENTRE for bowling .We spent our evening shopping in the same place.

After early dinner, we went to a great flower festival 'FLORIA' in Kuala Lumpur. This festival is celebrated once every year and we were lucky enough to be there at that time and be a part of it. The best part of the festival was its Fireworks.



## Day 7, 28 June 2013

On the last day of our trip, we had an unforgettable experience. After breakfast, we went to the Great PETRONAS Twin Towers.

That was like a dream come true to each of us. The trip to the 88 floor Twin Towers made our trip awesome.



That day we also went to Suria KLCC where we visited the science museum and then to China Town for shopping.



At night after having dinner, we went to our beds after packing our bags as we had to leave for the airport early morning the next day.



## Feedback from our Malaysian friends



**Yasmin Shuhairil**

We were excited and thrilled when we saw our Indian friends for the first time. They were kind, helpful, hardworking, fast learner and hyperactive. They were very different from other kids who came to our school. They were very friendly and not arrogant. That was what we really like about them. We hope that one day Mozac could visit New Delhi too.





**Raja Munirant Kandasamy**

I hope by visiting my country you have learned more about Malaysia and you can share it with your friends in India. There are many beautiful places in Malaysia that you haven't explored. I hope this won't be the first and last visit to Malaysia.



**Adreena Musa**

Well, I only have one word for my new friends from India.... AWESOME. They are very fun to be with. The boys are very childish and I have never met anybody who

is constantly energetic and so excited to play ball. Also because of them, I got to try new dishes like thepla and rice with baked beans. And it was delicious.

Thank you. Well, Shefali, even though we just met, I feel like we have been friends forever. I mean we connected really fast ... Well, overall, I am grateful to have met all these wonderful people and I hope one day maybe I get to visit St. Mark's School.

I am very happy to be able to interact with students from New Delhi. Even though I couldn't accompany them the next day, I am glad to have made friends with them. The half day spent with them will be an unforgettable experience for me that I will cherish.



**Muhammad Amirul Syazwan Bin Mohd Shah (16)**



It was a great program which allowed me to interact with international delegates and I enjoyed it very much. Bringing delegates to Alamanda and Floria was fun and interesting as I observed their reactions towards the surrounding atmosphere. Taking care of delegates is not an easy task in terms of food and needs satisfaction but all in all, I like their enthusiasm and cheerful personalities and I really hope to meet all of them again.

**Ameer Azizan Bin Zulkarnain (16) -left**



We are glad to have the opportunity to meet and befriend students from St. Mark's School. Although we are in the AECNet Project I-Magz, we regret that we did not contribute much due to constraint of time and internet access in school. We are really glad to be able to meet in person. We hope to keep in touch with you and maybe to meet you again one day.

First of all, I would like to say thank you for coming to our school, Sekolah Sultan Alam Shah (SAS). Although we have been collaborating in various projects under the AECNet since the year 2008, this is the first time that we conduct a homestay program for St. Mark's School. The program in SAS might be short but I hope students from both schools have learnt something from it. I am glad that our students were able to communicate well with each other and had enjoyed the activities planned, especially at the Petrosains KLCC.

May the relationship between SAS and SMS flourish as years go by. We have a lot to share with each other. I hope our students will continue to benefit from programs such as this. The invaluable experience of cultural diversity will make them good leaders of the future as they will be able to respect and understand each other better.



(Ms. Chin Siew Siew)

## **FEEDBACK FROM INDIANS**

We felt very proud to send our children as part of the cultural exchange programme to Malaysia. The programme has instilled confidence in our children. Taking care of themselves all through the trip makes us proud.

Ms. &Mr. Aneja, Parents of Shefali Aneja

We are very happy that our child has been selected for such a good opportunity to represent our nation and the school at an international level. Actually, some of us were a little scared because for some of the children it was the first foreign trip but everything worked out just fine.

-Ms. &Mr. Arora, Parents of Lakshay Arora

We can see some changes in our kids after coming back from Malaysia. We feel that the children have gained a lot of knowledge and confidence and can face every challenge smartly. This student exchange programme is a good way to prepare the children for something bigger in life.

We are thankful to the school and the teachers to have carried out the exchange programme successfully.

Ms. &Mr.Suri, Parents of Lakshay Suri

# Principal Speak

I have always supported student exchange programs. My school has been participating in many such programs. I truly believe that these exchange programs are learning experiences for every child for he or she learns one of the most important virtues - to live in harmony with others..

At St. Mark's School, we strive for global peace and so believe that exchange programs are integral for global peace and brotherhood. I am happy that we have such excellent partner schools in Malaysia.

I look forward to more such programs in the future.



# Learning Experience

We are very lucky to have been a part of this trip. The amount of knowledge we have gained from this trip is immense and beyond words. The culture, cuisine, history, buildings and rich heritage of Malaysia has truly fascinated each one of us. We have come back to India more knowledgeable about Malaysia and its truly beautiful cultural heritage. Our learning experience has been truly amazing and we are glad to have broadened our base of knowledge. We certainly hope that more such trips come to us and we would be glad to accept any opportunities to learn. It was Malaysia..truly Asia..for all of us...

# Acknowledgement

We would like to thank Ms. Seema Arora who accompanied us in this wonderful trip and looked after us so very well. Not to forget Ms. Geeta Rajan, the Global Coordinator of our School, who helped us in every manner possible, from packing for the trip to the legal documentation.

We would like to thank Ms. Rosnah, vice principal of Sekolah Menengah Sains Muzzafar Syah (MOZAC) who welcomed us in her school and made sure that we never felt away from home. We would also like to thank Ms. Siew Siew Chin, Global Coordinator, Sekolah Sultan Alam Shah, Putrajaya, for taking full care of us and treating us like very special guests.

Lastly, we would like to thank Ms. Anjali Aggarwal, principal, St. Mark's Sr. Sec. Public School, for taking lot of pains to organize this trip and without whom this trip would not have been possible.



***Inputs from(in alphabetical order)-***

1. G.Anubhav

5. Mayank Jain

2. Kartik Mehta

6. Mohit Chawla

3. Lakshay Arora

7. Shefali Aneja

4. Lakshay Suri

**Teacher Coordinator-Ms. Seema Arora**