

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS AT FOBISIA CONFERENCE

For two days in October 2015, Harrow International School Bangkok held the first ever FOBISIA academic Computing conference entitled "Developing an Effective Computing Curriculum". Over 30 primary and secondary teachers from all over Asia took part in what was to prove a very inspiring two days of workshops and discussions. The topics discussed were how to shape the new computing curriculum at KS3 (Prep to Y9), choosing the correct exam boards at IGCSE/GCSE and A Level, assessing computing in the classroom and how to encourage more girls into Computer Science.



The workshops covered Python development at senior school level, as well as Scratch for younger students. We also looked at the latest technologies available for the classroom, including using a Google Cardboard, which each participant got to take home with them. The conference finished with programming Python in Minecraft – a workshop that proved to be very popular!

In an ever changing subject with many international schools moving away from an ICT based curriculum to a more Computing based subject, this conference proved to be very useful for teachers and gave everyone a chance to see what is happening at other schools. This will hopefully become an annual event from now on.

Carl Turland



The Korean news service reports a fact finding visit of teachers to London schools and CAS in February

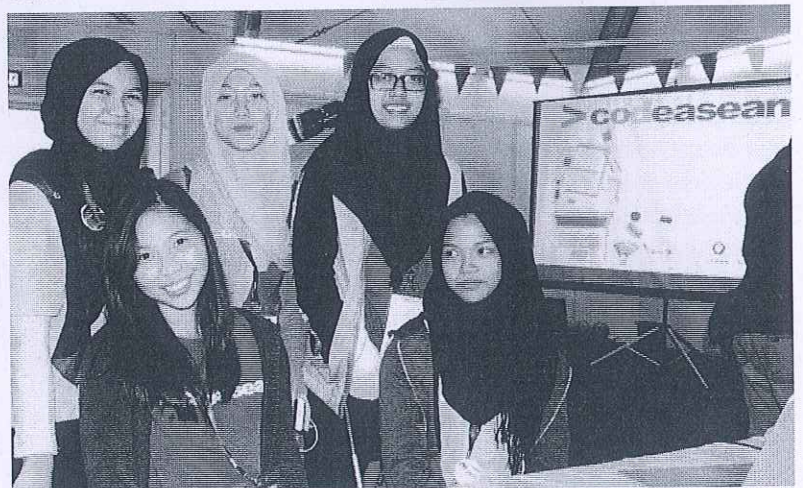
REACHING OUT TO TEACHERS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Building on the success of the links forged between CAS members in international schools, James Abela reports on initiatives to strengthen links with local communities.



In South East Asia, CAS has been successful in establishing a presence in international schools, making very good use of existing networks. In Bangkok, Simon Aves has been leading the way with the local ISTE Bangkok group. Carl Turland has been organizing the teachers at international schools Computer Science forum through FOBISIA (see left), and we have been on social media to drive the message forward. Carl Turland and Simon Carter have been dealing with the AQA syllabus, whilst Harvey Taylor and I have focused on the CIE syllabus.

In Malaysia, we were a part of the ASEAN summit which President Obama attended in which coders from across South East Asia participated. In the competition, we used Live Code for developing apps and the Raspberry Pi for electronics. It was very pleasing to see an all-girl team and my A level students win top prizes. It was great publicity for Computing and very exciting for students to be involved in two hackathons. Unbeknown to most, electronics is Malaysia's top export; a message that needs to be reinforced if we are to encourage students to study Computing. Cambridge University has also been active in promoting Computer Science, with awards given for Computer Science AS levels for the first time. The region has also seen a growing trend of hackathons. Hackerearth kindly offered to host the region's first school-based Hackerthon with strong entries from a wide range of international schools. For Primary, Tanglin's Glenn Malcolm is hosting a Scratch-based competition, with students linked via video conference (see bit.ly/1oHjlk6).



The next challenge is to get closer to the local schools, and the first step towards this has been through the Google Educator Groups. Malaysia is leading the charge here with an intention to integrate Computing into their upper Secondary curriculum by 2017. I recently provided training to enthusiastic Malaysian teachers. There are willing professionals who are eager to help from a wide range of backgrounds, and now the challenge is to connect all the threads together! In South East Asia we are at the very beginning of our journey, but we hope to replicate the success that has been seen in the UK.