Dear Colleagues and Friends in FOBISIA Schools,

Welcome to the latest edition of the FOBISIAN newsletter.

In addition to the annual conference, FOBISIA heads also meet once a year for an annual business meeting. This year it was hosted by the Taipei European School in Taiwan. As usual there was a great deal of routine business enacted to ensure the federation continues to run smoothly, but also some events and issues of greater significance.

We were delighted to be able to extend a special welcome the English School of Mongolia as a new member school of FOBISIA. This is the first school to join the federation following our recent decision to enlarge the geographical area that we encompass. The head of the school, Graham Hill, captured the interest and admiration of existing FOBISIA heads as he described how the school had been founded and developed in somewhat challenging circumstances. We are all very much looking forward to the opportunity of visiting Ulaanbaatar at some point in the future.

After considerable discussion and debate the federation heads unanimously voted in favour of abolishing the category of Corporate Membership of FOBISIA. This modernisation of the federation means that all corporate member schools will become full member schools and have an equal say and equal voting rights regardless of individual ownership structures.

The meeting in March also saw significant changes to the Executive Committee. Stepping down from office were Matt Mills (Bangkok Patana), Val Thomas-Peter (Alice Smith School, KL) and John Jones (St. Christopher’s School, Penang). I wish to extend my sincere gratitude for the work they have done for the federation and the support they have given to me personally as Chairman. Duly elected to replace these colleagues were Mick Farley (Harrow School, Bangkok), John Todd (Dulwich College, Suzhou) and Stuart McLa (Kinabalu International School).

Every March we have to say farewell to Heads who are moving on in their career and the meeting in Taipei was no different. However, I must mention that this was the final meeting for John Jones the Head of St. Christopher’s International School, Penang who will be retiring in July. John has been a FOBISIA head for 23 years and was in fact its first Chairman. He has always been FOBISIA’s greatest champion and his contribution to the development of the federation has been immense. John’s passion, commitment and energy will be sorely missed by FOBISIA, but possibly not his singing!

I hope you will enjoy reading this edition of the FOBISIAN and that it tempts you to become more involved in the events and development of our organisation.

With very best wishes

Shaun Williams
CEO & Principal of the British International School, Ho Chi Minh City & Chairman of FOBISIA
Dear Member,

This is the season of planning. We are now gearing up for an event filled calendar for you and for your students next academic year.

This month the Heads of PE (HoPE) Executive met followed by the HoPE Conference. It was hosted by Kellett School in Hong Kong. A huge thank you to Fiona Pratt (Head of PE at Kellett School) and Ann McDonald (Head of School) for hosting a group of over 60 participants. The evolvement of the groups continues with the growth of the federation, and the dedication of the HoPE Executive chaired by Simon Shand has continued to show dedication not only for their own school’s input but to FOBISIA as a whole. The HoPE Executive warmly welcomed their new Head Liaison for Events Stuart McLay (Head if Kinabalu International School) and look forward to working with him. All Heads of PE had the opportunity to send their farewell wishes to John Jones (Head of St. Christopher’s International Primary School) but if like me, there is always the feeling that we will see one another again. ‘The Games’ continue to give our students a unique competitive experience.

This month the Heads of Music (HUMS) will also meet jointly chaired by Elizabeth Alwi (British International School Jakarta) & Chris Papps (Taipei European School). A very big thank you to Neill Thacker (Head of Arts) and Neil Richards (Head of School) of British International School Phuket for hosting another very large event. Not only is this an excellent opportunity for our music colleagues to conduct CPD, the HUMS Executive also meet together to discuss events for the next academic year. Once again there will be many opportunities for our musically talented students and teachers.

The CPD Committees are busy planning the calendar for next year as well. This month all CPD Leaders will meet within their regions and discuss CPD initiatives whether it be conferences or Job Alike Workshops. Julia Cope, our FOBISIA CPD Coordinator has received many CPD bids and our CPD Executive chaired by Ciaran Harrington (Kellett School) plan to have most CPD events listed on the website before schools break up for the Summer.

The Heads’ & Senior Leader Conference planning is also well underway. FOBISIA Heads of School, Senior Leaders, Affiliate Members, Exhibitors and potential sponsors will receive detailed information very soon.

Busy times as always for FOBISIA. A very big thank you to all of FOBISIA’s Executive teams whom work very hard for their schools as well as showing amazing dedication towards the enrichment of both student and staff experiences within our membership.

Tania Donoghue
Executive Officer
The 2014 FOBISIA Annual Heads’ Business Meeting was hosted by the Taipei European School (TES), Taipei from 13th to 15th March with 39 Heads from all of the member schools in the Asian region attending.

This is the first time in 10 years that TES has hosted this event. All the Heads attended a one and a half day meeting at TES Primary Campus. The Executive Heads/CEO’s of all of the FOBISIA schools meet twice per year to discuss issues, plan for FOBISIA events and consider membership applications from aspirant schools.

The business meeting was opened officially in the evening on Thursday 13th March at the spectacular Grand Hotel, one of Taiwan’s national landmarks, where Dr. Allan Weston, CEO of TES, welcomed the guests from the various FOBISIA schools. Mr. Christopher Wood, Director of the British Trade and Cultural Office in Taiwan, was a Guest of Honour with an inspirational speech at the opening. Mr. Wood spoke of the importance of British education overseas to the UK government stating that it was the UK’s second biggest industry worldwide.

The Conference Dinner was held at a Taiwanese restaurant on the 85th floor of the landmark Taipei 101 building on Friday 14th March giving guests a flavor of Taipei.
The FOBISIA MUN 2014 was held at Jerudong International School over three days, from the 22nd to the 24th of January with the theme of ‘Global Inequality’. A group of 19 students across the secondary school, ranging from Year 9 to 12, had the opportunity to participate in this Model United Nations Conference and represent ISB.

The morning of the first day of the conference consisted of a briefing of the schedule and venue, and the Opening Ceremony - where the Secretary Generals and Chairs were introduced and guest speakers delivered their inspiring speeches. We then proceeded to our separately assigned committees where lobbying took place. It was a great time to get to know other participants from different FOBISIA schools from the region, and to cooperatively develop several resolutions for various global issues. In the afternoon, committees began their debates on the previously written and approved resolutions from delegations from different countries. In the evening, a welcoming dinner took place at the Royal Brunei Yacht Club where participants were able to enjoy dinner and entertainment.

The second day consisted of continuous debates. Although very demanding and tiring at times, we were engaged in numerous debates which not only allowed us to develop our skills in debating, but also allowed us to broaden our knowledge on global issues and different perspectives. The day ended at five in the afternoon and the debates were resumed on the third day. Later in the morning, all separate committees gathered together at the General Assembly where resolutions, which had successfully passed in each committees, were once again debated. The conference then concluded with a Closing Ceremony in the afternoon and a farewell dinner at the JIS Arts Centre in the evening.

Overall, the conference was a greatly benefitting experience for all of us, and definitely one to remember!

By Ha Keong Kim, Y12
Some of the finest young musicians in Southeast Asia enjoyed a four-day music festival at Garden International School (GIS) in Thailand.

A total of 15 schools and around 300 students took part in this year’s FOBISIA Music Festival from November 15-18 2013.

Schools from Hong Kong, Vietnam, Singapore, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Taiwan and Hong Kong flew in to take part in a huge range of musical activities. Schools from Bangkok also attended, along with GIS students.

Students and their teachers were based at the Royal Phala Cliff Resort in Ban Chang from November 15-18, where they took part in workshops, ensembles and rehearsals for two major concerts.

After enjoying various workshops on Friday November 15, the visiting schools put on their own concert in the evening. On Saturday morning, students worked on minor ensembles before taking part in an impressive flashmob on their hotel’s beach deck. This was put together by West End star James Bennett, who has appeared in ‘Hairspray’ and ‘We Will Rock You’.

On Saturday evening, the students went to see the excellent Alangkarn Cultural Show in Pattaya before having a fantastic buffet dinner at the nearby Ravindra Resort.

On Sunday, there were more musical workshops before the students were taken to GIS, which is based in Ban Chang on Thailand’s Eastern Seaboard, to take part in traditional Loy Krathong activities, including learning how to make their own krathong.

Following that there was a powerful rock concert in the newly-refurbished GIS main hall. Rock classics such as ‘Livin’ on a Prayer’ and modern pop songs like ‘Still Into You’ were among the favourites. The finale featured a special performance by former Hear’Say star Noel Sullivan, who sang Queen’s ‘We Are The Champions’, ‘I Want It All’ and ‘We Will Rock You’. Noel, who now runs the London International Theatrical Arts group, came to Thailand especially to help at the festival. Noel has starred in the West End musical ‘We Will Rock You’ so to have him singing the same songs at GIS was very special.

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Sound and lighting for the concerts were provided by Oakie and his team at Spectrum Audio, who have also worked on Lady Gaga concerts in Bangkok and the Brit Awards in London.

The Gala Concert was held in the evening. GIS’s new-look hall sounded fantastic as the concert began with the orchestra and choir performing the Royal anthem of Thailand. This was followed by a mix of classical and modern pieces, including ‘World in Union’, the ‘Anvil Chorus’ and ‘Call Me Maybe’ by the choir and orchestra, ‘The Typewriter’ with help from soloist Ryan Fernandez and ‘Birdland’ by the Jazz Band. As a finale, the choir and orchestra performed a rousing version of ‘The Elder Scrolls’ from the computer game Skyrim. Afterwards, there was a Gala Dinner at the Purimas Beach Hotel and disco at Phala Cliff.

Festival Director, and GIS’s Head of Arts, Paul Shiells said: “This was an awesome festival with something for everyone. All the students had an incredible time. It was great to see not only so many great collaborations musically, but also it was wonderful to see students making so many new friends.

“We set a real challenge by choosing some tricky music for the students to learn in a short time, but they responded magnificently. None of this would have been possible without such great support from the teachers, admin staff and maintenance team at GIS – they were amazing.”

The festival was sponsored by Yamaha Music, BQ Group, RMS Industrial Services Co. Ltd, Grand Caribbean Condo Resort Pattaya (Blue Sky), Universal Plus (Seven Seas Resort), United Relocations and the Hussana family.

To see more about the festival, follow us on Twitter #musicfobissea, visit http://www.fobisseamusic.gardenrayong.com or click on the Media link at www.gardenrayong.com

By Mark Beales, Head of English/Publishing
On 27th March, the Alice Smith School hosted 17 schools from South East Asia for the annual FOBISIA Primary Performing Arts Carnival. Previously hosted by the British School of Beijing, the British International School of Jakarta and St Christopher’s International Primary School Penang, it was a great pleasure to host such a large group of dedicated, teachers, students and musicians.

The students had the opportunity to see the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra in action at an open rehearsal before seeing some of the sights that Kuala Lumpur has to offer, such as the Petronas Twin Towers.

The theme for this year’s carnival was ‘Music from the Movies’. Students wowed the audience at the Finale Performance, playing and singing songs from Mary Poppins, James Bond and Pirates of the Caribbean.

During the carnival, everyone had an opportunity to participate in many different areas of the performing arts. Workshops offered were Salsa, traditional Malay dance, Digital Photography, iMovie, Garageband, Mask Decorating, Vocal Performance technique, Body Percussion, Singing Playgrounds, Chinese Dancing, Chinese Painting, Malaysian traditional games, Drama Games and Drama Improvisation.

On Sunday the dance, drama, choir and orchestra amazed the audience with their spectacular performances and musicianship. The concert ended for the first time in carnival history with a group performance by the choir and orchestra.

Thank you to the FOBISIA community for supporting the event, to the students for participating and being such great advocates for their schools and to all involved in ensuring that the carnival ran smoothly.

By Jaime Thistleton, Head of Music
Fourteen FOBISIA schools joined us at Alice Smith for the Primary FOBISIA Maths 2014 in early March.

Jointly co-hosted with Bangkok Prep, the event started with a fun-filled morning at KLCC Park for the maths trail. Participants were split into mixed teams, which gave them the opportunity to make new friends, before making a start on the maths. They then returned to school for lunch.

The written team challenge took place in the afternoon. The Alice Smith team did us proud as they worked really hard as a team to achieve some good results in the written paper and then in the maths relay. Next was to complete a computer task using Mathletics. This is a programme that all our children in Key Stage 2 use regularly so the Alice Smith team were very excited. This was then followed with an activity focussing on direction. Two of the teams had to tie their legs together and be blindfolded whilst the other two members of the team had to shout directions to them, directing them to collect different balls. What a tiring day!

Saturday morning started with the children sitting their individual written papers then the rest of the day was full of fun practical activities: marble run, pipe fill, weight sort, estimate the perimeter and blindfolded shapes. The children’s faces were beaming as they moved from one practical to the next, particularly enjoying the water pipe challenge as they all managed to successfully soak themselves!

We then had lunch before beginning the big practical challenge. The challenge was to make a boat that could travel across the width of the swimming pool in the fastest time possible. One child was allowed to be in the water to flap the boat across but they were not allowed to touch it. They could do it three times and then work out the mean time. The Alice Smith team worked hard on their boat design and construction but realised very quickly when it entered the water that amendments needed to be made. Finally, it was time for the awards ceremony to close the competition and then the celebration with a tasty BBQ and a pool party!

The children worked together fantastically and were a pleasure to be with throughout the weekend of competitions. Each child represented their school well and showed what amazing mathematicians they are.

All the hard work paid off when 56 children’s faces were beaming during the competition. We saw how much it meant for them to be taking part in the competition.

We now look forward to the 2015 competition in Shanghai!

By Gemma Silk, Key Stage Two Leader
As many colleagues will be aware the political and social disruptions affecting Bangkok in recent months led to the cancelation of the Group C U13 Games that were originally to be hosted by Regents School, Bangkok on. Nonetheless, KIS stepped in at the last-minute to offer to host a modified version of the Games in Kota Kinabalu and were consequently delighted to be joined by a small number of students from the Regents School Bangkok, St Stephens International School, Bangkok, St Andrews International School, Rayong and the British School, Kathmandu.

The small numbers required some adaptations to the traditional format of the Games, but the three days of team sports events, featuring boys and girls football and basketball and concluding with a mixed softball tournament, proved no less exciting and no less competitive than the usual structure that has been a fixture of these events for many years. Indeed, with some teams incorporating student representatives from three schools these were a Games that saw even more interaction that usual on the sports field and the decision to host all the events on the school site ensured an enthusiastic crowd of KIS students, staff and parents for every match that added to the atmosphere and experience for everyone concerned.

St Andrews International School proved to be the outstanding team throughout the three days of sports competitions, but all the other participating schools had team members on the podium at the end of each day and everyone should be proud of their efforts in what proved to be very hot and humid conditions throughout. The KIS community certainly rose to the occasion in support of the Games but we were indebted to the willingness of the other schools to travel at such short notice and their flexibility in agreeing to a modified programme to ensure the success of the Games for all participants.

Stuart McLay, Principal, Kinabalu International School
British International School, Ho Chi Minh City hosted its first ever Under 15 FOBISSEA Games last weekend. The majority of International schools arrived on Thursday 21st November and departed on Monday 25th November. 205 students participated in sport during the 3 days of competition. On day one students travelled to Thong Nhat Athletics Stadium and then to Yet Kieu 50m pool take part in their swimming competition. The evening was spent at school with an open air BBQ. On Day two students participated in boys basketball & girls football and then were welcomed at the Diamond Plaza for some food and bowling! On the final day students participated in boys football & girls basketball.

The Under 15 FOBISSEA Games culminated with a Gala Dinner, where our own BIS students performed dances and music. There were speeches from our Director of Sport & FOBISSEA Organiser Phil Drake and from Mr Richard Dyer, Head of Secondary. The best was left until last with our own student disco!

I would like to personally thank all staff and their children from Dulwich College Beijing, Dulwich College Shanghai, British School Manila, Jerudong International School, Shrewsbury International School, Bangkok, British International School, Shanghai, Puxi and British International School Ho Chi Minh City. A special thankyou also to all staff who contributed to the success of this event.
The prestigious Royal Selangor Golf Club was the setting for the inaugural Malaysian FOBISIA 2014 Junior Golf Tournament in partnership with Garden International School Kuala Lumpur. Schools participating included Garden International School, Bangkok Patana School, Shrewsbury School Bangkok, Harrow School Bangkok, Tanglin Trust School Singapore, Alice Smith School, Jerudong School Brunei & British School Manila.

A total of 80 competitors with a range of handicaps registered for the 3-day tournament (including practice round) with visiting schools staying at the tournament hotel, MiCasa All Suite Hotel Kuala Lumpur.

For the majority of the competitors it was their first time playing at the club and many of them found the course extremely challenging, especially the speed of the greens. They were taken aback with the courses stunning backdrop, the Kuala Lumpur skyline and the Petronas Towers.

What competitors were most impressed with however was the smooth organisation of the tournament, the condition of the course and the knowledge of the caddies who were invaluable when providing advice to young aspiring golfers.

The tournament finished with a presentation dinner in the banquet hall where a brief video of the tournament was shown, and trophies and medals were given out to the winning teams. It was at this presentation that the contribution of club member Mrs. Khor was acknowledged. She had worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the tournament was a success.

The Principal of Garden international School, Mr. Stuart Walker summed it up nicely in his presentation saying to the students “I hope that you haven’t been spoilt by playing at such a prestigious club with such wonderful facilities.”

Next year the tournament is likely to return to Bangkok, however there is no doubt that after such a fantastic tournament FOBISIA Golf will at some point return to Kuala Lumpur and the Royal Selangor Golf Club.

The results were as follows:

**For the Boys**— Harrow Int. School (1st place), Shrewsbury Int. School (2nd place) & Alice Smith School (3rd place)

**For the Girls**— Shrewsbury Int. School (1st place), Harrow Int. School (2nd place) & Garden Int. School (3rd place)

*Paul Wellington, Tournament Director, Garden International School*
THE JARDINE SCHOLARSHIP: AN APPLICANT’S ACCOUNT

As the 15th October deadline approaches for Oxbridge applicants every year, students will be rushing (even if the counsellors have forewarned us for weeks) to polish the perfect personal statement. At the time it seems like any added burden is simply unnecessary, especially if it comes in the form of the 2-page essay required to apply for the Jardine Scholarship, whose deadline comes right after that of Oxbridge. But the Jardine is definitely worth applying for.

The Jardine Scholarship is a full scholarship to select colleges in Oxford and Cambridge, awarded to typically six students from South East Asia. The scholarship itself includes all university tuition fees, board and lodging, travel expenses and an annual stipend of 9,500 GBP (coming from Bangkok Patana School, the idea of being paid a salary of sorts to study is foreign to me), but as Jardine Matheson is a relatively influential company - the first trading company in China founded in 1832, which owns Mandarin Oriental and Hong Kong Land among other things - there are other benefits such as internship placement and a community of Jardine scholars that can support each other in Oxbridge.

I’ve been asked to write about the trials and tribulations of applying for the Jardine, but honestly the most difficult part of getting the Jardine scholarship is getting the conditional offer to Oxford or Cambridge first, which is an entirely different (and incredibly challenging) process. As for the Jardine, the two-page essay is what gets applicants to the first interview. The Jardine foundation looks for well-rounded applicants with extracurricular including community service initiatives, sports and leadership. I was able to get advice from past Bangkok Patana Jardine scholars in my essay writing, and they were unified in saying it was important to show in the essay that you not only knew what you were going to do in the future and were passionate about your subject, but were also going to somehow make a lasting impact on South East Asia.

The first interview was a Skype interview held in the Mandarin Oriental that went through a series of questions about exactly what I wanted to do in the future and about my extracurricular. As I chose to apply for a PPE course, my future plans were quite controversial (Marxist ideals in a market-driven world, the horror!) and the most challenging part of the interview was the interviewer’s scrutiny of my plans to revolutionize democracy. However after having a disastrous interview experience with Oxford, I felt that the Jardine interview was far less demanding.

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The second interview for Thai applicants (as there are far fewer Oxbridge candidates, it is the third interview for Hong Kong, Mainland Chinese and Singaporean candidates) takes place in Hong Kong, when the applicant pool has been narrowed to 20 final interviewees. We faced a panel of six interviewers. They were far more specific with their questions (basing them on personal statements and the submitted essay) and our future plans. Then, we had to write a 45-minute essay – in my case it was on digital technology and whether it made us shallower. However, if anything, Jardine covers all expenses to and in Hong Kong so it could be considered a sort of holiday.

Ultimately, scholarship aside, the application process in itself was a rewarding experience. I remember the year I began my applications, Gerard Vistal (a Jardine scholar now studying natural sciences in Cambridge) came to talk to us about the benefits of the scholarship, as many past Oxbridge applicants have eschewed application on the basis of the amount of work it appears to involve. My counsellor, the wonderful Mr. Haughton, also had more work forced upon him in having to write a scholarship-specific reference, but that was instrumental in my success. It’s true that it is quite a bit of extra work at a time when Year 13 students’ hands are absolutely full, but my sentiments echo his exactly in saying that it is worth it in the end.

*By Jasmine Chia, Bangkok Patana School*

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**In Memory of a dear Colleague, David Taylor M.B.E.**

David Taylor, who was until earlier this year the Principal of St. Stephen’s International School in Bangkok and before that the Principal at International School Brunei, Brunei for many years passed away on Tuesday, 18th February 2014 after a very brave personal struggle against cancer, which he had known was terminal.

David was instrumental in raising environmental issues within the Federation and set up a number of projects like the FOBISIA UK Eco Schools project for FOBISIA students and schools. This was a major step demonstrating FOBISIA Schools commitment to sustainability and care for the planet. His passion and energy for environmental issues led to his MBE. He was also instrumental in ensuring that the conservation partnership to restore Lot 7 of the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary between FOBISIA and the Sabah Wildlife Department went through.

FOBISIA is greatly indebted to his contribution towards the Federation, not only as a Principal but as a friend to all members. Our thoughts are now with his wife Schola and their two children, Melissa and Wambui and their extended family.
WELCOME TO FOBISIA’S NEW MEMBER SCHOOLS

1. The English School of Mongolia  www.esm.edu.mn <http://www.esm.edu.mn/>
2. The British School of Beijing, Sanlitun  www.britishschool.org.cn <http://www.britishschool.org.cn/>
3. The British School of Beijing, Shunyi  www.britishschool.org.cn <http://www.britishschool.org.cn/>

WELCOME TO FOBISIA’S NEW AFFILIATE MEMBERS

3. Harris Hill Ltd  www.harrishill.co.uk <http://www.harrishill.co.uk/>
8. The University of Manchester  www.manchester.ac.uk <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/>

Please visit the FOBISIA website  www.fobissea.org or the individual company links for further information.
THE FOBISIAN

MISSION AND GOALS

To promote excellence, high achievement and good practice through a British-style education for the members of FOBISIA.

To promote consistent British-style education through shared programmes, cooperative initiatives and inter-school enrichment activities.

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