Singapore Mathematical Modelling Forum & Challenge (SMMFC) is a programme which aims to inspire students to learn to grasp the concept of mathematical modeling and learn to apply it to solve daily problems. The event was jointly organized by two schools, namely Ngee Ann Secondary School and Raffles Girls’ School, and was held for 2 full days and 2 half days, from 27th June 2012 to 30th June 2012. During the four days, the three of us, namely Lau Hiu Ching, Isabella Woo and Dorothy Cheng, not only learnt a lot more about mathematical modeling, but also experienced the inflow of cultures, and the difference in education between Singapore and Hong Kong.

On the first day, we learnt about the main concepts of mathematical modeling, and the skills needed in order to effectively analyse data, namely how to use the software Logger Pro, and how to use the graphing calculator TI-Nspire. We got to know our groupmates, who were from schools in Singapore, and shared our passion in exploring the vast realm of mathematics. The highlight of the trip was on the second day, when all students got to apply the concepts we learnt and have fun in the Universal Studios Singapore (USS) at the same time, learning in the process from classroom theory to a thrilling ride. We learnt to collect data efficiently, and applying mathematical knowledge and skills to solve the tasks presented to us. On the last day, which was the final challenge, we had to investigate if a parachute system can be used as an escape device to get out of a tall building in an emergency. We were given materials to test our hypothesis after determining the features of an ideal parachute. Then, we had to report our findings and answer any questions teachers or students might ask.

All in all, the trip was fruitful and rewarding. We not only gained more knowledge and insights under the concept of mathematical modeling, but also learned a lot about the culture of Singapore. We are truly grateful for having this opportunity.

To read more details about their exciting trip, visit their blog: http://dgstravel1860.webs.com/smmfc-2012