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DIOCESAN GIRLS' SCHOOL

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# DGS Joins School Life The World Culture Fiesta

## What is the World Culture Fiesta?

It is a new competition organized by the Hong Kong Economic Times, wherein students were asked to conduct a project to promote a country, culminating in the setting up of a display booth at a public venue to highlight the country. We formed a team comprising Secondary 4 students Priscilla Pang, Jessica To, Christy Li, Stephanie Cheung and Dawn Hou. We were able to reach the finals, held at East Point City and captured the Champion's trophy and the Best English Award. We were awarded HK\$ 5000 cash prize and all of us are enrolled in the summer internship programme at the Hong Kong Economic Times.

We attended three workshops held before the finals, and learnt how to write professional sponsorship letters. We also learnt about the importance of protocols and principles in advertising, and acquired some useful techniques on presentation. In the finals, we were asked to promote Thai culture to the public at large and to Consul-Generals by setting up a display booth at East Point City. While we realize that Thailand is going through a period of political uncertainty, we wanted to showcase the many positive aspects of Thai history and culture, including its culinary delights. In the process, we got to learn more about the fascinating Thai culture as well as and the cultures of 11 other countries on display.

On the whole, we see this as a very fruitful and unforgettable experience. The techniques and principles we learnt from this competition will be beneficial for our future and we had the opportunity to learn from finalists of other schools through the exchange of views on the different cultures of various countries. This Fiesta has certainly broadened our horizons.



Participants of the World Culture Fiesta at East Point City Shopping Centre



The Champion Trophy presented to DGS team-members by Mr. Anthony Lau, Executive Director of Hong Kong Tourism Board



Demonstrating the making of Som Tam, a Thai papaya salad, to the Consul-General



Our English teacher Mr. Oddie congratulated us on our fine display



Celebrating our victory with representatives of the Tourism Authority of Thailand

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# School Life

## The School Mock Trial Objection, your Honour!

Past midnight. A girl pores nervously over the website of the Hong Kong Observatory. Where's yesterday's weather report? The maximum temperature at King's Park? Now, is the first decimal place odd or even? Why this sudden interest in meteorology? There can be only one answer: she's a Debate Team player in the Joint Schools Mock Trial Programme, checking to see if DGS will be Prosecution or Defence in the next Moot Court match.

Twelve girls, good and true, made up this year's squad. Their older sisters entered the competition for the first time in the 2008-09 season and came away smiling with the First Runners-up trophy. With their help, this year's team of Secondary 3s and 4s were raring to go.

One week before the match, teams receive a set of court papers from the Mock Trial organizers. A week of frenzied activity springs into action. Players have just a few papers to go on: a doctor's report, witness statements, maybe a picture of the murder weapon and an autopsy report. How can they embroider the facts without breaking the trial rules? What will make their witnesses credible to judge and jury? Who on the team is best suited to play the witnesses and lawyers this time around? On the match day, they stand, in sharp black suits and crisp white blouses to face the judge at City U's Moot Court. All rise! Says the Clerk, and the battle begins.



The Winning Moment....



The Schools Mock Trial Team, teachers and young supporters celebrate lifting the Champion's Trophy



The Finals Team celebrate their hard-won double victory after 7 matches

Drinking from the Champion's trophy at the Debate team year-end party, the girls talked of what they'd learned. 'Not to stumble on high heels.' 'To look cool in my suit, resting my arms on the lectern,' joked Sharon. Yet many a true word is spoken in jest. Witnesses, without the aid of a single note must stay cool as a cucumber under tough cross-examination. Lawyers too had to master poise and develop the confidence to suddenly change tack and corner a witness. To stay the course of seven full trials, the girls had to learn intelligent analysis of court documents, develop team tactics and strategic thinking. Mock Trials stretch the team beyond the demands of classic debate. Yes, they also learned hard lessons on the workings of a court of law. 'The truth is whatever you make it,' commented Fernanda wryly. Ironically re-working the Affirmation, Daphne added: 'I will tell nothing of the truth.' Yet Allison's closing remark perhaps said it all: 'Your Honour, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, this is a case of life experience.'



Natalie So, Best Lawyer of the series, receives her trophy (What a birthday present!)

