End Human Trafficking: Ranisha Hong

A steadfast campaigner against human trafficking shares her inspiring story with students of AIS Pushp Vihar and Amitasha Foundation, an organization working for emancipation of victims of human trafficking and putting an end to this crime against humanity.

The event organised by AERC began with the lighting of ceremonial lamp by Ms. Rani Hong, Ms. Amertia Mohan, Principal, AIS PV and Ms. Divya Bhasin, Vice Principal. The other esteemed guests present during the event included Ms. Madhulika Subramaniam, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Ms. Jyoti Arora, Head, AERC and Ms. Viva Sharma, Managing Editor, The Global Times.

This was followed by a talk on human trafficking by Ms. Hong, who shared her touching and inspiring story with the audience. She spoke about the work undertaken by Tronie Foundation to eradicate human trafficking and towards building a better society, all in affiliation with UNODC and UN General Assembly. Ms. Hong who also works as an advisor at UN General Assembly on issues related to human trafficking said, “Every problem should be considered a challenge and every challenge an opportunity. We are all blessed with the power to be agents of change and voice of millions of children who are subjected to cruelty.” Her efforts led to the UN being the first state to pass laws to prevent human trafficking and provide aid to the victims of human trafficking. Her inspirational story from being a victim of child labour at the age of seven to being adopted by a US Family and then miraculously being reunited with her birth mother on her first trip to India, created a fire among the students and elicited many inquisitive queries. She was accompanied by a team of eight US students who along with their parent worked relentlessly as volunteers for the foundation. The young volunteers amassed the audience with their extraordinary zeal and infectious energy that made the gathering dance to their tune literally. Sharing his experience at Amity, young volunteer Evan Taylor said, “It was very reassuring for me to know that even after I leave India, the kids at Amity will always help spread our message and continue the movement.”

True to his belief, the school kids instantly took up the cause to spread awareness and formed an Anti Human Trafficking Activists Club (AHTAC) which was followed by a small ramp walk in which the participants shared their experiences at AGS PV.

Emotions soared high when students got misty eyed and developed a slight quiver in their voice recollecting the wonderful time spent at school. A skit providing a sneak peek into a typical classroom where students liked teasing each other, was enjoyed by everyone. Fun and game session set the entertainment quotient soaring. ‘Newspaper folding game’, ‘blowing the balloons’ and musical chairs were enjoyed by one and all. What is party without food? After such a fun filled exercise, everyone looked forward to a delicious spread. The food was simply wonderful. As the students parted they took back with them memories of some deeply cherished moments spent at school. This fun-filled evening couldn’t have been possible without the teachers who coordinated with the students to make the farewell a grand success. So we take this opportunity to thank them.

The main attraction of the conference was the grand-opening and closing ceremony held at UN General Assembly Hall. The three day conference sponsored by the United Nations Association of the USA’s Global Classrooms program hosted more than 2300 students and 19 committees from diverse countries and backgrounds. The participating delegates voiced their opinion against pressing issues such as democratic governance, population, harmful substances, humanitarian and natural disasters. The conference provided an authentic simulation of the UN in a highly professional setting. The program facilitated by AERC under the auspicious guidance of Dr. Amrita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools, the students travelled to New York City to compete in this prestigious forum led by Mr. Sumedh Kapoor. Amitian felt truly inspired standing in the shadows of countless erudite men and women who had tackled major global problems during the opening ceremony held on May 12, 2011. The fudging diplomats of tomorrow felt highly privileged to hear the enlightening words of Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations.

W ith an aim to create awareness amongst students about the importance of nutrition and physical activity, Embassy of Switzerland in association with Food giant, Nestlé organised a two day workshop for over 100 Amitian students and their teachers on May 9 and 10, 2011 at AIS Noida and Saket. The workshop conducted by AERC comprised chiefly of two sessions. A one hour session on promoting Indo-Swiss bilateral relations was conducted by Ms. Sarah Berry from the Embassy of Switzerland, New Delhi. This was followed by a session on health, nutrition and physical activity, conducted by Nestlé. What made the workshop more interesting was the fact that it was conducted in Hindi. Ms. Berry took the students on a whirl wind tour of Switzerland on the first day where shared interesting details about the country. A short film on this beautiful country was also screened for the participants.

An interactive session on health and nutrition conducted by Ms Deepika Kohli and Ms Sushri Verna under the Nestlé Healthy Kids Global Programme proved to be informative for Amitian students. An informative and colourful booklet, along with the corresponding presentation, served as the didactic material for this session. A question and answer round followed by a discussion at the end ensured that the message co- reviled during workshop was well received by the participants.

It enabled students to understand more about healthy living, importance of balanced diet, hygiene and exercise in life. Apart from this, their general knowledge component was also enriched during the workshop. The brief description about Switzerland, its geography, the salient features and long standing friendship with India made them brush up their facts. Overall the workshop drew tremendous response.

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