

Building skills and character

THE recent Asia Leadership Youth (ALY) Camp 2015 held at Sunway International School (SIS) was themed Values Into Action, which stems from the rationale that one should embark on a learning journey to examine his or her own values.

SIS was selected as the ideal candidate to be the camp host as the school identifies with the camp's objective of helping young adults gain skills, courage and confidence in embracing their leadership abilities.

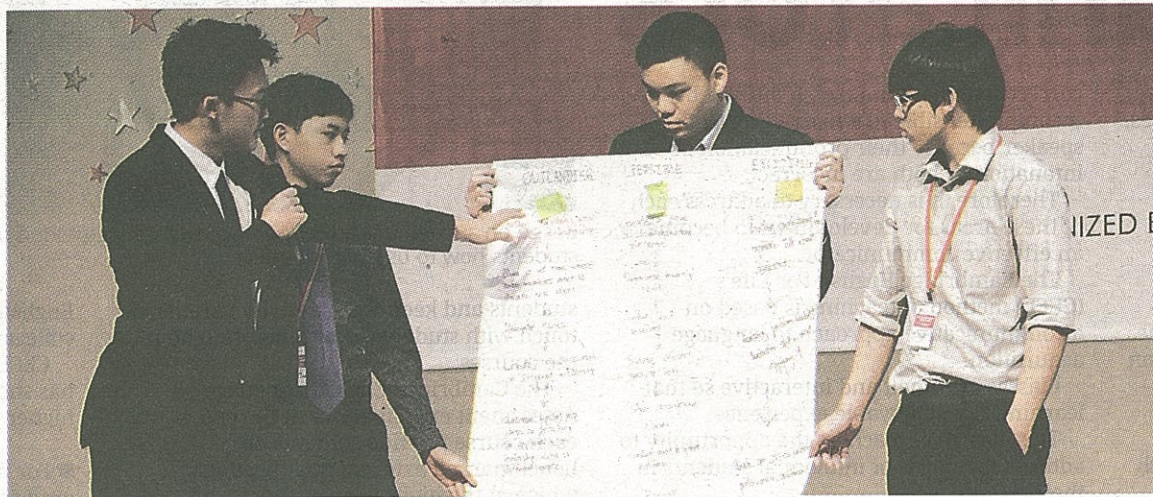
In fact, SIS has been championing this cause through its character education and community outreach programmes.

As a member of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, SIS believes in providing youths a head start to impact society in positive ways.

The camp, which catered to students in secondary school and pre-university, aimed to prepare and empower young students for the leadership challenges that they will face in their personal, school and communal life.

Delegates were immersed in the Harvard model of leadership for them to thoroughly understand, absorb and grasp what it truly means to be a leader and prepare their mindsets to face and solve challenges.

The impressive line-up of speakers included fellows from the Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Stanford Graduate School of



The Culminating Pitch Competition allowed participants to put their newfound knowledge into practice.

Business and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Through mentorship, inspirational anecdotes on leadership and discussions on best practices, the fellows led and engaged delegates in capacity-building workshops on topics of leadership and social-profit initiatives, namely in entrepreneurship, innovation in education and social responsibility.

Key focuses in the programme included workshops on leadership and communications as well as

innovation and problem-solving.

The highlight of the camp was the Culminating Pitch Competition. In this experiential exercise, delegates used persuasion principles learnt throughout the week on a personal or professional topic of choice.

Through active and constructive group feedback, the competition culminated on the last day of the programme with powerful speeches that elicited the audience's wholehearted response and earned the top three most

persuasive delegates trophies at the graduation dinner.

Additional enhancements included in the programme talk show panel discussions and a lively forum where delegates deliberated and debated on various topics.

Students took part in fun ice-breaking team games such as scavenger hunts, educational experiences such as Dialogue in the Dark at Sunway University and Wildlife EduHunt at Sunway Lagoon, and attended dinners that

showcased local cultures and customs.

Samuel Kim, Asia Leadership Institute president and research scholar of the Asia Center, Harvard University, says, "We use the framework Knowing, Doing and Being, which comprises making use of what we know, coming up with something that can add value to your community and country, and understanding how you can become a contributing factor to your nation.

"Our fellows were delighted to be part of a programme that aligns with this framework and that involves secondary school student who are the future leaders of Malaysia."

The ALY Camp showed that youths possess the drive to begin their journey of discovery to recognise their own potential and talent and assume the mantle as leaders of the future.

Having armed themselves with world-leading best practices and instructive tools, ALY Camp graduates have become capable and ethical individuals who will continue to lead, innovate and inspire in the future.

■ For more information, sis.sunway.edu.my