

KVIS NEWS

GENESIS OF KNOWLEDGE

03: To have been or not to have been: invaluable insights from the ISSFs

NARAWIT PRATUENGSUKPONG



Bucky Ball, the iconic structure at the entrance of Wang Chan Valley

It was in May 2015 when Kamnoetvidya Science Academy (KVIS) began educating gifted and talented students in mathematics and science in the beautiful, picturesque and peaceful valley of Wang Chan. A year after it started nurturing future researchers, inventors and innovators, the school had been given an opportunity to join the International Students' Science Fair (ISSF) in NUS High School of Mathematics and Science. From that year to the present, the school has been continuously participating the fair. In this issue, a feature article on the experiences and impressions of students and teachers during the four ISSFs they have previously attended will be shared.

Sakol Warintaraporn
Chemistry Teacher

[Attended the 12th and 15th ISSF]

I was impressed by how NUS High School of Math and Science organized the 12th ISSF. The buddies were helpful and friendly with our teachers and students. Since the opening ceremony, NUS was able to ignite the interest of the attendees as they introduced Singapore as whole. It reflected how well-prepared the fair was. The speakers in scientific activities were so enthusiastic that I considered it as the most splendid part. Overall, the opportunity to learn and exchange scientific knowledge made my experience in the ISSF worthwhile.



Sakol Warintaraporn Chemistry Teacher

“... the opportunity to learn and exchange scientific knowledge made ... ISSF worthwhile.”

Fortunately, I had another chance to participate the 15th ISSF, which was held at the National Junior College in Singapore. I attended not only a project presentation but also a workshop on “design thinking” for students and teachers. The workshop gave us an avenue to observe a class where “design thinking” is being applied in teaching and to work at an actual site. Those experiences were new to me and I learned a lot from it.

**Arjaree Thirach
Biology Teacher**

[Attended the 13th and 14th ISSF]

I've been to two ISSFs. The first one was in the Republic of Korea where attendees were punctual, and the event was so well-organized. Students were part of the planning process that they did most of the work during activity facilitation. What fascinated me was the variety of activities that inspired our students in STEM.

The other fair I went to was in the US. I like the simple and casual opening ceremony, and the elegant closing ceremony..

As its theme is "Sustainable development goal (SDG)," all the activities were related to it. I chose to attend the activity SDG6: Clean water and sanitation in which I observed the wastewater treatment process. It served as an inspiration for participants to brainstorm ideas in solving a problem and create a network between academics. As a result, some country representatives might gather ideas to develop projects regarding the issues they identified. This experience made me feel that America can lead the world.



Arjaree Thirach Biology Teacher



**Pimfa Kamkalong
KVIS batch 2 student**
[Attended the 13th ISSF]

In 2017, I had a chance to visit the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) to attend the 13th ISSF. It was incredible to see a research about controlling rats' brains using neural signals. I was also fascinated by the grand opening ceremony. There were a music performance and a taekwondo show which were performed by their own students. Moreover, I was thrilled when I got to dress in hanbok, a Korean traditional clothing.



**Kokhao Chitnirat
KVIS batch 1 student**
[Attended the 12th ISSF]

I attended the 12th ISSF in 2015. I was fascinated by the opening ceremony where the drone assembled by NUS students themselves were shown to the audience. Also, it was exciting to attend a special lecture by a Nobel laureate.

**Ramita Toonrud
KVIS batch 1 student**
[Attended the 13th ISSF]

I was able to participate in the 13th ISSF. During the activities, the participants were divided into groups. Each group had students from different countries and was tasked to design a future city. We had to select its facilities, layout the city plan, and built up the model using Lego blocks.

While working, we brainstormed to complete the task within a limited time. It gave us a chance to talk to each other and share ideas. I think that it was a really cool time. Though I cannot remember everyone's name, it was wonderful that we had a chance to discuss and exchange perspectives once in our lifetime.

**Damrongrat Siriwanna
KVIS batch 3 student**
[Attended the 14th ISSF]

In ISSF 2018, the most exciting part was the workshop section. It is an activity that exposes students to basic experiments, and I found myself lost in the pool of scientific knowledge. Chatting with friends while waiting for rocks to erode, I had an excellent experience there. I wish I could be at this event again. #ISSF2020



**Thanis Prucksikanont
KVIS batch 3 student**
[Attended the 15th ISSF]

When I attended the 15th ISSF this year, the coolest part for me was the activity called "design and build" or "d&b". In the activity, I had to integrate the knowledge about microbits, which I got from the previous workshop, and fused it with my inspiration to solve an environmental problem. Each group was given a task to focus on different types of issues such as water pollution, hunger, air pollution, etc.



“... I found myself lost in the pool of scientific knowledge.”

Upcoming article: “*Ars longa, Scientia brevis*”

** The title was inspired by the golden phrase “*To be, or not to be*” of Shakespeare’s masterpiece, *Hamlet*. **