A delegation of school principals, vice-principals, heads of department from the Quality Schools in Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong Institute of Educational Research visited Singapore from 27 to 31 January 2019. The visitation programme was jointly organized by the Yuen Long Merchants Association Secondary School, Hong Kong and the National Youth Achievement Award Council of Singapore.

The objective of the visit is to provide school leaders in Hong Kong an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Singapore’s school system and how Singapore provides students with a conducive environment for learning, nurturing and developing leadership, character building in partnership with the parent support groups in order to achieve our desired outcome for a holistic education and youth leadership development in Singapore.

During their visit, the delegation visited Springfield Secondary School and Chung Cheng High School (Main) to learn and observe best practices in students’ all-rounded development. The delegation also visited the ESSEC Business School, Asia-Pacific to understand their Global BBA Programme where students are required to complete a one-month humanitarian (social service) project. The delegation was very impressed by the quality of Singapore’s school leaders and teachers who have great passion in their work and a strong responsibility in preparing their students for the future.

“I would like to express our gratitude to the NYAA Singapore’s support towards the visit of school leaders from Hong Kong to Singapore. We have gained a lot from our visit to the NYAA Council to have an in-depth understanding on the development of students through the NYAA Leadership Programme.”

Dr Tong Choi Wai
Project Director
Quality School Improvement Project
Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hong Kong Institute of Educational Research
The delegation also visited the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) College Central to learn how ITE prepares their students for skills needed for their future career. Besides providing their students with technology and skills training for the job market, ITE also teaches students the importance of social responsibility. The School of Science and Technology (SST), a specialized independent school, is where students gain a strong foundation in STEM. The delegation was really impressed with the strong government support and the quality of technical education offered by the ITE through their interaction with senior management of ITE College Central. It was an eye-opening experience for the Hong Kong school leaders.

One of the highlights of the visit was to visit the Academy of Singapore Teachers (AST), Ministry of Education. Mrs Chua-Lim Yen Ching, Deputy Director-General of Education (Professional Development) and Executive Director, Academy of Singapore Teachers, Ministry of Education provided the visiting school leaders an overall perspective on the in-service training programmes and to elaborate on the philosophy of Teacher Leadership and Teacher Ownership.

“AST has established a teacher-led culture among the educators. The systematic implementation of networked learning communities has led to a higher level of professional discourse among the teachers. The delegates were also impressed with the three career tracks, namely the teaching track, the leadership track and the specialist track. This has enabled the educators to do what they are best at and enjoy doing it.

“We have also learned much from the Hong Kong education system. The interaction with the educators from Hong Kong showed that while we are from different countries, our mission is the same. We put our heart into the mission because the mission is always in our heart.”

Mrs Chua-Lim Yen Ching
Deputy Director-General of Education & Executive Director,
Academy of Singapore Teachers
Ministry of Education

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The visit inspired the Hong Kong school leaders to rethink their leadership role in nurturing and preparing their students for the challenges ahead. The delegation thanked the Singapore Academy of Teachers, Ministry of Education, National Youth Achievement Award Council and the institutions they have visited for their warm hospitality and their candid sharing which was very helpful as they review and strengthen their teaching skills.

Besides the very tight visitation programme, the delegation managed to squeeze some time to visit some of Singapore's iconic places of interest.

“We are all impressed by the efforts of the Singapore government in supporting education, and NYAA's passion in nurturing young people into international leaders who commit themselves to serving the nation and the world.”

Ms Elisa Wong
Vice Principal
Shun Lee Catholic Secondary School

The visit to Singapore by the school leaders from Hong Kong was a success. The delegation was impressed on the quality of school leaders and teachers and they could learn more about Singapore system, especially student leadership development, through partnerships with external organizations such as the National Youth Achievement Award Council through more exchanges in the future.

The final visit for the delegation was a presentation at the National Youth Achievement Award Council where the delegation learned of the integrated approach in the development of students through a very close and strong partnership between the schools, the institutes of higher learning and the NYAA Council. Through the close partnership, they were able to groom and nurture many young community leaders for Singapore at both the national and international level. The leadership and contributions of these young people who made an impact at the national and international level have made Singapore, their institutions and the NYAA proud.

Visit to the National Youth Achievement Award Secretariat.

Dialogue session on Leadership Development with Mr James Soh, Executive Director, National Youth Achievement Award at the NYAA Council.

Lunar New Year’s celebration with a Lo Hei luncheon hosted by the NYAA Council.

Enjoying the greenery at Gardens by the Bay.

Ms Wong Lee Lee
Principal, Bishop Hall Jubilee School
Hong Kong

“I was very touched by the work done by Singapore on the holistic development of students, it is really very meaningful and touching. We hope schools in Hong Kong and Singapore can establish more exchanges in the future.”

Ms Elisa Wong
Vice Principal
Shun Lee Catholic Secondary School