



Feedback from Greendale Secondary School's student

I am a student from Greendale Secondary and I attended the HarmonyWorks! Conference 2008, which was held at Republic Polytechnic. Before going to the conference, I did not understand fully how important was harmony between different races for Singapore. The conference was an interesting experience for me, I had the chance to interact with people from other schools and understand how much harmony means for Singapore.

Throughout the whole conference, the most interesting part of all was the dialogue session whereby the students have the chance to speak up and clarify their doubts. The questions raised by the students were answered clearly by the guests present. It was really rare to see people of government positions interacting closely with the students. The presentation by Dr Norman Vasu was very motivating and it emphasises strongly on the importance of racial harmony in our country.

Overall, it was a very fun learning trip for me. I also learnt that we must be sincere while connecting with people of other races, respect their views and no judgment should be made based on his or her race. This conference shows that little actions really counts a lot to maintaining harmony in Singapore, I am inspired to promote racial harmony with the people around me and influence them to treat people of the other races sincerely.

Singapore is our country and homeland, by respecting each other of different races and living together in harmony then we have the true qualities of a Singaporean.

Claudia Chua
Greendale Secondary School

Feedback and Reflections from students of St Margaret's Secondary School on the HarmonyWorks! Conference 2008

What I found most interesting about the discussions

I find that the most interesting things about the discussion were the bonding time we had within our group and the brain storming time together with the teacher in charge. Everyone is from different schools, so we get to introduce the person that is next to us and those from our school. We brainstorm and give ideas about harmony in Singapore and how we can let others know about the different races living under one roof. It is something that everyone should know and get the message. 😊

What have I learnt?

I learnt more about racial harmony and what we can do to transfer what we have learnt to our family and friends. Now, I realize that Singapore is unique for its races and the culture of each race. If everyone respects each other's race, Singapore will be a happier and more peaceful nation to live in. Everyone should understand that every race is special and unique, so no discrimination is allowed in Singapore. This will result in riots and racial issues. Everything starts from young, even when it comes to races. Every young teen should know what is right and wrong about those sensitive questions and answers. 😊

Suggestions for future conferences

My suggestions for future conferences is that it should shorten the time of the speech by speakers and make the speech slightly more interesting and fun for us to learn and understand. More videos can be used for the next conference to allow students to know much better about harmony and peace in Singapore. 😊

Zemaine Lim Sec 2/6

1. What was most interesting about the discussions?

I got to know other people from different schools better. In some schools, there is a problem when of bringing people of the different races together because often, students of different races still converse using their mother tongue.

2. What I have learnt?

Firstly, I have learnt to be more conscious. It was a shock to hear that students in some schools still speak to each other in their own mother tongue. Usually, we speak English in school and only speak our mother tongue during Chinese lessons and when conversing with the elderly. I have to be more aware that this is not the case in all schools.

Secondly, I have learnt that racial harmony is vital. No Singaporean should take racial harmony for granted. If we don't preserve racial harmony, racial riots can take place, as it did in 1964. Then, there will be unrest and no peace in Singapore.

Thirdly, I have learnt that racial harmony is not just about tolerance, it is also about diversity. We not only respect people of other races, we should appreciate them and be eager to learn more about their cultures.

Sandra Cheok (7)

The most interesting thing about the discussions that I experienced at the HarmonyWorks! Conference is when we were split up into different groups of schools to discuss the different questions set for us. We got to interact with students from different schools and share our different ideas and opinions about the different questions. I have learnt more about the different races and I also learnt about what the government does to help preserve racial harmony between the different races living in Singapore.

I do hope that the organisers will keep the interaction session between the different groups/ schools as it is an interesting session and through this I feel that the students will be able to learn better.

Rachel Ming, Sec 2/6

Harmony Works! Reflections

I found that the Harmony Works! Conference had been a very enjoyable session and I benefitted greatly from it. I found that the small discussion group was the most interesting as we could hear many different views of how people think of Singapore's racial harmony. During that time, I also made a few friends and there was laughing and fun. I find that an interacting time like that makes my day.

From this conference, I have learned that racial harmony in Singapore is very crucial and that we all need to do our part to live harmoniously as a nation. I have also learnt that there are actually many different activities that Singapore is taking to encourage racial harmony and letting us, teenagers, to voice out our deepest concerns.



I hope that the Harmony Works! Conference next year will have more fun activities and outdoor activities to learn about racial harmony in Singapore. This way, I believe that more people would then be engaged in the discussions and group talks.

Yvonne Wong Sec 2/4

I feel that the part where we were placed in groups with other schools doing small group discussions is very interesting. I know more people other than only people from our own schools. I have learnt more about harmony. I have also learnt that in HDB blocks, there is only a certain number of Chinese, Malays and Indians allowed in the block. This is to ensure that there would not be, for example, too many Indians staying in one block. This is to ensure racial harmony.

Alicia Chia Sec 2/2

It is a good event when we can share our views with the facilitators and others schools. It's good to view out points in our small groups, discussing about racial harmony and our cultural around us. It is good for us to practice initiative to speak out for whatever we need to ask about. Pretty enjoyed listening to the MP and students from other schools, interacting when they have Q and A session, voicing out how is Singapore going to be like and what are their plans in the future.

 Lee Yongwei  2E3 2008 Harmony Works

The most interesting part was when we talked about what we can do for Racial Harmony day in school, for example, what different activities different schools do to celebrate the day. I have learnt a lot about multi-racial culture and a lot about other harmony issues. My suggestion would be that the discussions be longer as there will be more information to be shared.

Carrie Lim Sec 2/7

I found that the breakout session was really fun as we could interact with other people from other schools. We could learn things that are not thought in school.

The 'multiculturalism and the way forward' lecture was really inspiring as it taught me the importance of racial harmony in Singapore. This lecture also helped me to have a better understanding of multiculturalism in Singapore.

Overall I think that this HarmonyWorks! Programme has taught me many things.

Shaw Li Hui Rie 2e1