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ITE-VTC International Student Seminar 2017

Global Impact

About 600 youths from Singapore and Hong Kong to discuss the impact of Globalisation at biennial Seminar.

Edible cutlery, recycled products from food waste, and helping less-privileged groups to financially better their lives – these are just some of the projects 600 participants from Hong Kong and Singapore have come up with for the 2017 ITE-VTC International Student Seminar (ISS).

Giving Youths a Voice

Held every two years, the ISS provides a platform for students from Singapore's Institute of Technical Education (ITE) and Hong Kong's Vocational Training Council (VTC) to meet and discuss current issues and exchange ideas. International students from ITE's partner institutions are also invited to participate.

Since going global in 2007, the Seminar has been held twice in Singapore, in 2009 and 2013, and thrice in Hong Kong, in 2007, 2011, and 2015. This year's edition will be held from **27 to 29 June** at **ITE College West**. The Opening Ceremony on 27 June will be officiated by **Mr S Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry)** while the Closing Ceremony on 29 June will be officiated by **Mr Baey Yam Keng, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth**.

A total of about 600 students will be attending the Seminar this year, including ten students from Shenzhen Polytechnic, China.

Discussing Globalisation

The Seminar theme this year is ***Globalisation: Threat or Promise?***, with a focus on three sub-themes – Economic, Environmental and Social/Cultural. The Seminar participants will be presenting their projects based on these three sub-themes during the Seminar. A total of 18 projects, nine each from VTC and ITE, will be presented by the participants. You may refer to the Annex for the project synopses.



Prominent speakers have also been invited to share their thoughts on these three sub-themes. They are:

- **Ms Kuik Shiao-Yin**, Nominated Member of Parliament and Director of Thought Collective. Her presentation, ***The Pragmatism of Passion***, based on the Economic sub-theme.
- **Mr David Yeung**, CEO and Co-Founder of Green Monday, Hong Kong. His presentation, ***Green Monday: Switching Diets for a Sustainable Future***, based on the Environmental sub-theme.
- **Dr Tan Lai Yong**, Director, Outreach and Community Engagement, College of Alice & Peter Tan, National University of Singapore. His presentation, ***A Tough Master! Serve It and Be Served!***, based on the Social/Cultural sub-theme.

Strengthening Partnership through Food

At the Opening Ceremony, Minister Iswaran will also be launching an e-Cookbook titled ***A Taste of Two Cities***. The cookbook, a compilation of recipes by ITE and VTC's Chinese Culinary Institute, symbolises the strong partnership between the two institutions, which began in 1998. You may view the cookbook at: <https://tinyurl.com/a-taste-of-two-cities>

For more information and arrangement for media interviews, please contact:

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About ITE

The Institute of Technical Education (ITE) is a post-secondary education institution established in **1992** under the Ministry of Education. As a principal provider of career and technical education, and a key developer of national occupational skills certification and standards, ITE's **Mission** is to create **opportunities** for students and adult learners to acquire skills, knowledge and values for employability and lifelong learning. ITE's **Vision** is to be A **Trailblazer** in Career and Technical Education. Our **Values** are **Integrity, Teamwork, Excellence** and **Care**. ITE comprises the ITE Headquarters and three ITE Colleges - College Central, College East and College West.

About Vocational Training Council (VTC), Hong Kong

Established in 1982, the Vocational Training Council (VTC) is the **largest vocational and professional education and training provider in Hong Kong** with some 250,000 students and trainees each year. The mission of VTC is to provide a valued choice to school leavers and working people to acquire the values, knowledge and skills for lifelong learning and enhanced employability, and also to provide supports to industries for their manpower development.

VTC has 13 member institutions including the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi), the Institute of Professional Education And Knowledge (PEAK), the School for Higher and Professional Education (SHAPE), the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE), the Hong Kong Design Institute (HKDI), **Hotel and Tourism Institute (HTI), Chinese Culinary Institute (CCI), International Culinary Institute (ICI), Maritime Services Training Institute (MSTI), Youth College, Pro-Act by VTC, Integrated Vocational Development Centre (IVDC) and Shine Skills Centre.**

Website: www.vtc.edu.hk

PROJECT SYNOPSES (ITE)

Sub-Theme	Project Title & Description
Environmental	<p>Let's Not Waste Anymore</p> <p>A third of the food produced (about 1.3 billion tonnes) gets wasted or lost annually. In Singapore, food waste has increased by 45% over the last 10 years and only 13% of that is being recycled.</p> <p>To raise awareness on the gravity of food wastage and to encourage Singaporeans to reduce their food waste, this team from ITE College West collaborated with Food Bank Singapore and Save Food Cut Waste to educate the public via social media, talks and roadshows.</p>
Social/Cultural	<p>Dialect Cool!</p> <p>While globalisation has led to the rise of world languages, such as English, Mandarin, French and Spanish, dialects are increasingly being neglected. In Singapore, the use of Chinese dialects like Hokkien, Teochew and Cantonese has reduced significantly among the younger generation – only 5% of youths can speak a dialect today.</p> <p>A team from ITE College Central has created specially-designed picture cards and an app to help youths rediscover their cultural heritage by picking up simple dialect words and phrases that can be used in conversations.</p>
Economic	<p>Forces of Global Trade and Economy</p> <p>Globalisation has created an increasingly interconnected world with improved trade and cultural exchange. However, when large economies enter a recession, its effects are felt globally.</p> <p>To help youths grasp the complex concepts of international trade, national stability and sustainable growth, this team ITE College East designed and developed an interactive gamification tool.</p>
Environmental	<p>Sustainable Living Starts at Home</p> <p>As global consumption continues to rise, there is a greater urgency to reduce our carbon footprint. One way to do so is to use energy-efficient appliances and purchase furniture and products made from sustainably-produced wood to make a stand against deforestation and illegal logging.</p>

Sub-Theme

Project Title & Description

To raise awareness of this issue, a team from ITE College East has developed a quiz in the form of a mobile app and a model of a 'global home' to help Singaporeans learn about their carbon footprint and sustainable living practices. They also distributed self-assembled furniture manufactured from sustainable sources to 300 families.

Economic

Shop4Hope

Globalisation has made it easier for countries and businesses to work together. However, this has also exacerbated income inequality and poverty between and within countries.

To give those from underprivileged backgrounds a chance to improve their prospects, a team from ITE College Central has created an online retail platform for budding entrepreneurs from disadvantaged backgrounds to sell hand-crafted products.

Social/Cultural **You+Hope**

Leukaemia is one of the most common cancers in children and teenagers globally. It is also one of the ten most lethal cancers in Singapore. Leukaemia patients typically require a bone marrow transplant to stay alive. However, Singapore and Thailand are the only two countries in the ASEAN region that have bone marrow donor registries.

This team from ITE College West worked together with Bone Marrow Donor Programme to raise awareness of this disease and reach out to potential donors locally and globally through an outreach programme involving social media and roadshows. They hope that with more sign-ups, patients have a greater chance of finding a match.

Environmental **Aqua Legatus**

As global consumption increases, clean, drinking water has become more scarce. Today, Singapore has the third highest water usage rates in the world and our demand is expected to double by 2060.

To highlight the gravity of the scarcity of water, a team from ITE College West has collaborated with the Public Utilities Board in Singapore to help develop a water-saving device that is able to recycle used water from the washing machine. The team also launched a series of awareness campaigns on social media to highlight the issue of water shortage.

Economic

Mirage or Haven: Migrant Workers
Global Perspectives from Singapore

Globalisation has led to the transnational movements of people in search of better employment opportunities and livelihood overseas.

In Singapore, migrant workers who hail mostly from Bangladesh, Philippines and Myanmar work tirelessly behind the scenes to build and maintain our beautiful garden city. Unlike top-rung foreign executives who enjoy expatriate terms, those doing manual work often receive low pay and live in dormitories or others' homes.

Apart from lacking family support, other frequent problems they encounter are work-related injuries, poor working conditions as well as salary and employment-related disputes. Through the project, the team sought to generate appreciation for the unsung heroes in our society and raise awareness of the problems they face.

Social/Cultural

The World is Your Oyster... or is It Really?

Globalisation has changed the way people move around the world. With people now able to move across borders with ease, it is no surprise that human trafficking for the purposes of forced labour or commercial sexual exploitation, is thriving.

Estimated to be a US\$150billion industry, about 800,000 people are trafficked across borders each year. In addition to robbing the victims of their basic human rights and dignity, human trafficking has also destroyed families and communities.

To raise awareness in Singapore on the extent and impact of human trafficking, the team reached out to youths through a roadshow and various social media platforms to raise awareness and gain support to eradicate this crime.

PROJECT SYNOPSES (VTC)

Sub-Theme	Project Title & Description
Environmental	<p>Edible Cutlery</p> <p>Cutlery and tableware are ubiquitous components of everyday lives. The use of non-reusable cutlery and tableware is common. Despite their toxic and non-biodegradable nature, it has become inconceivable for us to lead our lives without these products. As we continue to chomp on food with plastic spoons and forks, 8 million tonnes of plastic waste are introduced annually. The use of reusable cutlery and tableware does not produce plastic waste, but it causes water wastage and pollution, especially in the growing trend of dining out in restaurants where dishwashers are usually installed.</p> <p>To make a difference to the environment, the team developed prototypes of edible cutlery, which were tried out in a culinary training restaurant and featured in a workshop. The team also conducted research to determine the amount of water used in washing conventional tableware, and projected how restaurants and caterers can save money and reduce food wastage if they switch to edible cutlery. Apart from exploring ways to incorporate edible cutlery into the menus of a restaurant, the team also advocated the use of these environmentally-friendly products on the Internet and various social media platforms.</p>
Social/Cultural	<p>The 21st Century Revolution of ‘Globalifashion’</p> <p>In the wake of globalisation, the fashion industry has undergone a profound revolution characterised by shorter production times and faster responses to the demands of the retail market. With globalisation, there has been a greater exchange of styles from different regions in the world. On the other hand, critics have also remarked that people are more likely to dress in a similar fashion, which threatens original fashion design and branding.</p> <p>The team crafted the term ‘globalifashion’ while studying how the industry has been transformed by globalisation. The team also explored how technology and social media marketing strategies have changed fashion cultures and consumer habits around the world. In light of this new milieu, the team will introduce the concept of the “re-creator” – someone who designs his or her own identity by mixing and matching different images and styles available on social media.</p>
Economic	<p>Chef’s Cross Roads</p> <p>The topic of food is a particularly fruitful way of exploring the meaning of</p>

Sub-Theme

Project Title & Description

globalisation, primarily because it reveals the complexities of a process that is generally described in simple terms. While food remains deeply embedded in local culture, it has been made portable by technology and transportation.

In the modern era, it is not uncommon to find Western, Japanese and Turkish cuisine lined up side by side in a food court. As the demand for international fare heats up, employment and developmental opportunities, particularly for youths seeking a career in the Food & Beverage (F&B) industry, remain limited. Largely dependent on word-of-mouth connections and personal networks, many student chefs and apprentices in Hong Kong crave more.

Instead of serving the usual palette of workshops, seminars, attendances at culinary competitions and food tasting sessions, the team explored the development of online platforms (e.g. website and social media platforms) that featured practical employment information, placement opportunities as well notes on cultural practices and advanced training courses.

Environmental Skyland

Many of our environmental problems arise mostly from human activities. With globalisation, the effects of such problems have been compounded. Even as scientists and environmentalists seek to develop groundbreaking solutions to combat these problems, education and awareness efforts remain crucial in encouraging people to change their lifestyles and energy consumption habits.

Interactive games are ideal educational tools in a world that has become increasingly reliant on digital media. Skyland, an interactive game, was developed to raise awareness of the environmental problems we face in the world today.

In this 3-D game, players can alter the weather, plant greenery or build various kinds of buildings to control the fate of the land. Through a Leap Motion Device, players control their actions in the game using their hand movements. To maximise the reach of the game, the team is exploring the use of Augmented Reality (AR) technology, which will allow players to visit Skyland on their mobile phones.

Social/Cultural Project One

With interconnectedness and integration, globalisation has brought people and cultural practices from around the world together. In the process of coming together, a hybridisation of cultures has been observed. Rather than creating a culturally faceless whole, cultural hybridisation is a

Sub-Theme

Project Title & Description

continuous and dynamic process which often generates new forms of cultural products and connections.

As global cities, Singapore and Hong Kong bear many similarities, particularly in the form of socio-economic structures. Like Singapore, Hong Kong also possesses a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic society which has undergone cultural hybridisation.

Project One was initiated by a team of students with the express aim of breaking down cultural stereotypes while sharing more about the processes of hybridity in a globalised world. To accomplish its goals, Project One developed e-learning activities using Augmented Reality (AR) technology, which will be featured in its booth. Visitors will also be able to try out the addictive Bottle Flip challenge, a trend that has become viral across different cultures around the world.

Economic

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

Globalisation has led to a proliferation of international trade agreements and foreign direct investments. Trade-dependent states and territories like Singapore and Hong Kong are signatories to at least one Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

With the recent withdrawal of the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the attention in the ASEAN region has shifted to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Apart from the ten member states of ASEAN, other nations involved in RCEP negotiations include China, India, Australia, Japan and South Korea.

With prospective RCEP member states boasting approximately 39% (US49.5 trillion dollars) of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the framework could have far-reaching implications for multiple generations. To shed light on the RCEP and its potential impacts on the world, the team will share more about the framework and its guiding principles.

Environmental

A Study on Energy Conservation of Automobiles and Marine Vessels

Despite advances in technology and international pledges to stop global warming, unprecedented amounts of greenhouse gases and pollutants continue to be pumped into our atmosphere. This is unsurprising, considering our reliance on marine vessels and automobiles for international trade and transportation purposes.

At present, 90% of world trade is carried out by approximately 50,000 vessels. These vessels, which typically run on Heavy Fuel Oil or Marine Diesel Oil, emit greenhouse gases and other pollutants while causing

Sub-Theme

Project Title & Description

acoustic disturbance to marine wildlife. As with marine vessels, automobiles which run on internal combustion engines emit high levels of greenhouse gases and pollutants.

In light of this information, the team explored how we can conserve energy and make a difference to our seas and land. While exploring the possibility of using renewable sources of energy (e.g. bio fuels, solar and wind) for marine vessels and automobiles, the team also analysed other aspects like maintenance processes, operation procedures and even driving habits to see if energy can be used more efficiently.

Social/Cultural Road to Global

Celebrations of the *Holi* festival, or the Festival of Colours, around the world reflect how globalisation has facilitated the movement of cultural practices around the world. Traditionally a Hindu festival that marks the start of spring, *Holi* has moved beyond the borders of India and Nepal.

Today, Hindus and non-Hindus celebrate the festival around the world, even in Europe and North America. It is best known for the coloured powder (*gula*) that revellers throw on each other, leaving festival goers coated in vibrant colours by the end of the day.

While cultural globalisation may lead to greater tolerance and diversity, as well as a strengthening of social bonds, critics argue that the same phenomenon has also led to a rise of culture appropriation – an incorrect adoption or misuse of the elements of one culture by members of another. To explore the threats and promises that cultural globalisation brings, Road to Global explored the growth of cultural festivals around the world today.

Economic

The Belt and Road Initiative

Economic globalisation today can be characterised by an advanced circulation of information, money, people and goods across national boundaries. To many historians, the concept of globalisation is not new. An example of pre-modern globalisation is the Silk Road.

As a trade route meant primarily for the export of silk products, the Road flourished as a network of interlinking trade routes across the Afro-Eurasian landmass in the ancient world. In 2013, China proposed the Belt and Road (B&R) initiative, a strategy that focuses on developing greater connectivity and closer cooperation. Geographically structured along 6 corridors and a maritime route, the coverage area encompasses 60 countries, including countries in Oceania and East Africa.

**Sub-Theme****Project Title & Description**

The B&R project is expected to bridge infrastructural gaps and accelerate economic growth in participating countries. Projected to involve investments between US\$4 to 8 trillion, the initiative heralds a new era of continental integration, with significant impacts to small states and territories like Singapore and Hong Kong. Given its potential and reach, the team set out to explore the B&R initiative further for this project.