

By: Emanuell Darryl Bingku



Q. How does your being a missionary kid affect you and those around you?

A. Sometimes it is hard because whenever my dad is called to do his next task, we have to drop everything and go because that is where God needs us.

Q. What do you think about your life as compared to others?

A. Sometimes I feel like I get less freedom because we cannot go out on Sabbaths and I cannot usually go far away from home without a family member.

Q. Have you encountered some ups and downs in your missionary life?

A. We get to experience many things more than others normally would, plus we get to meet a lot of people. We also know that we will eventually have to leave our new friends.

Q. How often do you participate in doing God's work?

A. Every summer my family and I go to Taiwan to teach children English, and help them learn more about God.

Q. Can you tell us more about your missionary life?

A. Even though sometimes it is hard to move on, I know that it is okay because every thing we do is by the will of God.



## AIMS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION: GROWTH AND INFLUENCE

Interviewed by: Nat Boonipat



Here's an excerpt of the interview Footprints had with one of our seniors, Pitchayut Lertniratwong who is more commonly known as Boss or Pi Boss to the younger kids; about his life at AIMS.

Life in AIMS can be divided into two aspects: the academic aspect and community aspect. In terms of academics, AIMS places a strong emphasis on English, Mathematics, Science, and Bible subjects. Workload can be overwhelming sometimes, but it can be countered with smart time management. Teachers at AIMS stress the importance of using proper English in every situation. For the community aspect, AIMS can be described as a close-knit community. This gives everyone that sense of camaraderie – that everyone around you are brothers and sisters. The school is quite small and after a while, you'll get to know everyone.

The AIMS student body is quite diverse – though not as diverse as other big international schools. Students and staff at AIMS hail from many different countries: China, Philippines, India, the U.S., Ghana, and our most recent addition I've heard, is from Ireland.

The culture of AIMS focuses on strict rules and regulations. Since AIMS is a small school, it is very easy to enforce these rules. The result is a culture of disciplined and well-mannered students. Problems that plague many schools such as bullying, drug abuse, and teenage pregnancy are nonexistent at AIMS.

I have been studying here since pre-school! I was enrolled here since August of 2005. It's 2020 now, so... 15 years of my life were spent here. To be honest, I don't remember the first impressions this school gave me. I was only 3 years old! However, looking back, I get a bittersweet feeling. I wouldn't be the person I am today if it weren't for this school, but I also think that I've been here too long and I need to move on.

In my opinion, the activities in this school are quite lackluster. I don't know if it is due to lack of funding or the beliefs that cause the activities to feel so restrictive. Activities such as music, sports, and clubs feel like they could be so much more fun if more effort and funding was put into developing them.

My favorite school year was 2018-2019. I was in Grade 10 at that time and there were so many exciting things that happened. I had my first year of Thai ROTC (colloquially called rordor), I participated in charity works with the Muse Club and I played the guitar in a band with the seniors, and many more. Overall, it was the most memorable year during my time at AIMS.



## Filipinos and Basketball

By: Gevanya Franklene Mantiri



Sports play an important role in many people's lives especially in the life of one senior student. Ever since he was a kid, he had always played basketball. It was his source of joy. He describes playing basketball as therapeutic. When he feels stressed or down, he would go out to play and it makes him forget everything and it brings him into a whole new different world – the world of basketball.

He played as a shooting guard and sometimes a point guard. A shooting guard's role is to score points for their team, usually by shooting mid-ranged shots, three-pointers, and layups. A point guard is the brain of the team. He is the one responsible for the whole team to make them cooperate so that they can easily score.

Basketball has two teams of five players each. They compete against each other. The team who scores the most points before the time ends, wins. You can only dribble the ball with one hand by bouncing it. When the ball goes into the hoop then that is a score.

Basketball has impacted the lives of the Filipinos by giving them a chance to showcase their talents on the court. It is like a religion. Everyone is given an activity with which they can both exercise their mind and body. So instead of people doing illegal activities, people are more focused on playing basketball. That makes the streets safer for everyone in the community.



## Why Africans Dance

By: Gevanya Franklene Mantiri



Traditional Ugandan Dance

African traditional dances tell stories. It tells about their history, expresses their emotions, and it helps unify each of their communities. They also celebrate marriage, birth, and even pay their respects to their dead through dancing. For Africans, dancing is a part of their cultural identity.

The African drum's beat is considered the "heartbeat of the community" and its rhythm is what holds the dancers together. They dance along to the beat of the drum to express their feelings, whether they're happy or sad; and it is not limited to just the dancers. Many times, audiences are encouraged to join in.

All African countries have different reasons for dancing. In Uganda where Edgar is from, dancing is an integral part of most weddings. The bride's entrance would include dancing together with the entourage during the procession. Most times, Ugandans dance just to have fun and enjoy their time together with their families and loved ones.

Another example of Africans' love for dancing is the way South Africans celebrate birthday parties. Their parties are always packed. It takes weeks of preparation because they have to choreograph their dance. They dance while marching in to their tables. This tradition also requires wearing matching clothes and lots of rehearsals before the event. It may also include singing for the birthday celebrant by close friends and family members. The celebration includes very long prayers by the elders of the family. The parties often last more than half a day. It includes fun activities such as games, along with lots of eating, and more dancing.

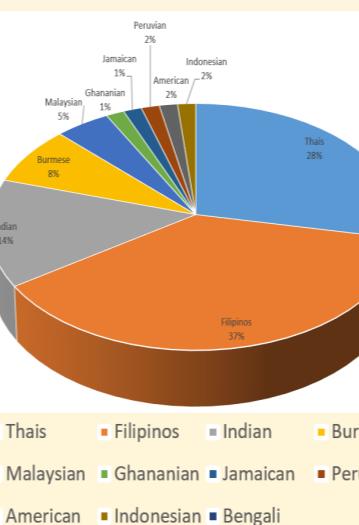
### Erratum:

We apologize to Teachers Edan Boy Pedragosa and Kritsadaporn Lekasawan, that we were not able to give them the proper credits for the interview that they graciously allowed us to have with them in the previous issue.

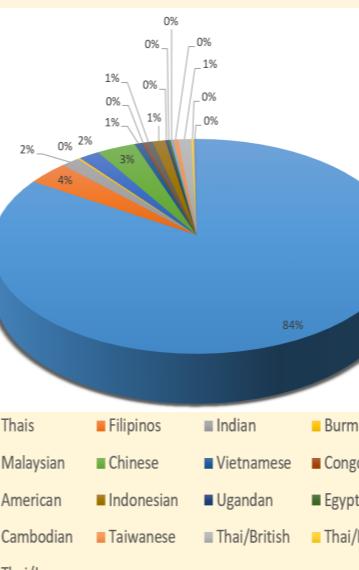


"We don't just teach, we build character"

### AIMS TEACHERS AND STAFF RACE/ETHNICITY



### AIMS STUDENTS RACE/ETHNICITY



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# FOOTPRINTS

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## Cultural Bridges Make us Better People

By: Gabriela Kylene Mantiri

For the month of September, we have chosen to feature the different nationalities that make up our school's population. Being an international student in Thailand I have been trying hard for years to fit in. Then I realized that trying to fit in is not the way to learn more. Instead, we should learn from each other and embrace who we really are. By doing so, it will help us appreciate each other a little more.

International schools, by definition are places of learning with its cultural diversity. It is where we can build cultural bridges of understanding than walls of separation. A diversity-informed and driven international school becomes an avenue for cultural exchanges. These kinds of interactions will make us smarter and better human beings. It enables us to learn patience, humility, tolerance and appreciation of our diversity.

Students and teachers who come from different cultural upbringings bring their own backgrounds and life experiences into the mix. It takes time to learn more about others' values, histories, practices, and traditions. Most culturally based behaviors are so ingrained, that often we do not realize that facial expressions, tone of voice, and body language can vary across cultures. Here are some things that we can do to help bridge our cultural differences:

- Acknowledge and respect different cultural heritages.
- Understand and appreciate our own and others' cultural traditions.
- Foster a supportive and inclusive climate of cross-cultural exchange.
- Explore and discuss culture-based assumptions, stereotypes and biases and how to deal with these issues that tend to separate us and or highlight our differences.

The more we become culturally aware; we will all become better learners of each other's uniqueness and see beyond our prejudices.



## Congo: Home of the Deepest River

By: Glyzel Kate Belnas



Congo, also known as The Democratic Republic of Congo, is located in Central Africa. Formerly, it was called Zaire. By area, it is the largest country in Sub-Saharan country, the second largest in all of Africa, and the 11th largest in the world. The capital is city Kinshasa.

Sherik shared with Footprints about her roots, culture, and experiences growing up. She may have lived in Congo for only five years, but that is where her heart and belongs.

Sherik grew up in a tropical dry savanna and swampy area, surrounded by beautiful and interesting sceneries. There you will find fascinating creatures that could not be found anywhere else in the world; such as the Mountain Gorillas, Okapi, Banobo, Handsome Spurfowl, Dwarf Crocodile, Thollon's Red Colobus, and many more.

According to Sherik, people in Congo are nice and accommodating. They are all welcoming and accepting, which makes her country feel like a home away from home for those who come to visit it. This accepting and welcoming behavior of the people, makes Congo a go-to place for many foreign tourists.

Countries everywhere have their own unique charm that makes their culture stand out. When it comes to Congo, it is their forms of handshakes! There are a few regional handshakes across the country, but the most common form is the 'African handshake', which involves a traditional handshake. You start by sliding your hands upwards, then clasping the thumbs, before returning to the original position.

Traditionally, Congolese clothing is centered on the wearing of colorful materials referred to as 'Liputa'. These types of fabrics are worn by both men and women, and can more often than not be found at the local market. It is said that the nicer the clothes are, the more respect one will receive–this makes the culture of Congo stand out.



Virunga National Park

# Tale of two Lost cities

By: Qi Han

The old cities of Bagan and Machu Picchu - two of the world's greatest surviving ancient cities. They have remained relatively untouched by human intrusion and we can only hope that it will remain like this for more years to come. I interviewed teachers Samira and Yadanar, and they gladly shared with us some facts and information about these two famous wonders of their countries.



## Machu Picchu

Cuzco, Peru



Peru has many tourist attractions and all of them are fascinating. It is really hard to choose just one tourist attraction, but I think the most important landmark in my country is Machu Picchu, which is located in Cuzco, where my family is from.

Machu Picchu is considered by many to be the most spectacular urban creation of the Incan Empire and one of the most important heritage sites in the world, for that reason, in 1983, it was inscribed by UNESCO on

the list of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage. Additionally, in 2007, it was declared as one of the "New Seven Wonders of the World".

I had a chance to go there and I had had such an amazing experience! Its architectural design is a testament to the skill of the Incan engineers. I wonder how the Incans built it. It is located far from the city and quite inaccessible, but they managed to make it so perfect. They cut the stones and fit them together so tightly that a knife blade still cannot penetrate its cracks to this day. It is not just a spectacular haven, it is also a place filled with history, a treasure trove for architecture, archaeology and arts.



## Bagan

Mandalay, Myanmar



Myanmar is a Buddhist country, so most of its tourist attractions are mainly pagodas, stupas and Buddhist images. There are three most beautiful attractions in my country; these are the Shwedagon Pagoda, Inle Lake, and Bagan.

Of the three, Bagan is the most prominent one. It is famous for its thousands of old pagodas and stupas stretching for kilometers. It is an ancient city and UNESCO World Heritage Site, located in the Mandalay

Region of Myanmar. It has such a beautiful landscape and most tourists wait to see and capture that amazing picture of the sun rising and setting into the horizon. "They can fly in a Hot-Air Balloon over Bagan because Bagan's temples are best viewed from a high vantage-point. Another way to enjoy Bagan is through biking around the temple complex.

I haven't been to Bagan yet, but I have heard of its beauty from many people. One day, when I get to have a chance to go back to my home country, I would love to see this spectacular place that even foreigners would love to see and experience once in their lives.

# SULAWESI Wildlife

By: Gevanya Franklene Mantiri



Wildlife is always interesting. Especially in Sulawesi, Indonesia where it is mostly made up of dense jungles that consist of a variety of animals that call that place home of amphibians and reptiles. There are approximately 350 species of birds and about 210 species of amphibians and reptiles.

Sulawesi is also known for their **endemic** species that inhabit those jungles, like the Babirusa wild boar, Pygmy elephants, Sulawesi hornbills,

Anoa, Maleo bird, Kuskus bear, and the Celebes Crested macaque. These rare endemic species play important roles in the jungles that they inhabit.

Sadly, because of human's desire for more, these forests are being slashed and burned, leaving these poor animals without a place to live. They cut down the trees to give way for palm plantations to make fuel for cars and machines. Sulawesi had lost nearly a million hectares of forest between 2000 and 2019 to palm plantations.

# FLAVORFUL ORIGINS CHINESE CUISINE

By: Glyzel Kate Belnas



China, also known as the People's Republic of China, is the world's most populated country with around 1.4 billion population as of 2020.

China is the world's third largest country by area, and its capital city Beijing is the most visited city in China.

I interviewed one of the Chinese students named Li Qian, she's more commonly known as Sally to her friends and classmates. She comes from Guangdong, a coastal province in Southeast China, which borders Hong Kong and Macau. During our interview, she shared with us some of her favorite local Chinese foods.



Sally loves the variety of food displayed in her hometown, but the meal that stands out the most is their rice noodle rolls. A rice noodle roll is a Cantonese dish. It is commonly served either as a snack, small meal or as a variety of dim sum. It is a thin crepe roll made from a wide strip of shahe fen (wide Chinese noodles made from rice), filled with chicken, beef, vegetables, or other ingredients. Next on Sally's food-list is the Cantonese morning tea. They enjoy drinking this tea with friends while chatting with each other. With tea and several baskets of delicious dim sums, people get to start their day with a good breakfast.



Dumplings! I'm sure that you have heard of these and perhaps tried this globally known dish, but what makes it so special? Dumplings originated in China, specifically the North. People in Northern China eat dumplings especially on Chinese New Year, Winter Solstice Year and others on a daily basis. They're filled with a mixture of ground meat, ginger, and scallions or chives. It isn't that hard to make. You just need to follow the steps and use the right ingredients – then you can make your very own homemade dumplings!

According to Sally, the choice of ingredients matter if you want your food to stand out. The ingredients determine the overall flavor of the food. Food is judged by its freshness. Another way to make the food stand out is the method of cooking. These methods work with the ingredients being used. How the food is prepared and cooked will leave a mouth watering aroma and flavorful taste.

Hello  
Dumpling  
Shahe Fen  
How are you?



# Pesta Kaamatan: festival for the gods

By: Emanuell Darryl Bingku

We're so grateful to Teacher Elvina for granting us an interview and for sharing with us some interesting things about Malaysia, especially about the festivals that they celebrate. These festivals is a huge part of their culture, a reminder of who they are as a nation and as Malaysians.



**Q. Please name one of the festivals that you celebrate, and why do you celebrate it?**

**A.** In Sabah we celebrate "Pesta kaamatan". This Festival is celebrated by the Kadazan - Disun tribe. This is based on a legendary tale about the creator god - Kinoigan. He sacrificed his daughter Huminodun, by cutting her into pieces and spreading the parts of her body across the field. Kinoigan's sacrifice made it possible for the tribe to have a bountiful harvest.

**Q. Why is it important to your people?**

**A.** It is important to the people of Sabah to celebrate this event because for them, it stands as a remembrance of the sacrifices made by Kinoigan, in order for them to have an abundant harvest.

**Q. What do you personally enjoy about this festival?**

**A.** I enjoy watching the annual Beauty pageant. Young women from different provinces of Sabah participate in a beauty pageant called the 'Unduk Ngadau'. Each candidate will have to showcase their costumes. Those who can fluently speak their native language have a bigger chance of winning. The winner will be called "Unduk Ngadau" and she will hold the title for a year. This beauty pageant is a reminder of the sacrifice made by Huminodun for the Kadazan-Dusun tribe.

**Q. How many festivals are there in Malaysia ?**

**A.** There are many festivals, but I'm only familiar with Pesta Kaamatan, Deepavali Day, Thaipusam Day, Chinese New Year, Hari Gawai, Hari Raya and Hari Natal.

**Q. When do you celebrate these festivals?**

**A.** For Pesta Kaamatan, it has always been on May 30 and 31 every year.