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Principal Dr Vijay Datta, Ms Jaya Khurana, Ms Prabha Bhagat, teachers and students of Modern School with the participating delegates

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Modern School, Barakhamba Road hosted the 13th Community Development and Leadership Summit from 15th to 20th December, 2018. The summit hosted 120 delegates from Australia, Bangladesh, China, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, The United Kingdom and the United States of America. This year's theme for the summit was 'Water's Waterloo'. The summit provided a platform for delegates from all over the world to discuss and debate the worldwide water crisis, its effects and possible solutions. The session started with a summit briefing, in which the delegates were informed about the activities scheduled for their visit. The delegates participated in various games organised by Modern School children and teachers, during the Ice Breaking session. They also visited Raj Ghat to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi for a blessed start to the event. The summit was inaugurated by the Principal, Dr Vijay Datta and the Chief Guest, Mr Dharendra Singh, former IAS officer and former Union Home Secretary.



It was followed by a panel discussion where water-related problems prevalent in various parts of the world were discussed. The panellists for the discussion were – Mr Karl Bresler from South Africa, Mr Kornellie L Raquitico from the Philippines, Ms Erica Coffey from USA, Mr Stanley Yao Ayerson from Ghana and Mr Massimo Zane from Italy. During the panel discussion, the speakers pitched in with their first-hand experiences with water problems in their respective countries. The delegates later enjoyed a fun-filled creative session at the Technology Block of Modern School where they were divided into groups and various activities were organised for them. They participated in hands-on learning sessions in the Graphics, Fashion Technology, Ceramics, Sculpture, Home Science, Fine Arts, Paper Technology and Dance departments, where they tested their creativity and teamwork.

The team assigned to Fine Arts had a painting session, in which they drew words related to water onto prepared canvas paintings of water. The Paper Technology section had activities where they made paper cranes and photo frames using paper. The delegates in Wood Craft worked together to chisel a block of wood, while the ones in Fashion Technology incorporated the colours of their national flags into outfit designs. The walls of the Dance room reverberated with chatter and the sound of feet hitting the floor as the delegates learnt how to dance to the tunes of Bollywood songs.





The delegates attended the riding display by the Equestrian Club of the School the next day. They geared up to show their presentations on 'water' which they had prepared with their respective schools before coming to attend the Summit. The presentations were all unique and informative; providing a platform for representatives of different countries to learn about water-related problems faced by several communities as well as the possible solutions for them. The next day was the Community Service Day, when all delegates took a step towards the betterment of the community. They visited four Community Service Centres in Delhi, namely, Palna, Cheshire Home, Blind Relief Association and Ozanam Home, where they participated in various activities like singing, dancing, stitching, drawing, candle making and sewing with the residents. The delegates interacted with the residents and realized the importance and struggles of the less fortunate in society. The next session was SBI Day, which was organised in association with the State Bank of India. There was a plethora of activities planned in synchronization with the theme of the Summit, where the delegates made a water footprint calculator to calculate the usage of fresh water by students, reflected on the measures to save water and stressed on the idea of celebrating the 'Blessing Water'. They also designed beautiful dream





catchers and wind chimes as an expression of celebrating water in their culture.

The delegates interacted with the Modern School students from Classes 6 and 7, where they were familiarized with Indian customs and student culture. The classrooms were beautifully decorated with diyas, rangolis, flowers, posters, festoons, balloons and streamers. Students from each class spoke about Indian customs and traditions. The delegates tasted home-made Indian cuisines with the students. They were mesmerised by the talent of young artists, who performed dances and musical pieces for them. They also attended a lecture demonstration session and a Kathak recital by Ms Monisa Nayak, where she presented a 'thumri' of the classic 'Radha- Krishna' story, followed by a round of musical question answer session with the tabla master, Mr Yogesh Gangani. The delegates were floored by her graceful pirouettes and skilled footwork, accompanied by the live music provided by Mr Yogesh Gangnani, Mr Ullah Khan and Mr Mohammad Ayyub.

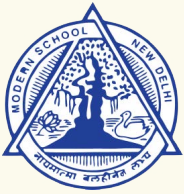
The delegates attended TATA Day which was organised in association with the TATA Group. Mr Sanjay Singh, Advisor TATA Sons, was the Chief Guest for the day. He spoke about the theme 'Water's Waterloo', which set the momentum for the scheduled activities for that day. There were five activities planned for the delegates where they could present their views and learn from one another. In the first activity, they were required to





complete the phrase ‘water is....’ which gave expression to the diverse perceptions of water. In the second activity, the students were asked to write a verse of 4-5 lines relating to the theme, testing their creativity and originality. In the third activity the delegates designed visually descriptive charts on the same topic, to creatively express water problems. The next activity was origami where they worked in teams and learnt how to make frogs, fish and other water animals with origami paper. They further used these to decorate the charts that they had made. The Quiz tested the water-related general knowledge of delegates from all over the world. The delegates enthusiastically participated in the quiz and took it all the way up to the last round where three teams were declared the winners. Another activity was ‘Fun With Science’ where they witnessed experiments like hydraulic lift creation, lava lamps and chemical traffic lights; they experimented with the chemicals and saw them change colours from red to yellow to green. The delegates further enjoyed a fun day at Dr Radhakrishnan School where the teachers and students of the school had organised a cultural event. After a video presentation and a play on Mahatma Gandhi, the delegates enjoyed activities like henna tattoos, palm reading, camel ride, elephant ride, pottery and numerology. They also tasted a variety of Indian dishes and danced to the tunes of traditional folk songs. The delegates thoroughly enjoyed the extravagant display





of Indian culture and were touched by the hospitality of the host school. The last day of the summit was very interesting. The delegates provided a glimpse of their cultures and cuisines by setting up stalls with objects, videos and food items on display. In the evening they presented the traditional performing arts of their cultures converting the auditorium into a melting pot. The valedictorians sang and danced jovially, making the official end to CDLS a happy one. A Brochure and a Digital Photo album were released on the Valedictory day by the Chief Guest Mr Ashok Pratap Singh, former President, Board of Trustees Modern Schools and Principal Dr Vijay Datta. The delegates were also awarded participation certificates for their contribution to the summit. The Valedictory Function was followed by a special dinner for the delegates and all host families. Before leaving for their home countries, some delegates along with Modern School teachers and students went for a visit to the famous Taj Mahal in Agra, the most spectacular architectural masterpiece of India. The summit officially came to an end, unlike the friendships sparked by it. The Summit helped teachers and students make global connections and understand new cultures.

