

MESMERIZED BY THE YOUNG AND TALENTED ONES

Equine Park, Selangor, Malaysia: 16 January 2010 ... The 2nd FOBISSEA Choral Festival hosted by the Alice Smith School ended on a high note with audiences mesmerized by the engaging concert performed by the young and talented students. The audiences were enthralled by the performance of Maria Grace Koh who belted out the solo song 'On My Own'. In the audience was Datin Seri Tiara Jacqueline Abdullah, our renowned Malaysian actress and film producer who has been supportive of Alice Smith School's arts and music development. Datin Seri Tiara Jacqueline conducted a workshop with the students in preparation for the concert besides the intense practice which the students had prior to the concert. This is the 2nd year that the Alice Smith School is hosting this event following on from its successful inauguration here in 2007.

"The purpose of this unique event is to promote singing with a particular focus on *a cappella* (singing with no piano accompaniment). Students that have the opportunity to sing without accompaniment in a choir will quickly learn how to blend and project their voices and to control their breathing" said Alistair Hamilton, the Festival Coordinator.

The event was a great success as 180 students who have converged from Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Brunei completed the singing workshops which were facilitated by highly talented specialists followed by the high performance concert. As said by the Alice Smith School's Director of School, Valerie Thomas-Peter, "All of the students taking part have much to gain from their involvement on this event which in many ways falls outside of the traditional curriculum and traditional classroom environment." The Alice Smith School believes in nurturing young people with multiple talents in preparing them for a successful international future as reflected in the school's motto-*Sic Itur ad Astra*-in this way you shall go to the stars.

The music department of the Alice Smith School has been participating in a wide variety of Federation of British International Schools in South East Asia (FOBISSEA) and South East Asian Student Activities Conference (SEASAC) events throughout South East Asia. The School will soon embark on the third Choral Tour to Austria, Hungary, Slovenia and Italy. In the past two years, the Choral Tour has brought the Alice Smith students to perform at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington DC in July 2009 and at the Idyllwild Music Festival, Palm Springs at Los Angeles in July 2008.

The FOBISSEA Choral Festival is the first event to be held in the newly refurbished RM2.5 million Performance Arts Space at the Secondary Campus of the Alice Smith School. The new hall is equipped with new lighting, retractable curtains and silent air-conditioning which make it a perfect venue for concerts, smaller drama productions or art exhibitions.

"For me, the most impressive feature is the range of acoustics that can now be achieved. With the curtains open the sound reverberates around the hall – perfect for choral performances but with the new curtains shut, the echo is reduced to zero – ideal for catching every nuance of a dramatic soliloquy" said Christopher Draper, the Acting Principal of the Secondary Campus of the Alice Smith School.



Datin Seri Tiara Jacqueline Abdullah with Mrs Valerie Thomas-Peter, Director of School at the Alice Smith School



Students enjoying themselves and in total concentration at the kompang workshop



Audiences mesmerized by the engaging concert



Maria Grace Koh belting a solo number 'On My Own'