



The Alice Smith Schools Association (1923-A)

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For Immediate Release

Inter-school Chemistry Challenge

Equine Park, Selangor, Malaysia: 11th May 2010... Back by popular demand, the Alice Smith School, Secondary Campus in Equine Park hosted its second Kuala Lumpur International School Chemistry Challenge.

Top notch Science students from Years 7 and 8 were selected to participate. For most of the students, it was their first time participating in such a challenge. Eighty students in total from ten international schools in Kuala Lumpur spent the day investigating two main mystery chemistry experiments involving a series of chemical tests. Known as the *Chalkwell Mystery* and the *Safe Combination Experiment*, each team of four was given a booklet with full instructions of the various chemical testing, a chart for the metal and non-metal tests and a map of *Chalkwell*. During the exercise, teachers were not allowed to give advice on techniques as the objective of the competition was for students to work unaided as a team. Students were assessed on their accuracy, teamwork and presentation of results.

The day ended with a bang as the Alice Smith School's Science team demonstrated a series of chemical reaction experiments and even blew up hydrogen gas in a balloon!

"In this competition, winning was not the only goal but creativity, accuracy and attention to detail were all very important factors. It was fantastic to see the younger students taking part in an inter-school Chemistry Competition with enthusiasm and flair", said Valerie Thomas-Peter, Director of School.

When interviewed, most of the students said they were excited and initially nervous having not participated in an inter-school Chemistry Challenge before. But now, they can't wait for the next Challenge to take place.

"It was wonderful to see all students worked well together. Teachers and students spoke about the desire to participate in the event next year. It is hoped that this will mark a way forward in greater collaborative events in science between international schools in KL", adds David Slade, Head of Chemistry at the Alice Smith School.

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A student dips the nichrome wire in dilute hydrochloric acid and heats in the bunsen burner flame, to test the metal and record the colour of the flame.



In full concentration



Pouring the chemical carefully to avoid spillage