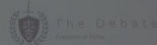




The Debate Final Report

Arman Redkar, Eam
Shol, Tim Usher



The Debate addresses Thailand's shortcomings in education by fostering critical skills and providing a platform for student voice. Our initial research highlights the prevalence of rote-learning in Thailand, which hinders analytical depth and creativity within schooling. To tackle this, our team provides interactive debate-based education to nurture such essential skills and give students a proactive learning environment to help them find themselves in this judgmental world.



- **Yumin Kim** – Leader & Campaigner
- **Marc Olivro** – Deputy Leader & Researcher
- **Sushi Sukitpaneeij** – Connector & Planner
- **Alicia North** – Reporter & Documenter

OUTCOMES

The Debate Club

- Our weekly club stands as a successful outcome of our project, impacting over 30 students by enhancing critical thinking and other essential skills. Notably, our mini-debates foster a passionate and interactive atmosphere, showcasing strong articulation and argument expression. A remarkable 92% of our debaters have found these mini-debates at the end of each session most effective in enhancing their skills.

Debate Competitions

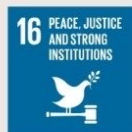
- In order to share the growth of our debaters in a practical and more formal environment, the following debate competitions were held: the Valentine's and March Debate. These events served as a formal reflection to both us and parents to see how far the students have come in their debating journeys, which we received a surplus of positive feedback from.

Guest Speaker Events

- We have arranged guest speaker events featuring experts in the field of debating and public speaking. For instance, we recently hosted Ms. Hyewon Rho, Co-CEO of Debate for All and next, have Khun Parit, a former president of the Oxford Debate Club and a prominent Thai politician, speaking on May 28th.

Sustainable Development Goals

- **Goal 4, Quality Education:** The club helps provide quality education within the informative lessons that we hold. We have strategically implemented a format in hosting mini-debate sessions at the end of the class that prioritises student activity such that they grow and develop their debating technique.
- **Goal 16, Peace and Justice:** The public debate forum format that we use in our competitions includes a crossfire segment. This section promotes the sense of peace and inclusivity as students can freely express opinions whilst tackling the issue head on.
- **Goal 17, Partnership for the Goals:** We tackle inadequacies in critical thinking abilities through integrating a multitude of SDGs into our debate motions—for example, Gender Equality and Reduced Inequalities were assimilated into our motion: "Gender specific toys and activities should be restricted". Our motions highlight the SDGs that provide students with insight into identifying the initial problems and exploring potential solutions, developing their critical thinking skills.





Skills & Knowledge Gained

- Yumin:** My growth stems from realising the significance of balancing a positive environment with high-quality work, leading me to learn new leadership approaches. Specifically, I learned to delegate tasks based on the strengths of my team members, ensuring both enjoyment and productivity. I truly honed my leadership abilities to nurture personal and collective growth in a cohesive and productive work environment.
- Marc:** The new perspective of being a mentor has allowed me to make significant growth in my ability to teach. This role has induced a vibrant perspective in thinking, which has allowed me to better transpire information in an intellectually stimulating manner to debate club students. Thus, providing me a more innate sense of communication that has allowed me to better connect with my fellow students at Bangkok Prep.
- Alicia:** I have gained confidence in my public speaking skills through the exposure to diverse speaking scenarios. The experience has improved my confidence when addressing student participants, facilitating regular discussions and providing feedback. I have developed my ability to think on my feet and respond under pressure through these scenarios, preparing me for scenarios in my future.
- Sushi:** As the connector, I have made massive improvements regarding organisational and people skills through implementing formal meetings and events. From this, I learned formal etiquette when connecting with guests, whilst providing opportunities to coordinate with multiple parties professionally. This opportunity as connector has taught me important people skills and interpersonal skills to a high standard applicable in professional life.



FUNDING & PARTNERSHIPS

- Bangkok Prep International School
 - Venues
 - Catering
 - Technical support
 - Photographers
- Friends of Bangkok Prep
 - Most Valuable Debater medals
 - 500 Baht bookstore vouchers
- Debate for All
 - Debating skills workshops
 - Training sessions



HIGHLIGHTS

- Empowering Student Growth:** The growth of our students is a pivotal highlight for us, specifically with the development of our twin student debaters. Initially, the two debaters faced challenges in regards to confidence and public speaking, displaying reluctance to partake in our mini-debates. However, with our unwavering support and enriched debate sessions, we implemented a practice style that enabled them to speak publicly with a sense of conviction and competitive flair. These twins ended up being our Most Valuable Debaters in The Valentine's Debate, showcasing the tangible outcomes of our efforts and the meaningful progress achieved by our students.
- Attracting Interest:** Our international debate competition, The Debate Cup, garnered immense interest and engagement from numerous international schools in Thailand – showcasing widespread recognition of our event and initiatives, marking a significant achievement for the club.

SUCCESSSES

- Club Engagement
 - Student-teacher dynamic
 - Student Public speaking
- The Debate Competitions
 - The Valentine's Debate
 - The March Debate
- Increased Networking
 - Collaborations with Debate for All, FoBP, Bangkok Prep
 - Contacted by other schools
 - Chiang Rai International School
 - Shrewsbury International School Bangkok



30+ STUDENTS

14 DEBATES



100%
SATISFACTION

FAILURES & IMPROVMENTS

- As of today, our regional debate competition lacks team entries from other international schools. Despite interest in the competition from various schools, the schedules and details of the competition do not align with their availability and requirements. We are currently discussing the possibility of altering the schedule of the competition to address this, but this has been challenging due to our upcoming A-Level exams.
- Accountability is another problem that we faced during the early stages of the club. We experienced this mainly in regards to the underperformance of work in some team members which stemmed from the lack of communication we initially had. To counteract this, we made changes in our approach of delegating tasks, which improved our productivity and the overall efficiency of the club. This led to the necessary development of our team dynamic in being able to freely voice opinions to solve the greater issues of the club.