

## 4 higher education

# Work hard, play hard

"I COMPARED the Canadian International Matriculation Programme (CIMP) at Sunway College with similar programmes offered in Malaysia and felt it would provide a conducive learning environment. Additionally, I was aware that there were two Model United Nations (MUN) clubs in Sunway College and felt I'd be able to continue my involvement in extracurricular activities here as well," said 17-year-old Haris Khan on his reasons for choosing the CIMP.

"For a significant part of my schooling, I studied under the North American curriculum at international schools. Therefore, when I moved to Malaysia, I felt the emphasis CIMP places on coursework would resonate to my learning style. Additionally, Sunway College has a large and diverse student population, which seemed like an attractive selling point.

"Some of the best bits about CIMP include the family-like feel among staff, teachers, and students. The warmth, inclusivity and tolerance exhibited by CIMP students are also among the best features of the programme.

"The diversity of the student body is fascinating with students from different national, religious, ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds," said Haris who was born in Uzbekistan and grew up in the Philippines.



Some of the MNMUN delegates.

Myanmar and Turkmenistan.

Haris was the founder and secretary-general of the Malaysian National Model United Nations (MNMUN) held earlier this year at Sunway.

The inaugural MNMUN conference, held earlier this year at Sunway, was the biggest so far held in Malaysia. It saw the participation of over 500 delegates from six universities, 10 colleges and 11 schools.

On his role, Haris commented, "My responsibilities included managing a diverse secretariat effectively, setting strategic goals and ensuring the success of the conference. Although it was hectic, it was an incredibly satisfying experience, especially when I heard from many students that it changed their lives – some said how they decided on their future careers after attending MNMUN."

It took Haris and his committee, comprising 18 young people from 15 institutions, six months to plan the conference.

"Organising the MNMUN has definitely become the highlight of my MUN career and a lifelong achievement. From communicating with various educational institutions to finalising topics for committees and building partnerships with various organisations, I've gained better organisation skills and made tons of new friends.

"I've also learnt crisis resolution as I overcame various difficulties, which were challenging with at unexpected times," said Haris who got involved in MUN in 2012 while in high school, where at a local conference he won the award for Best Delegate.

He has participated in over 20 MUN conferences to date, winning an award at every conference he has debated in and chaired over 10 high school, college and university-level conferences.

He conceived MNMUN in October 2014 after sensing a void for a national congregation that would bring together students from all corners of the country.

Haris said "I believe my personal growth never stops, and time at CIMP definitely helped me grow as a person. I've refined my learning skills, gained a different outlook on life, made lifelong friends and am ready to hit the workforce and deliver change for the better."

His advice to future students interested in taking up the CIMP at Sunway College is: "Work hard, play hard – do not end up only studying, you need to grow in college, take part in extracurricular activities, find your inner passion and unleash your innate potential. Actively participate in class discussions, activities, group projects and go out and make new friends."



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The CIMP at Sunway College is one of the largest OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma) schools in the world, and also one of the most diverse, with students from over 70 countries, including Australia, Kenya, Japan, South Korea, China, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, as well as Middle Eastern countries.

The CIMP delivers a rigorous academic programme leading to university studies. It provides students the opportunity to grow socially and culturally through involvement in extra-curricular activities.

■ For details on the CIMP or other pre-university programmes at Sunway College, call 03-7491 8622 or e-mail [info@sunway.edu.my](mailto:info@sunway.edu.my) or log on to <http://sunway.edu.my/college/pre-u>

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