

Reflection on the GTTP Research and Award Competition 2019

With genuine hope to explore the beauty of different countries, travelling around the globe has become our dream since we were little. When we were asked to opt for elective subjects for the senior secondary study, without a shadow of doubt, we chose Tourism and Hospitality Studies as one of it, simply out of the love towards travelling. Last year, we were invited by the teacher to participate in a research competition about event tourism in Hong Kong. As the Hong Kong Young Ambassadors, we decided to take the challenge and engage in the competition in spite of the busy study.



As soon as we had made our decision, we embarked on the journey to have fun! We started to research on the events and festivals held in Hong Kong annually. Festivals such as Lunar New Year and Dragon-Boat Festival were all taken into consideration. Finally, Cheung Chau Bun Festival was chosen as the focus for its unique and authentic cultural characteristics. Then, we went to Cheung Chau for field studies and conducted interviews with the locals and scholars. Appreciations should be given to the locals, Miss Steffany Fan, and scholars include Prof. Lawal. M. Marafa and Mr. H.K. Wong, for their kind supports and sharing. We had a deeper understanding on Cheung Chau as well as the details about Bun Festival. After thorough investigations, we proposed to utilize the local community resources as additional fun elements on top of the traditional festival to make it a “Bun Fun Festival”.

We are glad that rewards come after endeavor. When we were informed to be the champion of the Hong Kong section, we were exceedingly excited! With the support from our families, the school and the sponsors from different global partners, we could go for a 6-day trip and represent Hong Kong to participate in the “Global Travel and Tourism Partnership (GTTP) Teachers/Students Annual Conference” in Nice,

France. It was our first time representing Hong Kong to join a conference and present our research in front of delegates from 11 different countries. Nervousness and anxiety thus came along with the excitement.





With such valuable opportunity, we made every endeavor to prepare for the presentation. Instead of standing and reading aloud the contents on the stage, we decided to present the research by an interactive role play. Questions and prizes related to the Bun Festival were prepared for the audience to let everyone enjoyed our presentation. Thanks to the patient guidance from the teacher, Miss Tiffany To, and fruitful advices from the

Director of the GTTP (Hong Kong), Dr. Chammy Lau, we overcame all the challenges and gave a wonderful presentation in Nice. We felt impressive that the audiences were supportive and active in the questions & answer session. They also gave constructive feedback that allowed us to learn and improve in the future. Meanwhile, we were amazed by the representatives from different countries for their brilliant work in their research and presentations. Not only the interesting events and festivals they introduced, but also their excellent presentations and performance that showed their confidence and the pride of their countries. All these stimulated us to make further progress.

Despite the short duration of the trip to Nice, it was a memorable and eye-opening journey. Other than the presentation sessions, we were formed into groups for a city treasure hunt. We were told to experience the activity in a rainy day in Nice, which used to be one of the sunniest cities in France. We would not forget how special, fun and wet it was when we tried our best to explore the charm of the city. Of course, it also gave us chances to communicate and cooperate with youngsters from other countries to complete the tasks. On the other



hand, there were dinner gatherings for us to learn more about the cultures of other delegates' home countries. Performances of all delegates during the gala dinner were remarkable. Sharing by the global partners and members of the GTTP were also inspiring. Their passion and enthusiasm in making contributions to the industry and the society are respectable. It was really a delighted moment for all of us to join together and had a fun time before the end of the trip.



Throughout the whole journey, we have gained much more than what we contributed. The research has aroused our interests in studying tourism and hospitality. It also enhances our awareness on careful planning and utilization of tourism resources for promoting Hong Kong to the world. Meanwhile, not only the skills in research and presentation, but also the friendship and network developed with the youngsters and the talents in the tourism and hospitality industry from different parts of the world are treasurable. All these equip us to be better prepared for our future careers. We understand that it is not the end of the story, but the beginning of another new journey in our lives.

Last but not least, we would like to express our deepest gratitude and sincere thanks again to the organizer of this research competition GTTP, and its global partners for providing us the opportunity to experience the fruitful learning journey in the past few months. We look forward to meeting the members again in the near future for another new journey.

