

Breaking New Ground

A new chapter in the SIM narrative will unfold come September this year as the newly established SIM International Academy swings its doors open to welcome its first batch of students. The school will offer secondary 1 to 4 classes that lead to a Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), the equivalent of a GCE O Level certification. SIM International Academy Principal, Mr Balamurugan Krishnasamy, shares more about the school as it embarks on a journey to Inspire, Build and Discover.



Principal, Mr Balamurugan Krishnasamy, will head the SIM International Academy.

The Strategic Role

“The International Academy will play a strategic role within the SIM eco-system for the next lap to create a network of promising youth from the region who will receive a strong education to enable them to contribute back to building a strong Southeast Asian community.

“Residing within the SIM Group, the Academy offers academic pathways through global education programmes, beyond the IGCSE years. The network of higher education partners that SIM has established over the years also enables access to overseas experiences for students to enrich their educational journey. Additionally, students will also be able to benefit from a university campus environment with quality facilities and services available.”

Leading The Academy

As Principal of the Academy, I wish to provide the direction and thought leadership in designing an applied-learning curriculum that integrates technology as a way of learning. We will strive to ensure that the students who graduate from the Academy are keen to explore social and scientific phenomenon beyond the taught curriculum. They will be able to display critical thinking and the capacity to communicate ideas effectively in a collaborative environment and think out-of-the-box to contribute to society in any chosen field of interest. “Leading Asia with an education for the real world”, is an espoused vision where students lead their peers in community building and where staff lead their peers in curriculum for the real world.”

Inquiry And Creative Thinking

“The curriculum will focus on applied learning through authentic scenarios or problems to develop our students into Curious Learners, Community Builders and Creative Leaders. It will emphasise application of knowledge using the project-based, and problem-based protocol to develop inquiry and creative thinking. The learning activities will require students to harness technology in collaborative learning circles. Being exposed to these problem solving routines, the students will be able to develop their design thinking and progressive inquiry skills. They will also get the chance to hone their societal leadership skills through service learning projects.

Applied learning in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and the social sciences is aimed at developing critical and inventive thinking skills in inter-disciplinary contexts. These are essential skills for success in the working world, where our students need to think out-of-the-box and communicate their ideas effectively in a collaborative environment for networked solutions.”

A Focus On Asia

“The academic curriculum is designed with generative issues that provide the context for students to apply their subject knowledge. Some of these generative issues are designed with a specific Asian scenario that require students to understand the context when applying their knowledge.

“In addition, the Service-Learning curriculum is also crafted with reference to societal issues in Asia. While designing their service-learning projects, students have to understand critical societal needs in different parts of the region before embarking on their outreach plans.

“Through these experiences, the Academy hopes to imbibe in our students a healthy appreciation for and affinity towards Asia.”

Nurturing Curious Learners and Inventive Thinkers

“We want our students to be intellectually curious and to be keen learners who are willing to collaborate with their peers to create new knowledge. Our students should be engaged with the local community in both their home and host countries. They will understand themselves vis-à-vis the people around them and be reflective, responsible and respectful.

“They should be adaptable and have an international outlook whilst recognising their role in society in which they reside. Above all, our students should be confident and inventive thinkers, prepared to serve, lead and contribute as active members of society.”

To find out more about the SIM International Academy, click [here](#).

The SIM International Academy's Parent Info Seminar will be held at SIM GE's Open House on 10 & 11 March. To register click [here](#).