

## Face to Faith teacher training workshop in Singapore



I've just got back from another training session in Singapore. I spent the first morning looking round National Junior College (the school that is hosting the workshop), and it was really quite fabulous.

The teachers that I've been working with over the last couple of days have been really inspiring - although there is some trepidation about the whole business of engaging with religion with their students, they have maintained exceptional energy and enthusiasm, and even at the end of the second day were coming out with some great ideas about how they might engage with the programme in their school. The team from National Junior College have been fantastic with their organization - everything has gone very well, and the facilities here are very impressive (full-on video conferencing suites, as well as delicious Chinese lunches).



I'm feeling very good about the materials that I'm using for the presentation - it's quite refined now, although there are still some more tweaks that I will add before next time (many of which were suggested by today's participants).

All the activities that have been built in are popular, and effectively motivate and engage people, even when they are tired but it will be important to include some more activities, as well as practical techniques needed to facilitate discussion. Mr Blair's video at the start was a very effective way of beginning, particularly as it really makes people appreciate the international breadth of the project with which they are engaging.

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**Ian Jamison, Face to Faith Facilitator**

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## Face to Faith Teacher training workshop in Thailand



Even before I started officially working for the Foundation, I found myself on my way to Thailand to run a training event for schools in South East Asia who were interested in getting involved in the Face to Faith Programme. There were some people there who had already committed to the Programme, and wanted to be the Lead Schools for their Country, as well as others who had come along to observe the training, and get a feel for the nature of the project. In all we had participants from Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and Malaysia, as well as representatives from the British Council from most of those countries - as that organisation had been enormously helpful in setting up the training.

Obviously the main aim of the training, as always, is to help those who are getting involved with the programme, get a good understanding of how they can take it on, and what we can do to support them. Of course every country has its own challenges, some of which are very great, and different stakeholders who need to be sold on the project for it to work; but the combination of video conferences, the on-line community, detailed lesson plans, and help with pedagogical approaches and strategies to manage discussion seems to be a winner. We are committed to doing everything we can to support people in their different situations - and to ensure that they are comfortable with what they are doing. It strikes me as obvious that the programme is going to go at a different pace in different places - after all, most adults in the world are not terribly comfortable about talking about Religion, and very often even less comfortable with children talking about it.



Although there is an awful lot to fit into a short time in these training sessions, we try to keep them energetic, and to ensure that everyone is effectively engaged with what we are doing. Using the Cooperative Learning techniques means that everyone has to take part; and this is usually a popular aspect of the workshops.

I'll be on the road now for the next few months, delivering more workshops (in Singapore, Pakistan, India, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, the UK, the USA, Canada and Australia). I'm really excited by the prospect of getting out there and working with so many different schools in so many different countries, it's a rare privilege - and I'll be keeping you updated here with how things develop.

**Ian Jamison, Face to Faith Facilitator**