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East Asia Regional Council of Overseas Schools

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Full House at ETC2010!

Don't miss the 42nd EARCOS Administrators' Conference 2010

October 30 - November 2, 2010

Sutera Harbour Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

Keynote Speakers:

Charlotte Danielson

Allan Odden

Dr. Yong Zhao

Concordia International School Shanghai History Day, Creating Historians

What do the London sewer system, the parachute, the integrated circuit, and chocolate have in common? As innovations in history, they were all award-winning research topics at the second annual Shanghai History Day, held at Concordia International School Shanghai on March 6, 2010.

More than 240 teenage historians gathered at Concordia to share, defend, and illustrate their discoveries relating to the National History Day (NHD) 2010 theme, "Innovation in History: Impact and Change." Student work took the form of a research paper, website, documentary film, or dramatic performance. With involvement from 10 international and local schools, more than 100 volunteer judges committed time and enthusiasm to reviewing student research. Western Michigan University's distinguished professor of ancient history, Dr. Paul L. Maier was the keynote speaker, addressing a standing-room-only audience on the topic of the historian's craft.

Making the most of the opportunity to assist students in mastering skills in research, writing, and utilizing educational technology, Concordia International School Shanghai has integrated the requirements for NHD projects into its humanities curricula. "The Shanghai History Day events provide students with the opportunity to share their research and project to a wider audience. Having additional sets of eyes look and review their work provides fantastic feedback—making what could have been just an assignment into a living, interactive educational showcase," shared Mr. Mark Johnson, Concordia humanities teacher and National History Day's affiliate coordinator for international schools in Asia. "It's a win-win for students. Gaining needed skills as well as developing a passion for history in the form of a school project that meets criteria for external assessment." Top-placing students have the honor to advance to the American National History Day finals at the University of Maryland in June.

Last year, the 2009 Shanghai History Day marked the first time that international school students—aside from students studying in Guam, American Samoa, and the Department of Defense schools based in Europe—participated in this U.S. based event. Four students from Shanghai advanced to the American National Finals, with one winning an award in the research paper category. In 2010, 30 Shanghai-area schools were invited to participate in Shanghai History Day. "Through the NHD web-

site, I have received interest from international schools in South Korea, Brazil, India, the Philippines, and Japan. I'm exploring ways for schools around the world to take part from a distance, via Skype and webcast for the 2011 History Day event," shared Johnson. The competition is not restricted to US citizens, making it an ideal opportunity for all international school students.

Each year, throughout the United States, more than 500,000 students take part in the NHD program, developing crucial skills such as critical thinking and research abilities, as well as immersing themselves in the fascinating topics of their choice. After months of work, students submit their final product at local, state, and regional competitions, with the winners advancing to the national competition held each June.

The 2011 NHD contest will be held March 5 on the theme, "Debate and Diplomacy in History." Students from both local and international schools are encouraged to participate. For more information on National History Day, visit www.nhd.org. International schools that would like to participate should contact Mr. Mark Johnson for more information, Mark.Johnson@ciss.com.cn.

