

## **2018 UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM (USLS)**

The School of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering (SCBE) constantly provides opportunities for students to discover their leadership potential. The initiative of sending students to the annual USLS has become an integral part of the leadership development. As the school hopes that the event will enable students to acquire robust confidence, goal-setting capabilities, self-reliance and independence.



“I had the privilege of representing Singapore as a delegate at the 9th University Scholars Leadership Symposium held at the United Nations Building, Bangkok, in August 2018.

As there were 1,057 delegates from 87 countries at the symposium, it gave me a good opportunity to interact and exchange cultures and ideas with people from all over the world, who shared the dream of making a positive change in the Earth

we live in — to improve areas such as education, poverty, human trafficking, and many more. I will never forget those conversations I had with people from places such as Africa, Lebanon, Greece, and many others whom made me feel fortunate to live in Singapore, but more than that, it made me ask myself: “How do I play a part in this?”

One of the most memorable experiences I had was on Service Day, where I went to Wat Bangplad School (โรงเรียนวัดบางพลัด) to exchange cultures with the Thai students. I learnt Thai language in NTU and I was able to converse with the students. I tagged along with one of them and had so much fun teaching her basic English words. We had our faces painted by each other, as well as learning a Thai traditional dance as part of the activities. At the end of the day, I remember having a few of the other delegates asking me for help in translating what the kids were saying. Most of them were asking questions such like, “When will you be coming again?” And I was extremely heartened by the fact that even with the language barrier and limited time spent together, we brought so much fun, love and joy to the children in that school.

Overall, I am humbled by the experiences I had, and I am also thankful to be able to glean from the hearts of the many inspirational speakers who have helped countless of people who are in need — all because of one decision to do more, not just for themselves. I am reminded once again of how small actions can go a long way in making a difference, or rather, a dent in the lives of others. And through the symposium, I realised that there is so much more to life than good grades and CCA achievements (although they are great to have), but there is a greater life that we can all live — to love others and to be a friend to someone in need.”

- ***Ling Cher Keane, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering Student, Year 3***