

Round Square Senior Regional Conference: Kings Academy, Jordan

The Round Square Regional Conference was held at the King's Academy, Jordan, from 8th December 2011 to 12th December 2011. Dhirubhai Ambani International School was represented by a delegation of six Year 10 students who were accompanied by Ms. Manjiri Diwanji.



Delegates at the conference



DAIS Delegates

The Conference Theme was "Plus est en Vous", which translates as "There is more in you than you think"! With this theme in mind and as a welcome note, a play production of William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker* based on the inspirational life of Helen Keller was presented by the students of the King's Academy on the day the delegates arrived.

For the next two days, the delegates were taken on a sightseeing tour of Jordan, which included

a visit to Petra. Famous for its rock-cut architecture and water conduits system, Petra is a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1985, and is popularly considered as one of the seven wonders of the world.



Petra

Students also enjoyed the feel of the buoyancy of the dense salt water of the famous Dead Sea! On their way back to the Academy, the delegates were taken to the Sharhabil bin Hassneh Ecopark (SHE) in association with Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) where delegates visited a dam, made paths and planted 90 trees.



A presentation on the service programme of DAIS

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On 11th December, the Conference started with an inaugural address by His Majesty King Abdullah II. Crediting young society of being the driving force behind the recent Arab Spring, His Majesty urged the young crowd to replace complacency with assertive and meaningful action.

Students of DAIS actively participated in the Question- Answer session that followed the inaugural address and asked interesting questions on the geopolitics of the world.

Evening saw the first of the keynote speakers, Dr. Rana Dajani, speaking about her project “We Love Reading” and highlighting the need to encourage young minds to get into the habit of reading books.

This was followed by the barazza sessions where the DAIS delegates displayed sound global awareness and empathy for the third world.

Students of DAIS also impressed the audience during the cultural programme with their presentation of a fusion Dance accompanied by Western and Indian musical instruments.

The next day started with a visit to a community service project at Madaba where delegates helped an orphanage get ready for Christmas by painting pictures, cooking and putting up other Christmas decorations.



Decorating the orphanage

In the evening, two of the Academy’s faculty members, Daniel Dudley and Matt Westman, discussed and shared their enriching experiences in service work both locally and abroad.

On the concluding day of the Conference, the closing ceremony took place with the British Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Peter Millett, serving as the Conference’s final keynote speaker.

The city of Amman boasts of a rich cultural and historical heritage and on the last day of the Conference, the delegates were taken on a trip to the citadel.

The King’s Academy played gracious hosts taking care of every small detail to make our stay enjoyable.

