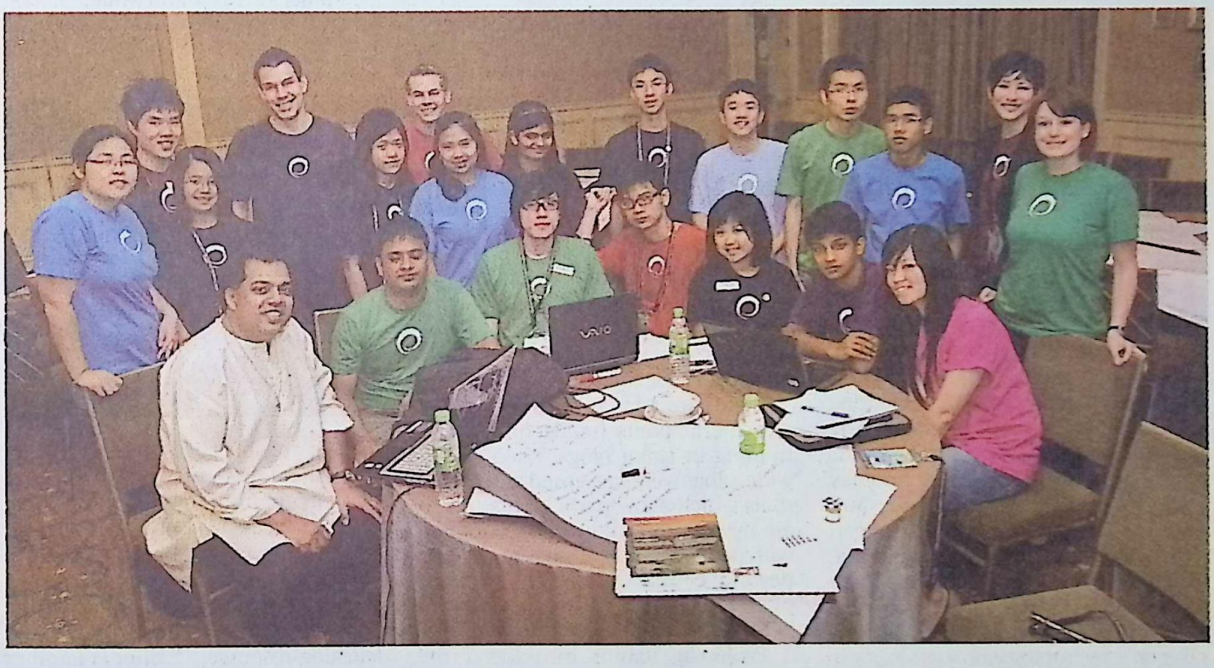
5th APMRIT Conference

Becoming agents of change

Khan Md. Anwarus Salam

MICROSOFT Corporation sponsored the 5th Asia-Pacific Microsoft Regional Innovative Teachers' Conference, with support from the Ministry of Education Malaysia, UNESCO and TIG. The participants in the event were from Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, Japan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia to name a few. The main objective of the event was to bring together teachers from Asia-Pacific to showcase innovative approaches to teaching that involve technology. The teacher attendees were chosen within their own countries through various competitions. This year the Student Voices was present at this region's forum for the first time.



15 students were chosen to attend a 'Student Forum' that occurred alongside and at the same venue (Le Meridien) as the Teachers' Forum, immersing the students in 4 days of intense development program. I was ecstatic to find out that I had been selected to join the Innovative Teachers conference, as a member of the innovative student forum. I was the only person representing Bangladesh from BRAC University. It was my second visit to Malaysia. The first one was when I participated in GK3 conference as one of the winners of 100 Young Global Social Entrepreneurs for my works through vubon.com foundation.

Upon reaching the destination we were assisted by three brilliant and funny mentors: Shaun, Bernise and Cherrie. They were great at assisting us on our projects and are just really great people personally. Microsoft and Rhapsody concept's staffs were very helpful to take care of every single issue that we had to face.

We were given time and mentorship to brainstorm and present their ideas for improving an aspect of education through the use of technology. The aim was to submit these projects for a chance to receive funding provided by Microsoft. These Grants are intended to give the students a taste of what it takes to develop, plan and execute projects on a small scale and more importantly, provides an opportunity for their models to be tested before application for further funding and expansion. On top of this prize pool, there was also an opportunity to win free enrolment into TIG's e-course 'Sprout' for youth professional development. These projects were the most enjoyable part of the forum as we felt like we were contributing something. A formal session for students to address teachers was provided, as well as informal gatherings during poster presentations and breaks.