

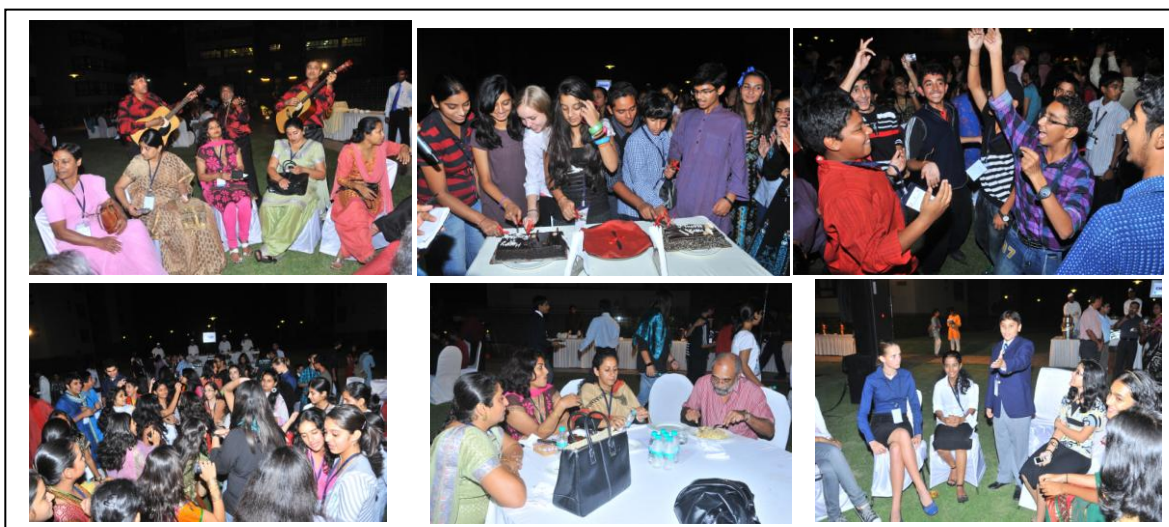
## SOUTH ASIA AND THE GULF REGION, JUNIOR REGIONAL ROUND SQUARE CONFERENCE 2010

**BOOND** – a single droplet of water can change our lives. In keeping with this theme our school hosted its first ever round square conference (11<sup>th</sup> Nov to 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2010) on the topic of water conservation. Nineteen schools participated from South Asia and the Gulf region.

On the first day of the conference the delegates arrived at Swadeshi (Reliance Guest House) which was followed by a tour of the city. The Mumbai tour gave the delegates a chance to interact with each other. This was followed by a magnificent welcome dinner for all the delegates.



The next morning began with the inaugural ceremony of the conference held at our school. This was followed by an interactive session with the eminent film maker, Mr. Shekhar Kapoor. The regional director of Round Square then declared the conference open.





With all our doubts cleared we headed to the classrooms for our barazza (a South African word for group discussion) session. The barazza sessions highlighted 'water issues' all over the world. The conference - Boond was also declared plastic free. These discussions were a window into the diversity of viewpoints of students from different cultures and countries who attended the conference.



After a few hours at the school we left for our main destination, Matheran. This was followed by a four kilometer walk from Dasturi till 'RUGBY' - the DAIS study center at Matheran. Delegates were briefed about the next day's activities, which was followed by an educational film called HOME.

The next morning we were split into groups for our service and adventure activities.

Rock Climbing

Jummaring

Rappeling

Zip line

Self defense

Training

Tent pitching





The service activities included:

- Pay Master Park- cleaning up, and painting fences



- Hasachipatti (a village adopted by our school) -village service activities such as widening



- Horse Manger- laying water pipelines for horses to drink water





Later on we had a local magician perform amazing tricks for us. This was followed by power point presentations by The Doon School and The British School of Delhi.

The next morning, we woke up early for a dawn walk to appreciate the impressive flora and fauna of Matheran and the wonderful symbiotic relationship between humans and animals on the way to the manmade lake. We were accompanied for the walk by wildlife specialists from the awareness project 'Kids for Tigers' who highlighted specific details about the animals we saw.

On our return, we had another interactive question and answer session, this time conducted by the famous Environmentalist, Mr. Bittu Sehgal. He is also the editor of the environmental magazine, 'Sanctuary Asia.' An entertaining baraaza session followed this session!



We took a break with the hustle and bustle of the local market we visited where we soaked in the sights, smells and sounds of the bazaar. The typical shopping included handicrafts, leather products and delicious food items such as walnut fudge and the numerous varieties of chikki.

When we returned to The Rugby, we were treated by nature who gifted us by an off season shower of rain. Even though the unpredictable rain marred our plans of an outdoor cultural programme (skits performed by all the schools) followed by a barbeque and dancing, it did not dampen our spirits as we carried out the festivities in the dining area. Each school had something to express through song, dance and skits. Animal lovers had something to cheer about when Anant Ambani gave a presentation on his numerous exotic pets.

After this came the much awaited - THE DJ NIGHT!!! Everyone had an marvelous time as they danced till 1 am, until the teachers literally packed us off to sleep.

The conference not only left us with loads of knowledge, it also left us with memories which would remain with us forever and friendships that we will cherish forever. The conference was not only a lot of fun but it also covered the round square IDEALS:

Internationalism - We met and interacted with students from diverse cultures and back grounds

Democracy - Each group voted for a delegate who would represent their baraaaza

Environment - The whole conference was based on water conservation

Adventure - We did many adventure activities

Leadership - Baraaaza representatives and volunteer leaders

Service - We did various service activities

**The whole conference was an enriching and fulfilling experience.**

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