

International Outreach by Erin Joy Araneta, OCACS YCC member, in the Philippines

Last July 18, 2019, I had the opportunity to host an Outreach in Manila, the Philippines with the help of the Orange County chapter of the American Chemical Society. This is one of the biggest events that I have organized with the Younger Chemist Committee. I have spent months trying to plan this event through email, finding the best place to do it varying from hospitals, orphanages, or disadvantaged communities. When I finally found a place that could accommodate the time and number of children that would be comfortable to do chemistry experiments. I was filled with so much happiness and excitement to share my greatest passion with a group of thirty children.

I flew to the Philippines with my family and did the outreach at Hospicio de San Jose which is a very special orphanage to my heart because my mother almost joined the convent for nunnery to help this organization. This is a welfare institution that houses and educates children. They take care of the children, teach them good morals, give people who are abandoned, with special needs, and the elderly a place to live and pursue their passions.

It has always been a dream of mine to give back to my community and share the knowledge and experience I gained in my chemistry classes, research, and networks in the American Chemical Society. Having funding for this makes me very happy. In this event, thirty children ages seven to fourteen and fifteen volunteers came to the event where there were fun games, lunch, a magician, a sharing of their aspirations and dreams, and chemistry experiments! I am very grateful to have the opportunity to invite scientist from our local science museum to show how static electricity passes from different bodies, they worked with polarity with milk

fireworks, the different masses of gasses, nitrogen bubbles, and the reaction of basic and acidic solutions and how baking soda and vinegar explodes!

I had so much fun hearing these children's goals. This experience was heartwarming, especially when a couple of children told me that they now aspire to be chemists because of the knowledge I have shared and the experiments they have done. These children were very grateful to have us. They even sang a song and it was the sweetest! It is always hard to live in an orphanage with no idea when you will get parents and some of these children came from abusive households. I am very fortunate to have the opportunity through the OC chapter of the American Chemical Society to spark joy, knowledge, and curiosity for these children.

I also did an outreach to my previous school in Makati, Philippines where I spent ten years studying elementary school to high school. Here, I had a talk on matter, my research, careers in Chemistry, and how to be a successful student. We were in the laboratory where we talked about the states of matter, positive and negative charges, and performed a lab. I love sharing my knowledge from my networks and greatest passion to the youth so I can show them what Chemistry has to offer and how great, beautiful, heart-swelling, and fun chemistry is!!

Erin Joy Araneta, OCACS

Photos Link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aGPmsfgHPe31RCJoIeVcbVBCqwbPuA7O?usp=sharing>

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