

# NUS Geography Challenge 2009

Jointly organized by the NUS Department of Geography and the NUS Geographical Society, the NUS Geography Challenge 2009 (NUSGC09) is well-known as the biggest nationwide Geography competition for secondary schools in Singapore. In its 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive episode, NUS GC 2009 centred the competition upon the theme of “Heritage”. This is with intent to examine the dynamic relationship between Singapore’s rich heritage and culture and to enable participants to develop a sense of appreciation on space usage and the unique landscapes here. The competition also endeavoured to raise awareness of the importance of preserving Singapore’s heritage amongst our participants.

NUS GC2009 was officially launched with the Preliminary Round held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009. This year the event received an overwhelming and resounding response of 81 secondary schools which signed up and over 400 students aged between 13-16 years old participated. Each school sent a team of 5 student representatives and a registration fee of S\$50 for each team was imposed. NUS Geography Challenge 09 is very honoured to have Lee Foundation and Senoko Power as our major sponsors. Asian Geographic graced the competition as the official publication for the first time. NUS GC2009 also benefitted from many kind supporters and sponsors such as the Geography Teachers’ Association of Singapore (GTA), the National Heritage Board (NHB), the Public Utilities Board (PUB) and also the Ministry of Education (MOE).

The top 30 schools which emerged from the Preliminary Round, consisting of an individual Multiple Choice Questions component and a group Application Question round (based on heritage Geography), proceeded to the semi finals. The Semi Finals Round is made up of 2 sub-components – Geo-Ad (40%) and Geo-Trail (60%).

Geo-Ad requires each team to produce and submit a short video clip (2minutes) based on a thematic question. Another unprecedented move

was the invitation for schools that did not qualify in the top 30 to take part in Geo-Ad as well. A total of 36 Geo-Ad submissions were received and the judges were highly impressed by the creativity and innovativeness injected into each video production which revealed the multi-faceted nature of heritage.

The Geo-Trail component is a highly competitive round which called for the top 30 schools to embark on a trail to designated sites across the island of Singapore. Each team has to strategise a plan to navigate a series of stations and

overcome the tasks required of them. Effective time management, clear communication and collective team work were also critical for teams to perform at this level. The Geography Teachers’ Association of Singapore generously contributed a winner’s trophy to this Geo-Trail this year.

The overall top 3 schools from the semi finals then entered the Grand Finals Round which witnessed a demanding and exciting round where individuals of each team were pitted against one another. The top 3



teams were also asked to introduce their Geo-Ad and had to summon their wits and knowledge as they faced a Question and Answer round with a panel of judges. The NUS Geography Challenge 2009 culminated with a rigorous Prize Presentation Ceremony, with the Guest-of-Honour, Professor Alan Chan presenting the prizes to the top 3 overall teams.

*The complete prize winner list is as follows:*

Position	Name	Name of School
Top Individual	TAN WEI QING	Raffles Girls School (Secondary)
1st Runner-up (tie)	CHIU CHAI HAO	Anderson Secondary School
1st Runner-up (tie)	GO SER GUAN ERIC	Changkat Changi Secondary School
1st Runner-up (tie)	SARAH RAIHANAH BTE SAIFUDDIN	Methodist Girls' School
1st Runner-up (tie)	KOH LOCK LEONG	Raffles Institution
1st Runner-up (tie)	LIM YUAN ZHI MARTIN	Raffles Institution
1st Runner-up (tie)	WONG ZHI YUAN	Raffles Institution

### Preliminary Round

Outstanding Performance in the Application Question Component

Position	Name of School
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Hwa Chong Institution</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Methodist Girls' School</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Anderson Secondary School</b>

### Geo-Ad Top 10

1 <sup>st</sup> : Raffles Institution
2 <sup>nd</sup> : ACS (Barker Road)
3 <sup>rd</sup> : CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' School
4 <sup>th</sup> : Deyi Secondary School
5 <sup>th</sup> : Swiss Cottage Secondary School
6 <sup>th</sup> : Zhong Hua Secondary School
7 <sup>th</sup> : NUS High School of Math and Science
8 <sup>th</sup> : Raffles Girls' School
9 <sup>th</sup> : Hwa Chong Institution
10 <sup>th</sup> : Gan Eng Seng Secondary School

Geo-Ad Most Creative Award: **Loyang Secondary School**

Geo-Ad Most Popular Award: **ACS (Barker Road)**

Geo-Ad Special Mention Award: **Pasir Ris Crest Secondary School**

**Geo-Trail Top 3 Teams**

1<sup>st</sup>: NUS High School of Math and Science

2<sup>nd</sup>: Raffles Institution

3<sup>rd</sup>: Hwa Chong Institution

**Overall Top 3 Teams:**

Champion: Raffles Institution

1<sup>st</sup> Runner Up: Anglo Chinese School (Barker Road)

2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up: NUS High School of Math and Science

