

GYA working group Expedition Mundus

Sustainable Electronic Materials (SEM) Group of DMMME brings Expedition Mundus game to public schools in Pila, Laguna, Philippines

July 2018

The Sustainable Electronic Materials group (SEM) from the Department of Mining, Metallurgical, and Materials Engineering, University of the Philippines Diliman, including interns from the Philippine Science Highschool System, recently held an outreach programme in Pila Elementary schools and Don Manuel Rivera Memorial High School in Pila, Laguna, Philippines.

The outreach programme was held on 2 July 2018 for the Grade 4 and Grade 10 students of the respective schools. The programme consisted of presentations, experiments for the Grade 4 students, and the inquiry-based game, Expedition Mundus, for Grade 10.

Speakers were also invited to talk about their journey and career in science. The people who presented were part of the SEM group, led by GYA member Mary Donnabelle L. Balela. Dr Marvin Herrera and Dr Alvin Tapia from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics, UP Los Banos, talked about their research and specializations, and about how their field was fun to work in in its own right and why the pupils should consider a career in science and technology.

While the Grade 10 students were playing the Expedition Mundus game, the Grade 4 students performed a series of experiments wherein the basic principles of science were at play. These experiments were done to inspire scientific curiosity and increase their knowledge regarding the science involved in these phenomena.

One of the experiments that caught the attention and curiosity of the children was



the Baking Soda Balloon Experiment. The kids experimented with baking soda, vinegar, a plastic balloon and a bottle with the intention of making the balloon inflate using the said materials.

After the experiments, the Grade 4 students also participated in a competition of poster making. The kids were grouped up and instructed to make a poster about what they think a scientist looks like.



The Grade 10 students also played the educational game “Expedition Mundus”. The game was originally developed by the Dutch Young Academy for students whose ages range from twelve to fifteen. The game familiarises its players with scientific research. It starts with a story about three scientists who travel to the planet Mundus and get to know its inhabitants, the Mundians. The players answer the question cards given to them by the game handlers. They find the answer to the cards by researching and looking at the sources provided by the game.

At the end of the outreach programme, the Expedition Mundus scores were tallied and awards were given to the highest scorers. Awards were also given to the Grade 4 students with the best posters and drawings of a scientist.