

## **GIIS and GOPIO Singapore commemorate UN International Day of Non-violence 2013; mark 144<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**

**H.E Ms Vijay Thakur Singh, High Commissioner of India to Singapore presides as Guest of Honour; Prof S D Muni, Visiting Research Professor, Institute of South Asian Studies delivers keynote address**

Singapore, October 2, 2013 – Global Indian International School (GIIS) and the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) commemorated the **UN International Day of Non-Violence** to observe the 144<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at GIIS Queenstown Campus, Singapore. The gathering saw eminent speakers address students of the school on the relevance and importance of Mahatma Gandhi's principles and values of non-violence.

In her message for the school, **Ms Vijay Thakur Singh**, High Commissioner of India to Singapore, said, "By organising the UN International Day of Non-Violence, on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi *Jayanti*, GIIS has demonstrated its commitment of bringing the greatest values of humanity espoused by 'the greatest man who walked on this earth' to its students." She also appreciated the rendition of the *Sarva Dharma* prayer – encompassing prayers from 7 different world religions – by students of the school, and said, "...It is indeed a tribute to *Gandhiji*, for he truly believed that all religions are based on compassion and humanity."

**Prof S D Muni**, Visiting Research Professor, Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore expressing the importance of non-violence to students, said, "...the basic contribution which Gandhi makes is that while the rebel in you is aroused, don't use force and coercion or means which are not valid. Therefore his was a great struggle of expressing his rebel not through conflict or violence, not through war or coercion, but through *Satyagraha* and non-violence."

**Mr Lee Kwang Boon**, Deputy President, United Nations Association of Singapore (UNAS) presided on the occasion to deliver a special message from United Nations' Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, on this occasion. "Gandhi showed the power of peacefully opposing oppression, injustice and hatred. His example has inspired many other history-makers such as Martin Luther King Jr., Václav Havel, Rigoberta Menchú Tum and Nelson Mandela," read the message.

In his own words, Mr Lee further added, “You students are truly lucky (that) you have the blessings of good education and youth. My advice to you is when you leave here, whatever assignment you take on, do it well, show leadership and make a difference”.

GIIS is the only Indian International School in South East Asia to have set up a dedicated centre for imparting the teachings and philosophies of Mahatma Gandhi through the **Global Indian Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Universal Values (MGCUV)**.

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#### **About Global Indian International School**

Global Indian International School (GIIS) – established under the guiding principles of Global Schools Foundation – is an international network of award-winning institutions, with 20 campuses in 7 countries. Known for their skill-based and learner-centric curricula, GIIS schools offer holistic learning and personality development opportunities for students.

GIIS schools have been honoured with 27 international and national awards over a span of 5 years for achieving Excellence in School Education. Today, GIIS boasts a strong multicultural student body, as children from diverse nationalities have enrolled across its campuses.

Adopting a holistic approach to learning and character development, **Global School Nine Gems** model is a proprietary tool to achieve a balance between academics and experience, mental and physical development, fine arts and performing arts, language skills and creativity, personality development, ethics and entrepreneurship.

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