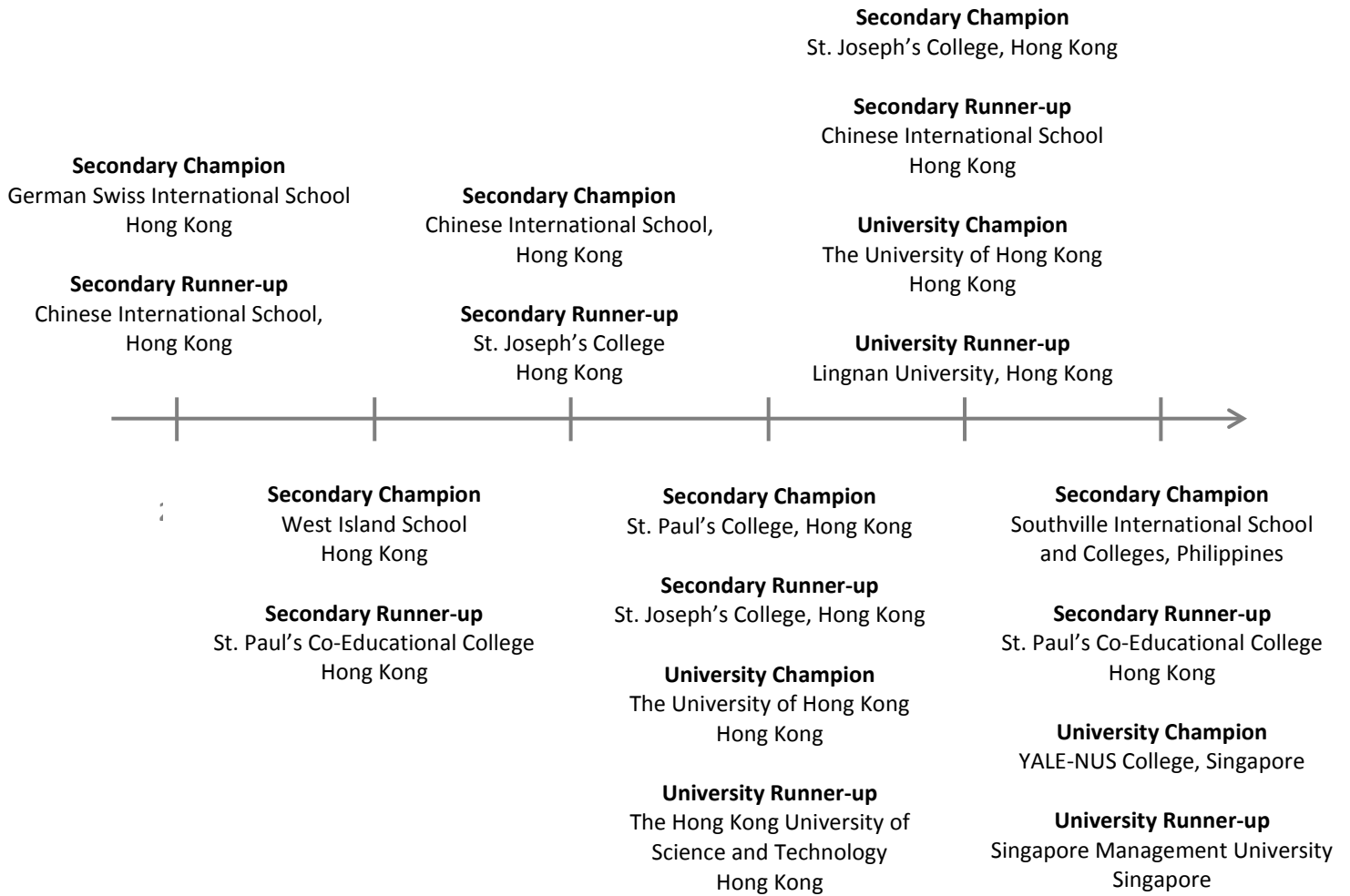
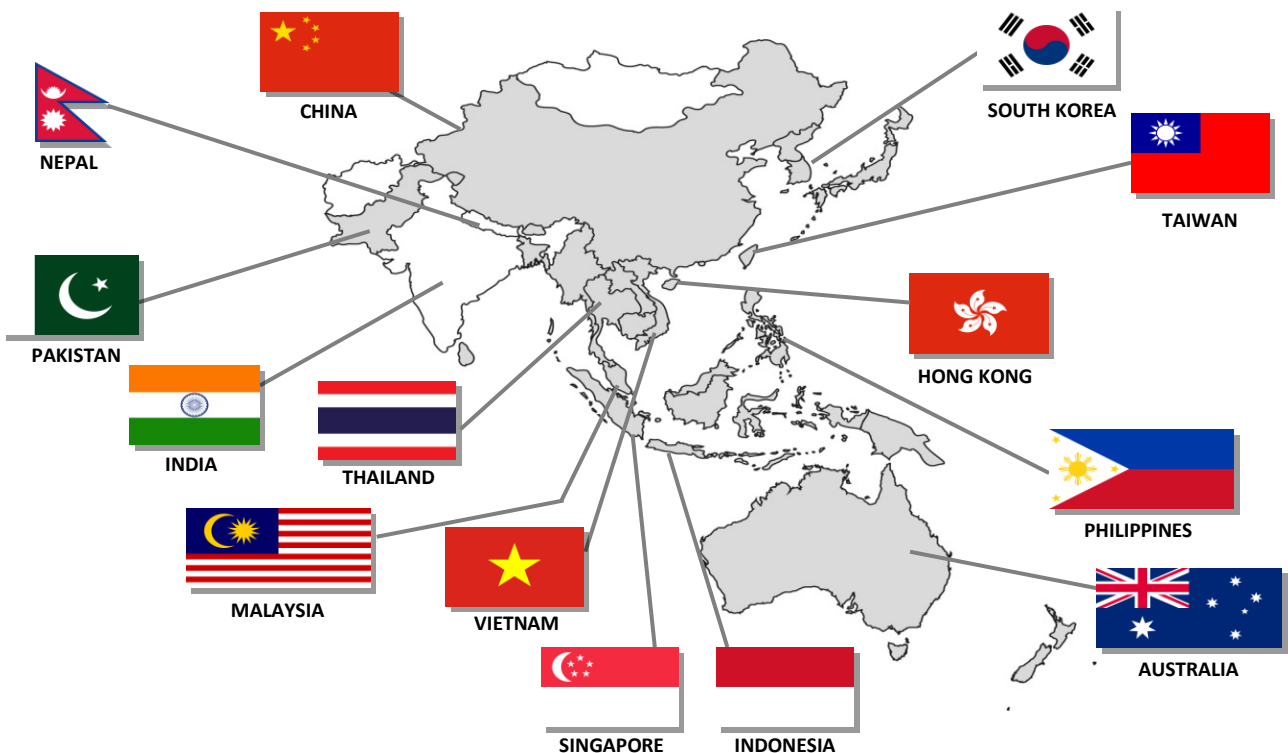


Writing Competition Past Winners



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Feature

Students, teachers and parents from all over Asia gathered at the INYT Asia Headquarters in Hong Kong to attend the award presentation ceremony of the INYT Writing Competition 2015. The ceremony took place on Saturday 27th February 2016 with participants coming from Indonesia, Philippines, Hong Kong and more.

The champion of the University category comes from YALE-NUS University in Singapore, Ms Angela Ferguson, with her piece “The Death of Comfortable Education”, and the champion of the Secondary category is Ms Svetlana Riguera, from the Southville International School and Colleges in Philippines, with her piece “Global Education: From the Ground Up, Through The Roots”.



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SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

29 July 2016

CEREMONY:

To be announced

REGION:

Asia Pacific

CATEGORY:

University

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INYT Writing Competition

Invites all students in Asia Pacific to submit an article about the **“Global Youth”**

INYT is giving YOU the chance to report and write an article to be published in the Asia Pacific edition of the International New York Times.

THE INTERNATIONAL NEW YORK TIMES WRITING COMPETITION 2015

WINNER OF “WORD (WORLD) OF YOURS”

Congratulations to Ms. Angela Ferguson of Yale-NUS College, Singapore

Title: The Death of Comfortable Education | Category: University

There may be an outfit for every occasion, but one in particular has served me in my most daunting moments: a grey V-neck, magenta Nike pullover, and black yoga pants which have never once been used for yoga. This was my battle armor when I took the SAT, then again when I took and re-took the ACT. Other times, this was my I'm-sleep-deprived-so-I-might-as-well-be-comfortable outfit for nights of working on the high school magazine until 5 am. These were my comfort clothes. So of course, that's what I was wearing one July morning as I hugged my parents outside airport security and sobbed.

I was leaving for college, the caveat being that it was located in Singapore—three flights and 24 hours away from home in aggressively suburban southwest Ohio. And yet, just six months ago, I hadn't been confident that I could find Singapore on a map. Even after I'd decided to enroll, my mom's friends had berated her for sending me abroad when teenagers in other countries would give up so much to study in the U.S. Ultimately, though, I wanted to learn more outside the classroom than I did in it. That idea tugged enough at my mind to make me leave behind everything that I knew, but not enough at my heart to make it easy. After crying through the morning car ride, the walk through the airport parking lot and the check-in process at the airline counter, any words I tried to find strangled themselves in my throat before I could choke them out. My mom found only two: “Just go.”

And so I did, crying as I went through security and walked to my gate alone.

The next ten months ended up being the best of my life. I threw myself into exploring Singapore's nooks and crannies, and it amazed me to get along so well with friends who'd grown up worlds away from me. And yet those months, which opened my eyes in more ways than I can say, did not come without growing pains. I sometimes found myself deeply unsettled. The more I learned about the world around me, the more unsure I felt about my place in it. Ironically enough, it was being away from home that, for the first time, pushed me to reflect on what it means to be an American citizen. As opposed to reading about U.S. foreign relations online, I was living it. I finally learned what young people from other countries thought about my own and, rather naively, was shocked at the polarized views I heard. That was when I began to sense my behavior being unconsciously shaped by the stereotypes I perceived. If people generalized Americans to be culturally insensitive and lacking global awareness, it felt like my personal responsibility to prove them wrong. So I caught myself inadvertently trying to go the extra mile, overcompensating as if through my actions, I could say *it's alright, we're not really like that...*

For a full version of the winning essay, please email Cherry Ho at cherry.ho@nytimes.com

International New York Times

THE WORLD. AND WHAT TO MAKE OF IT.

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