



Community Engagement

- FairNIST -

INTRODUCTION - SERVICE AND I

One of my favorite attributes about NIST is its offer for kids to get involved in service. As someone myself who has been involved in service since Year 7, service had taught me a lot - whether it may be about accounting, designing, presenting or leading.

I constantly join groups that I take interest in, but I only remain in a few as with some I lose interest or it is conflicting with my schedule.



C@tNIST 2017 - present



Free To Be MS & HS 2018 - 2020



FairNIST 2019 - present

FAIRNIST - FIRST IMPRESSION

I first heard about FairNIST from a speech about service in my IAS class in Year 9. I remember taking interest after hearing about the chance to work with accounting and design so along with a few friends, we joined the group in the first semester of 2019. As of now, it has been 3 semesters.



FairNIST Chiang Mai Trip 2019 - Picture with the Village Leader

FAIRNIST - AUTHENTIC NEED

FairNIST is a student led social enterprise started in NIST. Working with a Coffee business group in Chiang Mai - Thai- High Coffee. We train a few farmers in Chiang Mai in poverty to grow and roast coffee. Thai- High then buys the coffee from them at a price higher than ones from local Thai markets, and it then gets delivered to NIST, where we sell the coffee, and part of the income goes back to the farmer to develop their skills and village.



Coffee beans from the farmer's farm

FAIRNIST - POSITIVE CHANGE

Through sustainable business practice, FairNIST is able to empower farmers to break them out of the poverty cycle. Along with Thai-High we are able to provide the farmers with programs to educate them about how to grow fruitful coffee beans and how to roast them. Part of the money earned goes back to the farmers.



Travelling to the coffee farm on the mountains

FAIRNIST - WHAT HAVE I DONE?

When I first joined the group, I decided to work in the production sector to package and bag coffee. I extremely enjoyed being able to learn about the different types of coffee along with the service group's goal. When an offer to become Production Manager in the group came out, I decided to sign up and got the position a semester after joining FairNIST. As Production Manager, I keep track of our stock and attend to orders from parents and teachers.

If there are urgent orders, I set up times with group members to complete orders. Being Production Manager helped to develop my time management skills and planning. I learnt to be more responsible by keeping up with orders.



FairNIST 2019-2020 Production Team

FAIRNIST - WHAT HAVE I DONE?

Recently I have gotten involved within another section of the group - the design factor. I started to help out with designs - when it comes to merchandise. One of my main projects that I took on was to design a mural for the group on the 3rd floor of the secondary building. This developed my skills of digital art, as it was something I barely experimented with. Aside from the design section, I generally help out with sales during different events - such as Starry Nights or Student conferences,

which helps me with my communication skills when it comes to selling products and being more talkative during such events.



FAIRNIST - WHAT HAVE I DONE?

In November of 2019, I participated in a FairNIST trip, where we went to meet our farmers and see their farms. On the trip I helped translated messages to the farmers and for the group. This opportunity also allowed me to be more communicative with group members and farmers. It helped me to learn about plans for the groups.



WHAT VALUES DID MY CONTRIBUTION OFFER?

I offered many different skills to the group - whether it may be about translating, designing or organization. At certain times, taking on many different responsibilities for the group could be stressful and overwhelming, but it is worth the outcome, as I am able to see many other people satisfied with our products and the farmers happy with our progress.



A walk through the coffee farm

FUTURE GOALS

At the start of semester 1, I made a goal to take on a higher role of leadership within the group. At the start of semester 2, along with 2 of my friends, we were given the youth leader position. Though I have achieved my long-term goal, **I want to continue to lead in FairNIST and learn to be a better leader, whether it may be at management, planning or empowering and getting to know group group members better.**



HOW HAS THIS EXPERIENCE HELP DEVELOP NEW UNDERSTANDING?

I've developed connections with different farmers and people who worked in the coffee business. This experience helped me develop my understanding of different people and cultures in Thailand. I've never really thought about how a farmer's life might differ from mines, but being able to see and experience a day of their life inspires me to keep on working with service. I want to be able to develop their quality of life through FairNIST. FairNIST helped developed my understanding of the Thai community and showed me as a student, I can still make a difference.

