

PROF GAO CELI:

Good afternoon. I am privileged to have this opportunity to share with you some trivial minor incidences in my school.

We are an affiliated school to the Tsinghua University. We are supposed to provide schooling for the teaching staff, the student teaching staff of Tsinghua University. But at the same time, of course, we are also leading the development of research and in provision of quality education. We have an area of 125 acres and a built-up area of 50,000 square metres, a rather big school and various buildings, office building, administrative building, track and fields, sports ground and a staff of 300, some highly qualified teachers and a student population of 3,200, six grades, 71 classes. This is one of the classes.

We have won a number of awards. This is commonly done in the mainland of China. In 2004 we also acquired the accreditation of ISO 9001. I dare not say we are the first amongst high schools in China but one of the earliest because we wanted to introduce modern day management standards to school management. That was an experiment of a sort.

In terms of teaching activities we have some rather special activities and programs, both inside and outside the classroom setting. For example, we have an English drama competition and also mock UN meetings for our students. For our language teachers, we have special projects for scientific writing.

Some teachers have organised themselves into a scientific centre for both students and teachers, and they participate in some research projects and competitions in Haidian area of Beijing and I would be talking about one of the outstanding projects that they have done and, of course, in terms of networking we are in a very good position.

We have access to Internet. We have all sorts of

teaching aids, and we also can relay the broadcast of live classroom teaching. We are just near the Yuan Ming Yuan Village. We have a history teacher dedicated in the study of the Royal Summer Palace.

This student graduated this year, a son of a professor of Tsinghua University in the music faculty. In 1999 he was admitted to our junior high school, so he is supposed to spend six year here. But he likes soccer very much, but then he got a bone fracture and could not come to school and he stayed at home. His father asked what he would do when he was away from school for six months or one year. He said, "I would read something", so he read extensively books on biology and became very interested in biology. When he recovered he returned to school.

His father could not help him much and then we asked the biology teacher, I gave him some assistance but it later turned out that the teacher was not quite capable of offering meaningful help and we got another biology professor to instruct him.

Of course, he attended also the normal classes but during the weekends and holidays they would try to take out relevant information on biological subjects. For example, he was very interested in the maple leaf. He then wrote an article, a very academic title on the cloning of some virus affecting the tree leaf of this particular tree. So, he has expended a lot of efforts into this research and he entered some scientific competitions and got a series of awards. I won't go into them one by one.

Actually, in the mainland China there was a very influential award for youth scientific competition and he got a grade 1 prize, one of the five who were awarded in Beijing, and then he also entered into a competition organised by Intel. Intel ISCF is the title. He also got first prize and second prize in biology as well as some other awards.

Here are his certificates and then this is an award from

the Mayor of Beijing. This is a photo of him outside the campus after returning from the competition, the Intel ISCF and the certificate. Coincidentally, the International Federation of Observatories decided to name a small after him, a planetoid called "RT142". We are so proud of him.

Some photographs of this student having discussions with some other colleagues, a picture, a photostat with a Nobel Prize Laureate and from the awards he got some cash prize of US\$15,000 and he donated the money to UNICEF. He has been recommended for admission to Zhongshan University Faculty of Life Science.

A very joyous girl is to set an example, called Limang. She was admitted in 2003 and will be graduating this year. Her class students have high views of him, joyous, inquisitive and also a very influential figure among the fellow students. They admire her a lot. She was awarded an outstanding student of Beijing for three times and also chairman of the student union for three consecutive years.

She was champions for 800 metre race and got other recognitions, awards, first prize in English competition towards the end of her second year in high school. She got a mark of 650 in her TOEFL and she has also been involved in receiving important guests.

There was an American scientist, specialising in the exploration of Mars, coming to Hong Kong on one occasion and she was one of the hosts receiving him and is this her attendance at the model UN in Hong Kong. This picture shows her having been elected as the chairman of student union and also an interchange with Singapore's co-educational college.

She does have some ideas about scientific explorations. "I am interested in getting to the bottom of reasons of various phenomena and I believe science will enable us to have a clear, better future, and it will be a focal point for young people to build their dreams and build a brighter future. I don't really care about whether I will be able to find any new, it's

my climbing mountains, there is no limit in the endeavours."

So, she compares scientific exploration to mountain climbing. She is now in the United States to further her studies. She received a notice of admission at the end of last year. At one point she decided not to enter into the local high school certificate examination, but I persuaded her to take the examination because maybe one day she would return to China to work "and although by that time you may already have had a degree from Yale, then compared to your contemporaries will you be missing something in your experience?"

Of course, she received very high marks but it was a kind of a test and a chance to gain some experience.

My third story is about -- it's going to be very short -- this child is a junior high school student. She will be completing the junior high school education with us and will be transferring to another school for senior high school. Her parents are also professors of Tsinghua University. The child has many shortcomings, according to the teachers, but the teachers nonetheless work very hard to discover the talents that this child might have. Through hard work she has been able to secure a place in another prestigious senior high school. That is all from me.