



**TS BATAAN**  
AUSTRALIAN NAVY CADETS

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To Whom it May Concern,

I first became aware of the UNITAS program at an event called Tomorrow Fest. The event was held by YMCA Manningham Youth Services and showcased the creative and dynamic views of young people. The individuals were encouraged to come up with an idea that allowed them to have their voices heard and encouraged decision making.

Ryan Cheng presented UNITAS. His idea was to run a game where groups of youth represented countries with resources that were desired by the other nations. Each country needed to negotiate with the others to grow and gain a better position than they were currently in. The goal of the activity was to create discussion, teamwork and decision making at the same time breaking down barriers in diversity and multi-culturalism.

Being the Commanding Officer of a youth development organisation, I saw great benefit from his presentation and invited Ryan and his team to an evening with the Australian Navy Cadet unit, Training Ship Bataan. Ryan and his team comprising of Luke Bulley, Christina Benke, Lemuel Khoo and Daniel Jafari, conducted their activity, which ran for just over an hour.

The activity generated some very humorous results. At times we had nations that agreed easily representing a democratic environment. We then saw those nations become more like a dictatorship, which provided much laughter as we delved further and further in to the game. The cadets were able to apply their individual leadership styles and personalities to the activity, which resulted in all the elements of leadership and teamwork that we expected.

The cadets and staff really enjoyed the activity. We were very pleased to see the cadets negotiate their deals and represent their teams. I personally enjoyed the creative aspect of the game. I saw cadets start to put together more detailed and complicated deals as well as sharing more information to achieve a more common goal.

The UNITAS members have done a great job in creating their game and I applaud them for trying to tackle an issue within society effecting youth and their development. I hope they are able to achieve the goals they set out in creating the game and I would encourage growth and expansion of their ideas.

Training Ship Bataan would gladly have them back in the near future to see how their game evolves and takes on other issues in society.

Regards,

SBLT Matthew Hine

Commanding Officer

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