

# #ITSMAILIFE

IMAN . ILMU . AMAL .

NOVEMBER 2017



## MAI FACTS

Know more about curriculum at MAI and what we have to offer

## RESILIENT UMMAH THROUGH SUNNAH SPORTS

Achievements of Arabian Knights in Co-Curricular Activities

## GOLD IN REGIONAL OLYMPIADS

MAI students competed against others in the region and won medals in Asia's largest math olympiad, SASMO.

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# FACES OF MAI

Alhamdulillah, we have come to our **second edition of #itsmailife**, a newsletter which aims to bring Madrasah Al-Arabiah Al-Islamiah (MAI) closer to you and the community. Through this newsletter, we feature the people who make MAI what it is today.



01 MAI ASSEMBLY



02 ISLAMIC STUDIES DEPT



03 MATH & SCIENCE DEPT



04 LANGUAGE & HUMANITIES DEPT



05 MAI CAFE



06 SCIENCE LAB @ MAI



07 FIELDWORK @ MAI



08 SPORTS @ MAI

## MAI EXISTS TODAY BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY

Since 1946, Madrasah Al-Arabiah Al-Islamiah (MAI) has won the hearts of the community, garnering their support to still exist till today.

An article in Berita Harian on 3 Aug 1965 mentioned that the madrasah is the "hope of 10,000 Muslims staying around Serangoon area". It was then located within the compound of Masjid Haji Yusoff along Upper Serangoon Road.

In 1982, just a few months after their building was destroyed by fire, classes resumed in the mosque.

Today, MAI has gone through many changes as it strives to provide a balanced academic and Islamic education for its students while still grounded in Islamic values. MAI is currently 1 of 3 madrasahs under the Joint Madrasah System (JMS) in Singapore - a new paradigm in madrasah education to develop a first rate madrasah education that is on par with the Singapore Education landscape. It endeavours to produce religious leaders and scholars who will be confident and equipped to lead the Singapore Muslim community in the 21st century.

# MESSAGES FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

MAI aspires to be a leading institution recognised for developing successful Islamic inspired men and women who are well-rounded, enriched with knowledge, committed, and motivated to work for the betterment of the ummah.

## SHAPING MAI TO BECOME A NEW AGE MADRASAH

**“We continuously scan the educational landscape and keep abreast of the emerging trends in education locally as well as internationally.**

We also engage our partners from IBN, A\*STAR, NTU and NUS for information on skills, knowledge and attitudes that will enable our graduates from MAI to be future ready.”

**Principal, Mr Herman Cher Ma'in**



## MAI EQUIPS STUDENTS TO FACE TODAY'S COMPLEXITY

**“The world today is a complex place to live in, with many challenging issues coming to the forefront.**

Madrasah play an important role in equipping students who are ready and willing to face these issues head-on, using the relevant 21st Century skills and competencies learnt in school to help them bring forward their views and to look for possible solutions. We need the continuous support from the community to help ensure that madrasah remain ready and viable to play their role, for our future generation.”

**Vice-Principal, Ms Aisha Abdul Manaf**

## A NEW MAI ENHANCED WITH NEW CAPABILITIES

**After a few changes in location, MAI is given a new lease to set up its own campus beside the present building at 1 Lor 6 Toa Payoh.**

By 2019, the madrasah is scheduled to shift to its brand new campus to offer better quality academic and religious education in its pursuit to nurture local leaders and teachers who can lead the community to greater success.

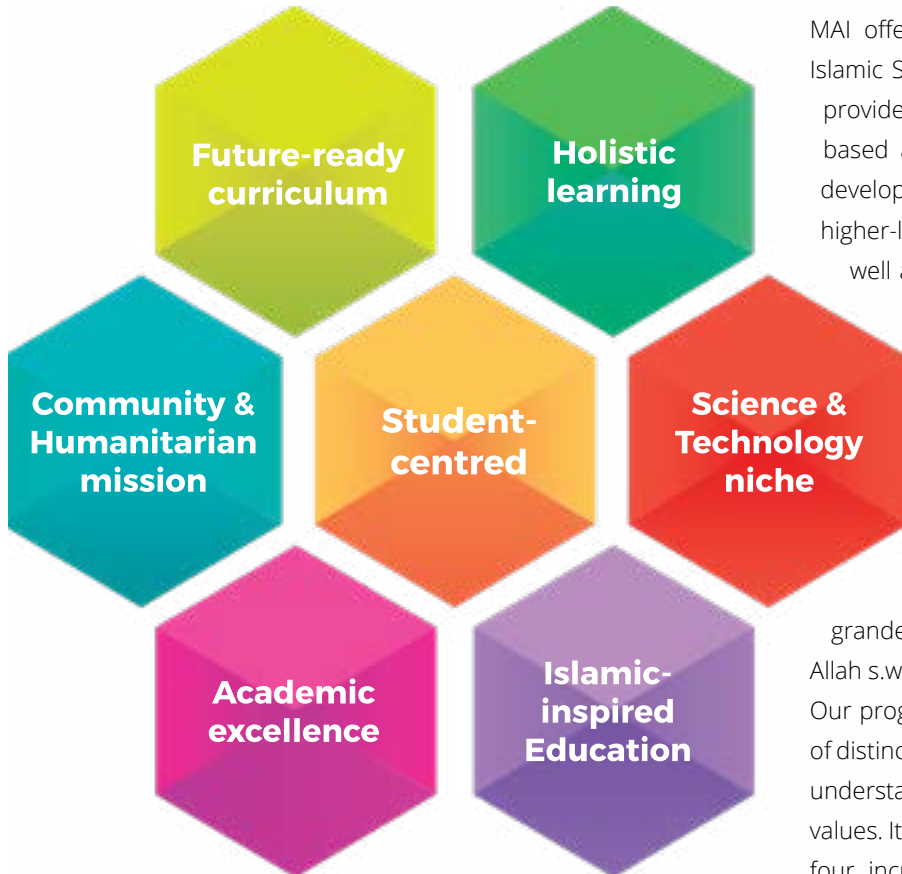
MAI started its awareness campaign to gain community support in its effort to build a new MAI in April 2016, through newspaper advertisements and regular mailers to potential donors. Since then, the support that came in has been nothing but heartwarming, Alhamdulillah. We'd like to also take this opportunity to thank all our donors and seek that you continue to support us and our cause. Help us build a new MAI together. This is MAI, **#itsMAlife.**



**Our rundown school building's exterior and walls around the madrasah.**

# MAI FACTS

MAI believes that every child is unique and every student can achieve success. Thus we strive to provide a curriculum that caters to students with a range of abilities to challenge and stretch their potential.



MAI offers GCE 'O' levels to all students on top of its Islamic Studies school-based certification. The curriculum provides and encourages student-centred and enquiry-based approaches to learning. This allows students to develop creative thinking skills, giving them the edge for higher-level courses such as GCE 'A' levels, Diplomas as well as other progression routes including the Islamic Education pathway.

Our academic curriculum places emphasis on Science education. Based MOE's curriculum, it will be enhanced by best practices of national schools in the teaching and learning of science and will serve as a catalyst for our students to acquire scientific knowledge, skills and processes as well as the understanding of the grandeur and majestic world of creation bestowed by Allah s.w.t. to man.

Our programme aims to develop students to be students of distinction, equipped with scientific knowledge, skills and understanding that is in line with Islamic principles and values. It also follows a progressive model which comprises four incremental stages. It begins with the application

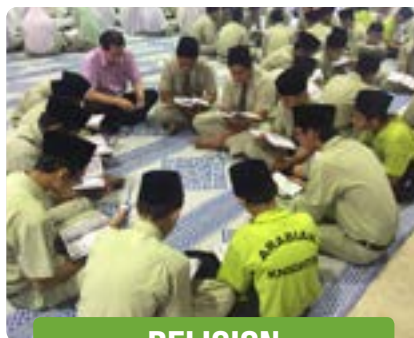
of **scientific skills and processes** in the classroom and the laboratory, followed by **experiential learning and scientific research** in an authentic setting. Each of these stages contains activities that will train our students to form hypotheses, conduct authentic scientific investigative methods and communicate their research findings confidently in oral as well as written forms.

*"Our faith-inspired academic pathway allows our graduates to aspire to progress as far as they want in the fields of their choice, similar to their peers in secular schools."*



### SCIENCES

Through this curriculum, students will be trained to be an inquisitive learner, a collaborative team-player and an effective speaker who can apply learning in integrated ways that are beneficial to himself/herself, the community and environment.



### RELIGION

Lessons are designed to elicit meaningful discussions and offer new insights on how Muslims can confidently apply the messages of the Quran and Hadith in every aspect of their lives at the personal, family, and community level.



### TECHNOLOGY

As a Madrasah of Science & Technology, MAI provides platforms and opportunities for our students to apply what they have learnt in real life situations like building prototypes to solve real-life problems.

# SPORTS & ARTS IN MAI

Besides our focus in academic curriculum, we also put emphasis in our co-curricular activities to nurture our students to become wholesome and capable individuals.

## A RESILIENT UMMAH THROUGH SUNNAH SPORTS

In our effort to build resilience and rigour on top of maintaining a balanced lifestyle, we also place importance in promoting sports to our students. Alhamdulillah, MAI has seen many achievements in sports this year - particularly archery, badminton, soccer and netball.

MAI has also introduced fencing as a CCA in 2017.

With the support of parents, teachers and trainers, our students managed to clinch medals in various competitions across Singapore. We hope that this will

spur them and their peers to continue the rigour they practise in the sports into their studies as well. Marha marha!

Below are some of our achievements for the year:



*Fencing at MAI started in 2017*



*MAI Archery clinched many medals in national competitions since 2012*

### TOP ACHIEVEMENTS 2017 - SPORTS

- 01** **Gold for 'B' Division girls team, and Silver for 'B' Division boys** in the National Inter-School Archery Championships (NISAC).
- 02** **Champions in indoor archery, badminton and soccer** in the 2017 Madrasah Sports & Games (MSG) competitions in September.
- 03** **Gold and Silver medals** for our teams in Potong Pasir CSC First Timers' Archery Championship

### MEDALS WINNERS


Top competitions MAI won medals in this year.

Competition	Sport	Achievements
NISAC 'B' Division (Girls)	Archery	Gold
NISAC 'B' Division (Boys)	Archery	Silver
MSG 'B' & 'C' Division	Archery	Champion
MSG 'B' & 'C' Division (Boys)	Badminton	Champion
MSG 'C' Division (Girls)	Badminton	Silver



### MAI'S ARTS SCENE GAINS RECOGNITION IN COMMUNITY

Aside from sports, we also encourage our students to take part in the arts. Artworks of staff and students are shared on a student-curated instagram account:

 [@my\\_artworkz](https://www.instagram.com/my_artworkz)

# MAI HIGHLIGHTS 2017

Alhamdulillah we were very heartened to see achievements in 2017 that would not be possible without the support of all parents, staff and students. We would like to thank all who helped made these possible. Here are some highlights of 2017:

## 2017 NATIONAL HERITAGE CHAMPION AWARD

Madrasah Al-Arabiah Al Islamiah is the **1st madrasah in Singapore** to be featured as a 2017 National Heritage Champion Award recipient, out of 18 secondary schools in Singapore.

MAI has been recognised by the National Heritage Board (NHB) as a strong supporter and advocate of their heritage education initiative. MAI was awarded Heritage Champion in 2017 for our efforts in sustaining the School Heritage Corners Programme, where we trained student guides & welcomed guests to visit our heritage corners over in 2016 and 2017.

## SINGAPORE AND ASIAN SCHOOLS MATH OLYMPIAD (SASMO) 2017



Organised by Singapore International Math Contests Centre, SASMO is one of largest math contests in Asia. This year, there were over 22,000 contestants from 19 countries including Singapore. Around 10,000 awards were given out globally to outstanding contestants.

This year, MAI managed to clinch 9 medals in total:

Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
2	1	6	9

## YOUNG ARCHITECTS PROGRAMME (YAP) BY CENTRAL CDC



The Young Architect Programme (YAP) aims to empower youths to contribute back to the community through a series of design thinking workshops. Teams are led by architectural undergraduates from NUS as their mentors. In this programme, participants identified

some community issues and creatively develop solutions to address the local needs and challenges.

Alhamdulillah, the team from MAI managed to clinch **Merit Award** with creative solutions in designing common spaces for the community's usage.

## SAY SOMETHING ABOUT MAI!

Pen down your thoughts here, or take a photo at our event and post them on social media with your captions!

Tell us what you think about MAI and education at MAI. Remember to **#MAIjourney** and **#MAIopenhouse2017**

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## PASSION TO E.M.P.O.W.E.R.

E.M.P.O.W.E.R. frames the language teaching and learning experience in Arabiah, and is an acronym for **English@MAI – Proficiency in Oracy, Writing and Extensive Reading**. 2017 saw a host of exciting activities that got students on track to realise the E.M.P.O.W.E.R. objectives to be Muslim youths who are effective and confident communicators.

The launch of Qul Club as a new CCA in 2017 has tremendously encouraged a variety of speaking activities that have unearthed hidden talents and interests of Arabians.

### SPOKEN WORD PERFORMANCE - 'MY NAME IS ISLAM'

Last Feb, Sec 4 students Siti Hani Jumari, Syeda Tahiya and Malika Syafinas presented a spoken word performance at MAI's Hafiah Ceremony. Their captivating performance received an overwhelming response and MAI was invited to do an encore performance at MUIS Workplan Seminar in Apr 2017.



### MAI QUILLS - A LITERARY COMPILATION

To celebrate our students' and teachers' passion for writing, MAI did a compilation of essays and creative work done by them. It was printed and published in Sep 2017 and distributed among our students. We hope this would be a start to a series of future publications, insyaAllah!



### SHAKESPEARE'S MACBETH AT MAI

We had our inaugural staging of Shakespeare's Macbeth during a school assembly in Mar 2017. It was produced by a crew of 25 Sec 1-3 students. Training was done in-house by EL Unit headed by Teacher-in-Charge Qul Club, Miss Nadiah Mohd Shah.



# EXTENDING THE TOUCH OF MAI TO THE COMMUNITY

Our students can testify that madrasah education has helped them grow spiritually and socially.



**Volunteers at MAI's Forum at Masjid Maarof - Diari Seorang Khalifah. Amongst them are Izz Ryanshah (middle) and Fazil Akram (second from right), who respectively led Maghrib and Isyak prayers at the mosque.**

As MAI focuses on its niche in academics, math and sciences, it also places high importance on instilling Islamic values and education in its students. Among its efforts in doing so includes having Dirasat Deeniyyah as part of its subject curriculum. Dirasat Deeniyyah combines five subjects into one syllabus – Al-Quran, Hadith, Fiqh, Aqidah and Sirah.

Apart from Dirasat Deeniyyah, a few other religious programmes such as Ihya Al-Quran, Tahfiz programme and Arabic language are also offered in MAI.

According to MAI's Head of Department (HOD) of Islamic Studies, Ustaz Abu Bakar Sidik Hassan, Dirasat Deeniyyah is "designed to discuss today's issues relating to Islam and lives of Muslims in the community, such as halal and healthy diet, Muslims' true identity, moderation, unity in diversity, managing peer pressure, environmental awareness and many more."

"Dirasat Deeniyyah gives MAI students exposure to much needed life skills such as choosing the right food in accordance

to the religion, choosing good companions, interacting with people from different racial and religious groups, crafting out environmental sustainability projects, community service as well as carrying out humanitarian causes.

"Various life perspectives are discussed,

***"Alhamdulillah, I'm grateful that relevant topics are being discussed in mosques so we can draw lessons from the Al-Quran through our Asatizah."***

- Mr Abdullah, forum participant

from the individual to international level so that students can internalize the beauty of Islam in their daily lives and it can be shared with the people around them. They will become good agents of change for the global community aside from eradicating misconstrued understandings of Islam," said Ustaz Abu Bakar.

MAI believes that the responsibility of a madrasah is to nurture a future generation that is not only knowledgeable and God-conscious, but also able to benefit the society as a whole. Hence as an extension to Dirasat Deeniyyah that it has in school, MAI has made efforts to reach out to the community and share part of its syllabus.

Public forums are organised at mosques to bring up pertinent issues in the community. This year, two of such forums were organised to reach out to the public – Ya Bunayya in March 2017 and Diari Seorang Khalifah in September 2017. The two forums took lessons from stories in the Quran, and addressed issues on raising God-conscious children, educating youths, as well as managing peer pressure and other distractions.

These are also steps for MAI to grow closer to the community and understand them better so as to provide more relevant events and discussions in future.



# DOING THEIR BIT TO SPREAD MERCY

In December 2016, MAI was given the opportunity to collaborate with Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation (RLAF) for a humanitarian project in Medan and Timbang Lawan, Sumatra, Indonesia.



“ MAI students were given the opportunity to personally distribute basic daily necessities to the villagers at Medan.

## 18 STUDENTS BACK IN TOUCH WITH NATURE TO AID AND REJUVENATE NATURE AT MEDAN, TIMBANG LAWAN

Last November, 18 students from MAI were given the opportunity to explore Medan and Timbang Lawan, Indonesia as part of MAI's efforts to inculcate global awareness and commitment to service.

The 6-day expedition aimed to give the students exposure to practical geography fieldwork, cultural diversity, as well as deepen their sense of community service to those beyond the local society. Students extended humanitarian aid by distributing rice, refurbishing a sanitation



facility and building study tables for the *Rumah Bacaan* (Reading House).

“Alhamdulillah, this trip has taught me a lot on how to apply things we learnt in class – in terms of geography as well as being a practical Muslim. It was really eye-opening. I feel like we all can do more,” said student, Luqman Al-Hakim Mohd Najib when asked about the trip.

This was also the first time 16-year old Nuwaira Azman went on an overseas learning and humanitarian expedition. Nuwaira felt that the trip made her more aware and sensitive to the environment around her.

This year, the team took part in a local humanitarian project – giving food hampers in Ramadan, as well as cooked food from MAI's *Qurban* in *Zulhijjah* to needy families in *Toa Payoh*.



***“It was an opportunity of a lifetime - getting to learn and experience so much within just a week. I feel very grateful.”***

Nuwaira Azman, Sec 4

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ARABIAN KNIGHTS



We organised 'Khatamul Quran' at MAI to instill the love towards Al-Qur'an which is our saviour in this world and hereafter. All students and teachers were involved in mass recitation of Al-Qur'an till the end of the holy book. The event has uplifted our spirituality to another level and hopefully enhanced us to be better muslims.

Ustaz Abu Bakar Sidik, HOD Islamic Studies



I enjoyed doing Arduino. It was a new experience for me. While doing Arduino, I felt motivated to know and learn more about it. It sparks my interest for Physics. I feel happy and a sense of satisfaction when the bulb lights up. STEM club has really broadened my horizon and makes me want to understand more about the world through science.

Izzah Zakia Yusoff, Sec 2 Ihsan



Archery has given me countless opportunities to prove myself. I thoroughly enjoy training and competing with my team or even by myself. I cannot describe the satisfaction I feel when I see that I have made my school, friends and family proud of my achievements. It has helped me become a more positive and disciplined individual. I do not plan to ever stop doing archery.

Zayna Hashim, Sec 3 Al-Biruni

## MAI ALUMNI GIVES BACK

After graduating from MAI, we are heartened to see MAI alumni doing well in their respective fields. What's more, we are happy to know that our alumni continue to contribute back to the society on top of their daily schedule. Here are some of their stories.

"MAI has a balance of both the Ukhrawi & Duniawi education which I am eternally grateful for. Alhamdulillah, on top of acquiring knowledge for secular subjects, I grew up with the basic knowledge of Islam nurtured in me." said **Muhd Farzan Aziz, a MAI alumni who graduated in 2008.**

The Ukhrawi background Farzan grew up with and passion for design and buildings, drew him to develop a deep interest for mosque architecture. Since then, he pursued his dream to build mosques in Singapore through an architectural course in Temasek Polytechnic, then to Interior Design at SIT, University of Glasgow. After going through a 6-week internship at Glasgow and graduating from SIT in 2016, Farzan now is a Project Officer at Warees Investments, a company in charge of mosque building and design in Singapore. He describes madrasah education as a holistic learning experience - teaching academic knowledge as well as nurturing students with good Islamic values.

"Through interior design (new era pedagogy), I also hope to help students learn and increase productivity and enhance their way of thinking if given the opportunity," Farzan added.

## A MIND FOR MACHINES A HEART FOR THE COMMUNITY

Another **MAI Alumni, Nur Aini Ayoub** recently graduated from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Now a Project Engineer at Changi Business Park, the 26 year-old still makes time in her schedule to participate in voluntary groups.

Aini believes that giving back is part of her responsibilities as a Muslim to strengthen the community. Being a part of Juzhurul Arabiah (JARl) - a voluntary group started by MAI alumni, Aini actively participates in programmes to help orphans and the needy in the community. This is on top of her personal effort tutoring children from low-income families for free.

"MAI is special to me. We are family; teachers are like our parents, friends at MAI are my sisters till now. They have taught me knowledge in life and religion that I applied through my polytechnic and university years. Alhamdulillah, I am very grateful for the opportunity," Aini mentioned.



*"I feel that it's vital for us (madrasah alumni), to continue da'wah in every possible way that we can - it's part of our obligation. We have to start doing with whatever we have. And we will improve slowly from there. The key is to 'Start now.'"*


- MAI Alumni, Nur Aini Ayoub



Every donation will help students of MAI to achieve excellence insyaAllah.  
May all your donations be multiplied and blessed by Allah s.w.t. as promised.

## HOW DO I DONATE TO MAI?

**1** **DONATE DIRECTLY**  
1 Lorong 6 Toa Payoh  
Singapura (319376)  
Tel: 6744 4749



**3** **BANK TRANSFER**  
CIMB 200-0471-341  
(Email your name, address and contact  
to [give@mai.sg](mailto:give@mai.sg) for receipt)



**2** **SEND A CHEQUE**  
'Madrasah Al-Arabiah  
Development Fund'  
(Write down your name and contact  
number at the back of the cheque)



**4** **DONATE ONLINE**  
<http://mai.edu.sg/giving-to-mai>



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