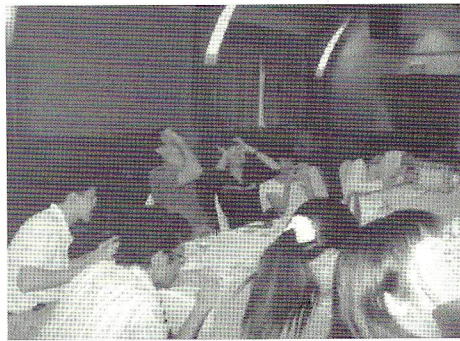


Can a Serious Subject Like Science Be Taught with Toys?

JANCHAI YINGPRAYOON (janchai@lox1.loxinfo.co.th) Silpakom University, Thailand
International Council of Associations of Science Education

Our teachers' workshop series ended with great success on 6 to 8 September 2004. With hundreds of Science and Mathematics teachers and educators from primary schools, secondary schools, junior colleges, tertiary institutions, and private educational centres attended the session; many went back with great satisfaction and inspiration. We also received much excellent feedback and compliments from the participants. They were satisfied with the knowledge they gathered from the sessions and, most importantly, they are able to bring back with them innovative yet practical techniques they can straight away use in the classroom.



One of the highlights of the teacher's workshop series is three one-day continuous workshops delivered by Dr Janchai Yingprayoon, the president of International Council of Association of Science Education (ICASE). Dr Janchai has given the Science educators and teachers in Singapore a different perspective of

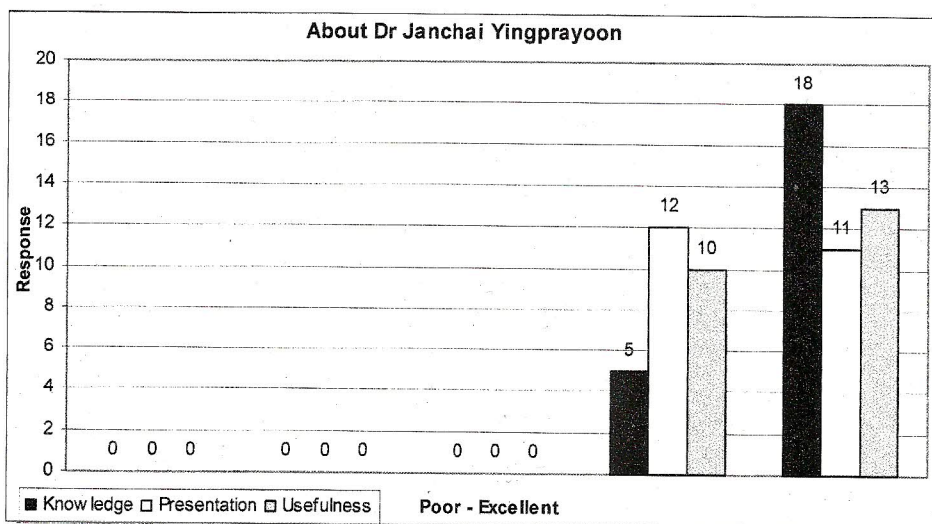
teaching the subject, breaking the paradigm that Science has to be taught like a serious subject in school.

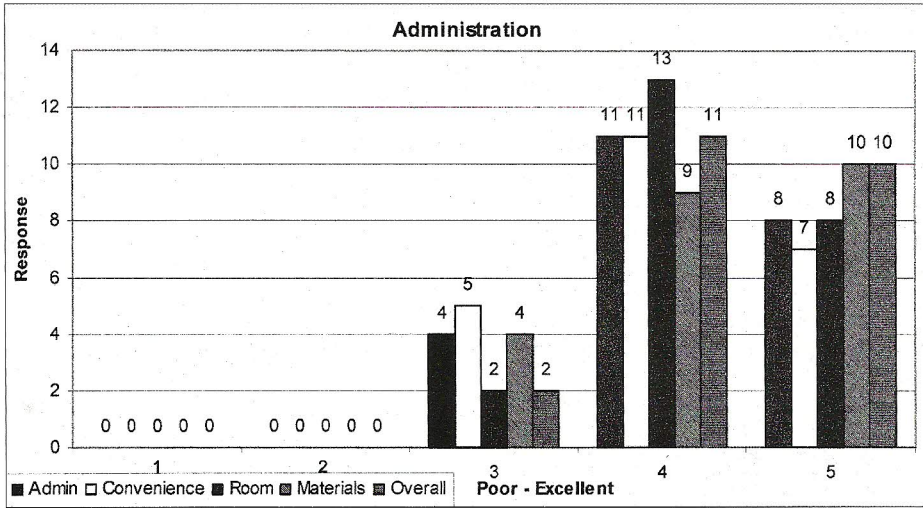
He started his interesting session by flying an UFO into the middle of the room capturing the participants' attention. This act revived the "child" in every participant and created excitement. He then explained the scientific concepts behind the flying object. He advocated that Science is a fun subject, and many common things around us can also be used to explain about Science concepts. Educators and teachers should not just teach theories based on books, but should also try to incorporate fun and humour into the subject when teaching it.



Teachers and educators were asked to perform little experiments throughout the sessions to enable them to personally experience on how doing little experiments adds fun to the whole lesson, and also help students to be able to understand and remember the science concepts and theories better.

The workshops ended with excellent feedback and many participants were greatly inspired and told us that they cannot wait to share what they have learnt with their fellow colleagues back in their schools. The Figures below show some consolidated feedback for the sessions:





This series of workshops are organised by Synergyst Pte Ltd and supported by ICASE. Synergyst is an event consulting and organising company dedicated to promoting people development of all ages. We are particularly passionate in helping teachers learn creative teaching methods that they can readily use in schools, and we have been organising such programmes actively since September 2003. For more information on our upcoming events, visit our website at www.synergyst.com or email to info@synergyst.com