

## WAIT Team UK teaches abstinence in the Philippines

Matthew Huish  
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When the WAIT team landed at Manila Airport on the 13th July, they were warmly welcomed by Gem Custodio who took them for an evening meal at Jollibee, a popular Filipino fast food chain. After that they traveled through heavy traffic to the Manila Peace Embassy where they would be staying for a week before Bohol.

The next day, the team had a wonderful breakfast which displayed a show of colour and taste and was made even better by the long-awaited arrival of the Core team consisting of Aya, Ai-li and Hanna. As the Core team, they would be setting the foundation for the start of WAIT in the Philippines. The UK team spent a few hours with the Core team, getting to know each other and sharing information about WAIT. In the afternoon, they went around Rizal Park where they learnt about Jose Rizal's importance and history. Being in the Philippines, the heat was expected to hit them hard and it did. It followed them as they walked around the Japanese and Chinese gardens, which were beautifully decorated with red and brown gates and paper dragons swirling around the pillars of the entrance. After a few hours, everyone went to Buddy's where we ate some Filipino dishes such as pancit, lumpia shanghai and rice... Despite the traffic, it was a wonderful first day.



The WAIT team's first full orientation took place the following day at the International Peace Leadership College (IPLC), where they met very eager and talented students! The students practice Tong-I Moo Do,

a form of martial arts and displayed an array of flashy moves which were very impressive. Ai-li, as the MC, introduced the WAIT team who were met with a loud, roaring cheer. They were made welcome and felt their expectations being set with that cheer. As the team performed, they began to meet those standards and exceed them with every song and dance. Lunch was served shortly afterwards, with our coaching session following that.



There, the WAIT team had the pleasure of teaching a handful of students the Machine Dance and Uncle Marshall had the pleasure of giving one of them a WAIT shirt, the first of many. The president of IPLC, Dr. Venus Augustin, provided a short talk before our farewell. Later that day, Auntie Naomi and Uncle Marshall received an email from Dr. Venus, proposing a future partnership between WAIT and IPLC. The WAIT team embarked on another long journey beginning with a gorgeous view, sharp turns and ending with rocky roads once more.

