

# #testimonial

A team of 5 was selected to participate in the Quiz. The only change to the team this year was the choice of substitutes. We must reflect on the 2nd Quiz, which was our first attempt at participating.

Only on the same day of the first round (2014) were we told we qualified to participate. So many issues we faced: transportation, funds; we felt unprepared and nervous. But we placed fourth then. That experience gave us the impetus to look forward to entering in 2015. We were not driven by winning, but by the need for exposure and experience. It was then that we decided we would keep the team together and asked the coach, Mr Lall, to remain as our trainer. We were eager for the start of the events by ACTT and the coach advised us to check the ACTT website every day. Sometimes we felt fearful because the other schools seemed to have more resources and better systems to assist them.

Of course, we did not prepare as we should have because our other teachers placed their demands on us to concentrate on our studies. Yet the coach encouraged us to spend some time looking at the launch of ACTT's events, reading their Newsletter and studying the contents of the Quiz Study Guide. In spite of the abundance of information and the advanced terms and vocabulary, we kept the interest in participating high.

Preparation for each round required strategies. The coach prepared a list of questions and gave each of us a copy. In addition, we summarised the Guide in our own language and stored it in written format which we could have carried with us. We could not have met as a team as often as should have happened because of our school system, so we studied with guidance. Sometimes the coach met us after assemblies, came to meet us in our classes or sent information to us but we relied on the new technology to conduct our studies. The internet and emails became our main strategy for studying.

It was good for us that our team members are also good friends, so we collaborated daily and on every occasion. We gained invaluable lessons from our friendship. This we used to make the team stronger. We tested each other. At other times we were independent learners; we were isolated and laboured individually.

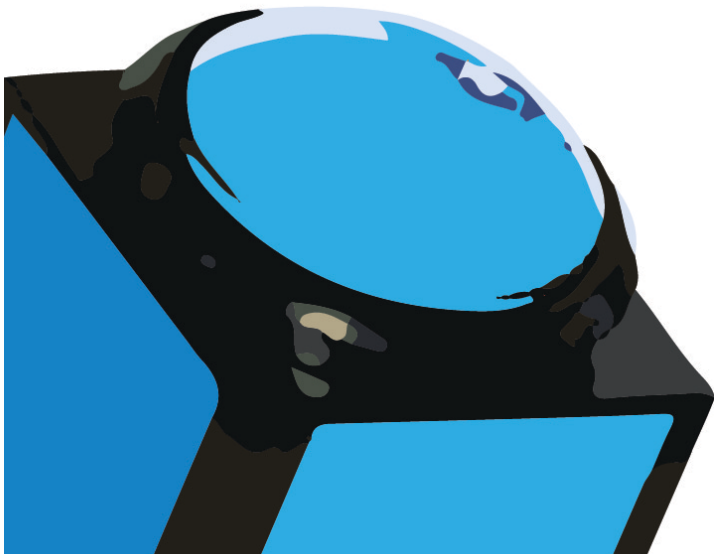
Another benefit was meeting peers from other schools. We built genuine friendships, even with our rivals. In fact, there was no feeling of rivalry from us, even though some schools were aggressive in their strategies. We saw ourselves as polite, docile and always conforming to civil conduct.

We also valued meeting the ACTT team. They were friendly, genuine in their wishes for us and organised the events professionally. They were friends. We were liked and felt their love for us. We loved meeting the staff who was polite and looked attractive in the Company's wear.

For us, the most important lesson was how to lose gracefully. We stumbled, fumbled and had false starts but we accepted the results without protesting. To lose is not to fail. We didn't place first but we felt accomplished and satisfied and gave our heartiest support to the other teams. Some of them became our friends in such a short time.

There are skills we acquired. We learnt the importance of research before choosing a tertiary institution. ACTT did much in alerting us to the importance of accreditation, quality assurance in education and assessing where we want to study after secondary school.

With regret we say the same team cannot participate anymore. Our coach has already asked us about certain students whom he thinks are suitable participants this year, 2016. We are certain when that time for training arrives, the coach will ask us to assist in preparing our new team. We look forward to participating again.



**Kadee Bramble, Shannia Ryan, Empress Allsop,  
Shakeera Mangra and Tamika Seuraj**  
*Fyzabad Anglican Secondary School*  
ACTT's 3<sup>rd</sup> National Quiz on  
Quality Assurance in Higher Education 2015