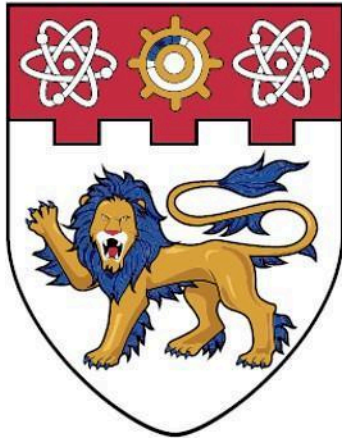




**NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY**

SINGAPORE

**OG Department Stores – Mr Tay Tee Peng
Distinguished Undergraduate Student Award
(DUSA) AY2025/2026**

Project “Jurassic Juniors”

Post-Event Report

The Learning Journey to the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum (LKCNHM) at NUS was planned and organised by Cheng Wing Yee, recipient of the Tay Tee Peng Distinguished Undergraduate Student Award, as part of a community project.

Project Overview

Project Background s Objectives

Project “Jurassic Juniors” was designed with the aim of providing children from underprivileged backgrounds with an enriching experience that combined fun, learning, and exploration. Growing up, I became aware of how opportunities outside of the classroom can spark curiosity and leave lasting impressions, yet such experiences are not always equally accessible to every child. With this in mind, the project set out to create an event where children could be exposed to something new, engaging, and memorable.

My previous involvement in various community service initiatives shaped the way I approached this project. Volunteering with children in student care, where I once facilitated a recycling workshop, highlighted how hands-on, interactive activities could capture their attention and make learning enjoyable. Similarly, my experience at the Institute of Mental Health, where I co-founded and led activity-based sessions for patients, taught me the importance of creativity and adaptability in engaging diverse groups. These encounters reinforced my belief that creating meaningful experiences requires sensitivity, imagination, and a willingness to see things from the perspective of the participants.

“Jurassic Juniors” is a project that would combine education, exploration, and social interaction. Dinosaurs and natural history specimens were chosen as the central theme to ignite curiosity and make scientific concepts tangible. Beyond just learning about prehistoric life, the project aimed to encourage children to think about biodiversity, environmental sustainability, and the consequences of human activity on ecosystems. By stepping into a different setting from their classrooms, the children could experience knowledge and enjoyment in a more tangible and exciting way. The event was planned to balance fun with educational value, ensuring that the children not only enjoyed themselves but also took away new insights.

Event Objectives

1. Ignite Curiosity and Foster Learning:

To inspire children to explore the natural world through hands-on, interactive experiences, using dinosaurs and real specimens as gateways to understanding evolution, extinction, biodiversity, and environmental sustainability.

2. Promote Social Engagement and Holiday Enjoyment:

To provide a fun, memorable outing during the September school holidays, allowing children to bond with their peers, share experiences, and enjoy learning in a relaxed, social environment outside the classroom.

3. Raise Awareness of Diversity and Conservation:

To encourage children to appreciate the diversity of life and understand the importance of environmental stewardship, instilling a sense of responsibility and inspiring them to think critically about the impact humans have on ecosystems.

Venue and Target Audience

The learning journey took place at the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum and involved 33 participants, including 25 children from Kukoh+, Yong-en Youth & Child Development Centre. The centre supports children from low-income families, providing safe spaces for learning and enrichment. There were 8 volunteers who accompanied the children.

Planning Milestones

1. **Coordination with Kukoh+ Staff**

Extensive planning with Kukoh+ staff ensured the children's needs were met, from dietary considerations to transport logistics. Regular discussions were held to finalise attendance, itinerary, and activity details.

2. Programme Design and Content

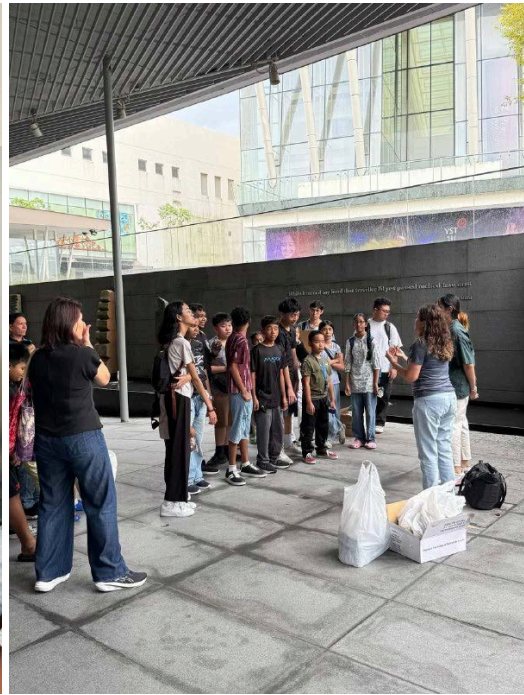
The museum tour was carefully structured to balance fun with educational value. Children were introduced to dinosaur fossils, Southeast Asian biodiversity, and interactive exhibits designed to stimulate curiosity and critical thinking. The programme was designed to be hands-on, allowing children to see real specimens and engage directly with scientific concepts taught by professional tour guides from the museum.

3. Logistics and Enrichment Touches

Securing the venue and transport involved repeated calls, emails, and follow-ups. I liaised closely with the museum to arrange guided tours and ensure accessibility to all exhibits, including making accommodations for children with special considerations. Simultaneously, I coordinated with the bus company to confirm pick-up, drop-off timings, and routes. Each call, confirmation, and reminder was crucial to ensure a seamless and punctual experience on the day itself.

Considerable research and planning went into sourcing all physical items for the event. Decisions on which dinosaur mystery packs, bucket hats, and snack items to purchase were made after careful evaluation of quality, cost, and suitability for the children. Food delivery and catering arrangements were confirmed well in advance, including breakfast and post-event treats. Bread and water were provided at the start of the day, followed by treats including Nasty Cookies and bubble tea at the end to leave a sweet memory. Dinosaur mystery toy packs were prepared to add excitement and surprise, and each child received a bucket hat to create an immersive Jurassic atmosphere.

Photo Gallery



Icebreakers and getting to know the children better



Distribution of bread and water for breakfast, bucket hats, and toys

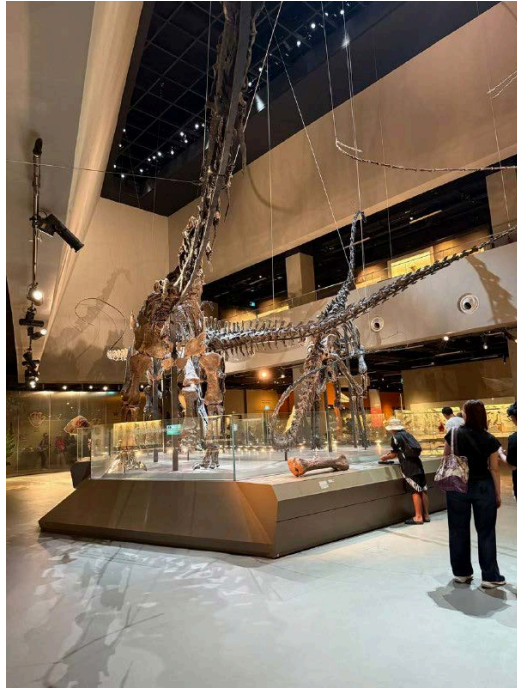
I anticipated that the museum would be crowded with visitors, given the school holiday period. Bucket hats were useful for easy identification of the children and volunteers.



Children playing with the dinosaur toy



Volunteer tour guides of LKCNHM







Distribution of snacks after the tour



End of the journey!

Event Execution

The event timeline was carefully planned and followed to ensure smooth transitions between activities, allowing children to experience each exhibit fully while maintaining engagement and safety.

The event timeline was as follows:

Time	Activity
9:00 AM	Meet at pickup point / community center
9:15 AM	Depart for NUS Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum
9:30 AM	Breakfast and briefing session
9:50 AM	Arrive at museum
10:00 AM	Guided gallery tour begins
11:30 AM	Guided tour ends
11:30 – 12:00 PM	Distribute cookies & bubble tea
12:00 PM	Board bus and depart back to community center
1:00 PM	Dismissal

The event was carried out smoothly and according to plan, with all key activities running on schedule and transitions executed seamlessly. Careful pre-planning and clear communication with all stakeholders, including volunteers, transport providers, the museum team, and catering services, ensured that the day unfolded without major disruptions.

Challenges Faced

Managing a group of over 30 children in a busy public museum required extensive coordination and constant communication. To ensure that every child remained engaged, accounted for, and safe, volunteers were strategically assigned to smaller sub-groups. This allowed for closer supervision, more meaningful interactions, and smoother navigation through the galleries.

It was also difficult to gather such a large group in a crowded museum space for a debrief without causing disruptions or losing focus. To address this, the debrief session was shifted back to our starting point at Fairfield Methodist Church, where the environment was more controlled and conducive to reflection, group sharing, and a proper conclusion to the day's activities.

Another unexpected challenge arose before the event even began. On the morning of the trip, I called the bus driver 20 minutes before the scheduled pick-up, only to discover that he was unaware he was assigned to the morning shift. This miscommunication between the driver and the bus company could have caused significant delays if it had not been addressed promptly. By staying proactive and contacting the bus company immediately, the situation was resolved quickly and the bus arrived on time. This incident highlighted the importance of anticipating potential issues, maintaining calm under pressure, and responding swiftly when unexpected problems occur. It also reinforced the value of clear and timely communication with both partner organisations and participants, ensuring that everyone remained informed and reassured despite last-minute changes.

Reflections

“Jurassic Juniors” reinforced the value of creating learning experiences that are both educational and enjoyable. By combining interactive exhibits with fun elements such as toys and themed hats, children were able to engage with complex topics like biodiversity and environmental sustainability in a playful, memorable way.

The project also demonstrated how exposure to new environments can spark curiosity and inspire critical thinking. By giving children access to experiences that they might not otherwise encounter, the project encouraged them to explore, ask questions, and connect with the natural world. Their curiosity was evident in the many thoughtful questions they asked and the way they interacted with exhibits, demonstrating how such outings can ignite deeper interest in science, nature, and the wider world.

On a personal level, this initiative strengthened my understanding of how much effort and coordination lie behind what might appear to be a simple one-day event. From early-stage planning and logistics to on-the-ground troubleshooting, I learned how attention to detail, clear communication, and adaptability are crucial in ensuring a smooth and meaningful experience for all participants. Facing unexpected challenges such as last-minute transport miscommunications taught me the value of staying composed under pressure and thinking quickly to find solutions.

Acknowledgements

It has truly been an honour to be selected as a recipient of the OG Department Stores – Mr Tay Tee Peng Distinguished Undergraduate Student Award (DUSA) and to be able to give back to the community through a meaningful project. I am also grateful to Nicholas Ang and the team for helping me with the award process.

I would like to thank Kukoh + for trusting me to bring their children to this learning experience. Their volunteers provided invaluable support and guidance throughout the event itself.

I am also deeply grateful for the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum and its volunteer tour guides for providing such an engaging environment, and everyone who helped behind the scenes. Finally, I thank my family for their support, encouragement, and belief in me.

Once again, thank you, OG Department Stores – Mr Tay Tee Peng DUSA, for this incredible opportunity to carry out Project “Jurassic Juniors”!