

Good morning everyone,

We are all gathered here today, to celebrate the difference and importance of cultures.

Cultures can be expressed through art, literature, costumes, customs and traditions of a nation. Culture has many forms of expression and is an integral part of living. Different cultures exist in different parts of the world. Each culture is unique and shapes our own individual lifestyles.

We all value our culture as much as we value ourselves. Culture is that invisible bond that connects us and brings individuals together as a community. Here, at the International School HCMC, our philosophy is “fostering individual ability”. The philosophy adapts to many cultures in different expressions. In the ISHCMC community one of the philosophy’s objectives is to create a better, more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. This objective can be achieved by all members of our community, helping one another, being aware of our peers’ backgrounds and showing friendship towards everyone.

I am Vietnamese although I also have American citizenship. This has enriched me as an individual. I am developing the characteristics of both cultures, enabling me to know that we may have differing perspectives because of the values, principles and traditions I am learning from my Vietnamese-American heritage.

I have been apart of the ISHCMC community for the past 13 years and I have had the opportunity to develop friendships with my peers, from many different countries. We are fortunate enough to have an education that is international but do we make the best out of it in terms of understanding the similarities and differences of others? Students ask yourselves this: How often do you make friends with others outside of you own nationality? I think that we all need to understand that despite our differences, our similarities make us have the same needs. If we understand others, it will benefit our growth and lead us to a rewarding life.

Yes, our different backgrounds make us one of a kind. We are unique! Cultures exist and play a major role in our lives but amongst us comes unity as individuals learn and play together.

I hope you enjoy the following performances which will give you an insight into an aspect of each culture, enriching us all, as we share together and appreciate more about each other.

Thank you and enjoy the show!