



Think Great Award Champion

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Theme:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Popular Culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspiring People & Amazing Deeds
Division:	<input type="checkbox"/> S.1 – 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S.4 – 7	
Date:	24 th April, 2008		
Title:	G'low'balization?		
Picture:			
Caption:	<p>It was last Easter when I took a picture of this lonely Cambodian child, holding imported confectionery from me, yet looking indifferent or even quizzical. "What's that? What's going on?"</p>		

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<p>Commentary:</p>	<p>What do crackers and confectionery mean?</p> <p>Hong Kong child: It's tea time!</p> <p>Cambodian child: What are they? Are they food?</p> <p>Crackers, confectionery, or even other products like computers, motor vehicles, are “necessities” without which we cannot live so comfortably and enjoyably. These necessities are made in low income countries like Cambodia and Vietnam. Is such international trade of goods – globalization – good news to people from these countries?</p> <p>Because of their low literacy rate, because of their gigantic family size, because of the potential income, young children are either left alone or asked to work. They are deprived of childhood life enjoyed by their counterparts in HK, and imported necessities are all but strangers to them. Why are they destined to suffer from globalization, while we are entitled to a pleasant life with proper education and care? Should we put the blame on fate alone?</p> <p>No! Everybody is born fair, and there is no reason why those children should not be able to live a more fortunate life. While we are purchasing these imported goods, thereby creating a demand for these commodities, people from low income countries are pressed harder for higher output level. To them, g'low'balization means nothing more than extra work, low wage rate and low living standard, since superpowers have more bargaining power over trade prices, and poor workers can only take a tiny share from the large transaction amount.</p> <p>Can we do anything to help? Aside from giving out candies and snacks, I believe a more practical way would be to show support to fair trade goods and abandon products of profit-oriented multinational giants. Each individual makes a difference, and I sincerely hope that when I meet this child again, he will receive treats with a big smile on his face, just like how HK children would react.</p>
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