

Momodou S Ceesay (MEng, AIMEchE)

Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

15.11.2019 to 02.12.2019

Special Purpose Award

£1000 Awarded

55 Teams. 22 Countries. 440 Races. The 15th F1inSchools World Finals in Abu Dhabi was the largest ever STEM event in 19 years. I was very grateful to be part of this historical and monumental feat. F1inSchools has always been a special STEM event for me personally, having been a volunteer for 6 years and witnessed how it has moulded careers of participants.

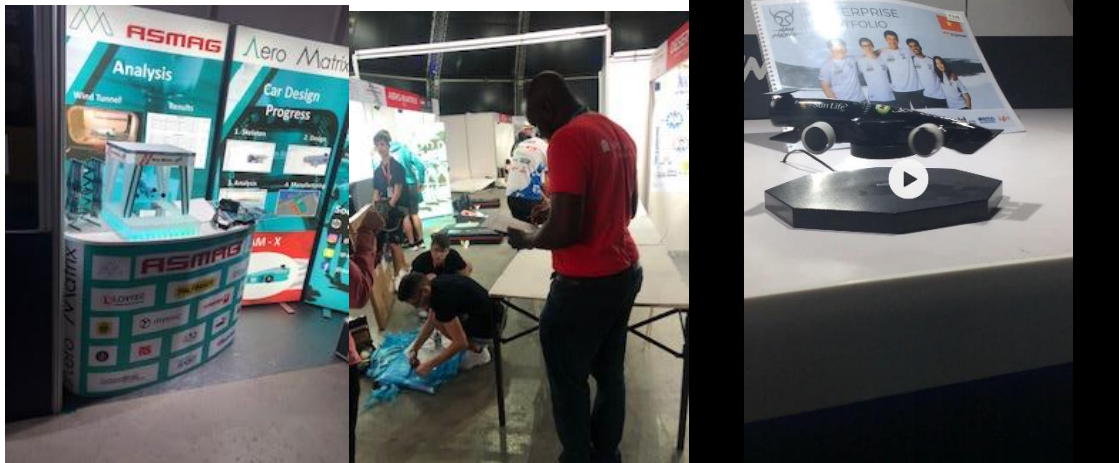


On my journey to the airport, I was privileged to share the coach and airplane journey with the legendary David Croft (Sky Sports Legendary F1 Commentator and 9-year Ambassador of F1inSchools). It was a great sign that the next 2 weeks was going to be epic, and epic it was!



Week 1 Summary: Pit Display/Scrutineering/Track & Car Service

Once the formal introductions were done, teams allocated their work areas and judges assigned their duties, all the teams had to set up their kits and parts within a 3.5 square metre space in 2 hours! Thankfully all the teams managed to complete their displays, with some intuitive and thoughtful ideas, such as the levitating 50.1g model car spinning at 60rpm from the Vietnamese Chinese team, Namphong.



Once the 25m track was set, nylon supports checked, CO₂ canisters tested and trigger timers confirmed, the races began. The technical regulations for the car designs were stricter than previous years. For example, cars that weighed less than 1/10th of a gram or exceeded 3grams were liable for up to 30points penalty points (the less points one accrues, the greater the chance of winning the elusive and rewardable 1st place competition).



Most memorable and rewarding moment from Car Service and Scrutineering:

'A winner is a dreamer, who never gives up' Nelson Mandela

This magnanimous individual's quote reminds me of Team Divignite, a team of 4 resolute girls from Singapore who had their carbon fibre wings and 2 cars snapped in two during the race. Teary eyed, desponded and almost giving up, it took Gorilla epoxy resin glue, 2 hour consultation from the great Chair of Judges Gary Anderson and 4 judges from Brazil/Greece/Gambia/Abu Dhabi, 24 hours for the glue to set and a position in the knockout competition to bring back the sheer joy, excitement and relief for this determined youthful team. They were so happy and delighted to continue being involved in subsequent day competitions and gave each of the judges that gave them a second chance gifts on the last day. It reminded me that no matter how despair things always seem at first, self-confidence and strength of mind always perseveres, and this attitude should be applied to all aspects of one's life, personal or professional.



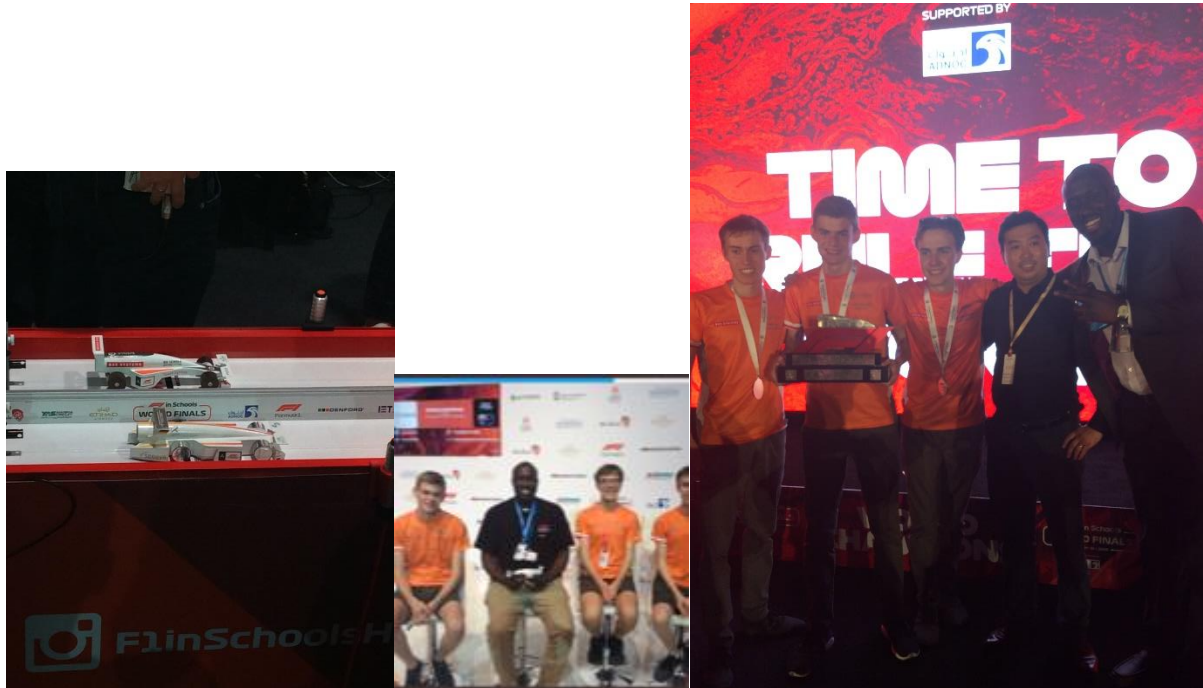
As well as learning a plethora of greetings and phrases in 7 different languages...

你从哪里来？ Nǐ cóng nǎlǐ lái?

...in the end a team of three 17/18 year old boys from Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Faversham, Kent, to be crowned F1 in Schools World Champions 2019, collecting 4 trophies and the prestigious title at a stunning Awards Celebration Ceremony held on Turn 1 under the iconic Shams Tower at the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi, just two days before Formula 1 cars took to the track for the ETIHAD FORMULA 1 ABU DHABI GRAND PRIX 2019. Two of the three boys applied for and won places in the Unilever Williams Engineering Academy (UWEA). Along with the World Champions title the boys have won scholarships to City, University of London, UCL Mechanical Engineering and University of Huddersfield.

All of this was down to all the judges playing the part scrutinising the difficult decision in determining which team and country deserved these prestigious awards. However, it was clear that Evolve triumphed in their Pit Display, Enterprise portfolio and capping their success by outracing the German team at the knockout finals!

The award ceremony saw celebrities galore attending namely Nico Rosberg (previous F1 World Champion), Chase Carey F1 CEO and Lewis Hamilton (6-time World Champion) surprising both the Chinese/Malaysian team and meeting up with Evolve UK, along with Toto Wolff, Mercedes AMG F1 Team Principal.



"Individuals win games, teams win championships"

As a basketball fan, this mindset has remained with me all my life. From the organisers of the F1inSchools event to the individual and collective teams who had an experience of a lifetime, teamwork always triumphs and is rewarding. Abu Dhabi, a 48-year-old developing and economically thriving country, was truly a special place to host the finals. The Islamic traditions were present in a moderate and conservative welcoming environment, coupled with a strong and diverse community that hosted and welcomed all participants of the competition. I am still in touch with some of the professional engineering judges, from South America to Greece, and looking forward to my 7th year of being apart of this great f1inschools family.

My aim is to achieve my CEng status with the IMechE with emphasis in education, boost my career to hopefully further excel in the prestigious ranks amongst fellow Mechanical Engineers and Project Managers. The last 5 years saw f1inschools challenge apprentices to partake in competitions with great success and enabling students to showcase their amazing talent. I was personally involved in the 2017 world finals that saw the first ever apprenticeship team to win the R&D award in Malaysia (3 of the participants were the same individuals I mentored back in 2013!)

Benefits of doing an Apprenticeship

Level 3 NVQ Engineering Manufacture Apprenticeship

I was very pleased and surprised to see my apprentice I taught the above course at a previous employer 2 years ago whilst doing the pit-walk on the Abu Dhabi track. As a previous RedBull F1 apprentice, he described his journey to his current team, Haas F1, and how obtaining a Distinction grade overall along with his practical hands-on skills solidified his current role travelling with the team globally. I was extremely happy to see him grow as an Engineer, doing what he always wanted to do, working full time for an F1 team.

Certainly, one of the most memorable moments of my journey and what a way to end my trip!



Outcome of the IMechE Special Purpose Award: Educate | Motivate | Inspire

As a result of attending this year's finals my current employer, Solihull College & University Centre were formally requested by the Mr Denford, founder/chairman of F1inSchools, to become an F1inSchools Academy. This will establish a centre to work with and support Primary and Secondary Schools, including local communities, to partake in similar future STEM events. The cross-curricular school project I will be responsible for in managing will focus on the following life and employment skills:

Leadership	Literacy
Collaboration with Industry & Business Partners	Numeracy
Personal Learning & Thinking	Sport & Sports Science
Entrepreneurship	Design & Technology
Team Working & Cooperation	Art & Design
Citizenship	Textiles
Drive & Motivation	Engineering STEM Delivery
Resilience & Self-Management	Science
International Collaboration (World Finals)	Computing
Problem Solving & Communication	Business & Enterprise
Organisation & Project Management	Applied Science Law

I would strongly recommend other Award holders to engage in F1inSchools and aid in its growth. The world's largest STEM competition aims to globally raise the profile of Engineering and Manufacturing and since its launch 19 years ago, it is presently active in over 51 countries and over 26000 schools involved in the challenge!

The IMechE is the founder of the Policy Centre, consisting of 39 UK professional engineering bodies and representing over 450000 engineers. I would wholeheartedly encourage representing companies to contact their local schools, or if approached by participating schools to support them fully. My sincere gratitude and appreciation to the board members at IMechE for enabling me to attend with the Special Purpose Award, especially Ms Frost for processing the application. I look forward to working with Awards committee, and similar, to push the F1inSchools project to further UK cities and globally.



Attached: F1inSchools Academy Request Letter



November 2019

Mr Mick Nicholl
Head of Mechanical Engineering
Solihull College & University Centre
Woodlands Campus
Auckland Drive, Smiths Wood
Solihull
West Midlands
B36 0LY

Dear Mr Nicholl

Re: F1 in Schools Academies

I am writing to introduce F1 in Schools - the world's largest STEM competition - which aims to globally raise the profile of Engineering and Manufacturing. In fact, since the launch of F1 in Schools 19 years ago, we are now active in over 51 countries, with 26,000 Schools involved in the Challenge.

Over the last 5 years, we have also been expanding the Challenge to Apprentices, with great success, and we are producing amazing student talent! Students have progressed to positions with engineering and automotive companies and we also have many placements in Formula 1 - all of which demonstrates that F1 in Schools is highly successful in providing talented students, who are ready for the world of work within the manufacturing community.

F1 in Schools not only covers all STEM disciplines, but also delivers Key Life Skills for all students - please refer to the enclosed Life Skills poster.

Following on from the success of our very first F1 in Schools Academy, which is based at UCL Engineering in central London, we would welcome the chance to discuss the possibility of Solihull College & University Centre becoming a regional F1 in Schools Academy, establishing a centre to work with and support Secondary and Primary Schools and the local community - see enclosed Hub & Spoke Academy poster.

Also enclosed, for your information, is our Event Report from our 14th World Finals, held in Singapore last year, which showcases the amazing successes and opportunities afforded by the Challenge.

Should you be interested in establishing an Academy, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Yours sincerely
for F1 IN SCHOOLS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew M Denford', written over a horizontal line.

ANDREW M DENFORD
FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN