

## Ghana Microfinance Club

The Office of Student Activities is happy to report that on Friday February 14, 2014, the UNIS Ghana Microfinance Club hosted a guest speaker, Ms. Yukari Hara. Ms. Hara works in Ghana for the Japanese Embassy, but also as the Volunteer Leader/Executive Director of her own NGO “My Dream – Bridge the Gap,” which aims to help children in poverty in Ghana. She has undertaken several projects with this NGO, including building her own preschool for children in the Ghanaian village of Bognayili. When she visited UNIS, she spoke about her experiences with her projects working with children in poverty.

In the words of T3 student, “we got to hear about what it is like to actually be a part of this school and embrace the local culture (eating local Ghanaian dishes, learning local slang and traditions) but more importantly, we learned about some aspects of life that we cannot observe from afar. A few remarks that really left an impression in our minds were that the children of the village were learning under trees before the school’s establishment, which meant that they did not have adequate learning materials/resources and that since those children’s parents did not know how to count, they had no idea how to manage finances or understand basic math. As people who have been privileged enough to get a good education and live in such developed countries, these aspects of life are unimaginable for us and her short stories served as reminders for why we should continue to help those in need. As of now, she is working on building a playground in the preschool to allow children to have fun in addition to learning. The Ghana Microfinance Club has decided to make a \$150 donation to her NGO, in order to support her ongoing project. You can learn more about this organization by going to <http://mydreambridgethegap.webs.com>. We hope to continue in our efforts to help people in need in the future.