***AIEC-Kyle TE Speech***

Good morning, everyone!

My name is Kuysing, but you can also call me Kyle. I'm from Cambodia and currently a Year 10 international student at Doncaster Secondary College. My sister and I moved to Melbourne in 2022, and we’ve been living here for two years now. Melbourne truly feels like a second home to us.

First, I’d like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you! I’m just as excited to have everyone here as you are. Before I begin, I’d like to sincerely thank you all for giving me the opportunity to introduce myself and share my experiences of living in Melbourne over the past two years. Melbourne is a vibrant, multicultural city, full of art, culture, and, of course, delicious food from all over the world. I sincerely hope you get the chance to explore and experience these things later!

Living in Melbourne has been an amazing experience. It’s one of the best cities in the world, filled with welcoming and caring people. Before I left Cambodia in July, Mrs. Huang, our international student coordinator, reminded me to get a good puffer jacket for Melbourne’s winter, and I’m so glad she did! Coming from a tropical country, I wasn’t prepared for how cold it would be, but thanks to her advice, I didn’t end up freezing like an ice sculpture. Although the winters are cold, Melbourne’s other seasons bring warmth and beauty, making each day enjoyable.

The schools in Melbourne are also full of opportunities. At my school, for instance, there’s a short story competition every year, and last year, I participated and guess what? I won it. This competition is one of the achievements I’m most proud of because it taught me to never pass up opportunities and to always give things a go. I’m sure there are plenty more opportunities like this in all Melbourne schools, the short story competition is just a small example of it.

Outside of school, there’s plenty to do. My sister and I love shopping together, though I often find myself carrying all her heavy bags until my legs give in! We usually head to Westfield, Melbourne Central, or Emporium. And speaking of food, Melbourne is a food lover's paradise. I’ve had the chance to try Vietnamese pho, Italian pizzas, Australian meat pies, and so much more, all in one city, our very own Melbourne city! Whenever I head to the city in the morning, I always grab a hot matcha to start my day right.

There are also many exciting places to visit, like the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne Skydeck, the laneways, and the Melbourne Zoo. My personal Favorites are the NGV and the laneways – the laneways’ free and always have something amazing to show. The local libraries here are also fantastic. They’re cool in summer, heated in winter, and perfect for studying. When exams or project deadlines are coming up, you’ll often find me at the library finishing my work.

Overall, living and studying in Melbourne is an incredible experience. Melbourne is indeed a city full of diversity, productivity, and endless opportunities.

Thank you all again for listening to my speech. I wish everyone here an inspiring and productive three days at the conference. Enjoy Melbourne as much as I do!