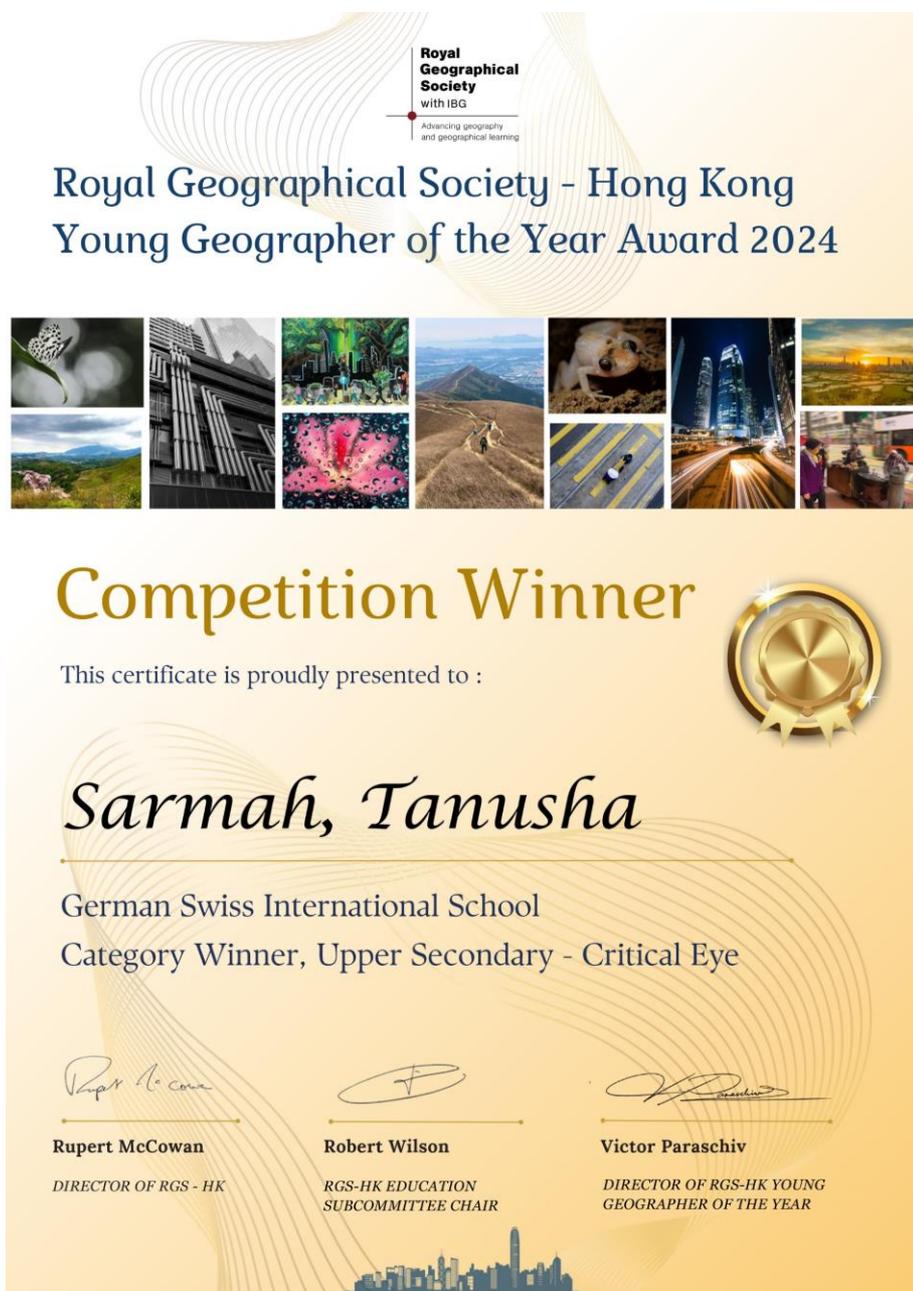


I am a passionate geographer.

My IB Extended Essay Topic was on the effects of climate change on coral reefs in Hawaii. I used an interdisciplinary lens of both geography and biology to fully understand the topic and reach a more reliable conclusion.

Recently I won the Hong Kong Young Geographer of the Year Award. My competition entry was a self-painted acrylic artwork, accompanied by a written piece, demonstrating the brutal impacts of shark finning. Hong Kong is one of the largest consumers of shark fin and a major hub for its trade

Young Geographer of the Year 2024 Certificate



Picture of the Artwork showing painting and write-up

Hong Kong Young Geographer of the Year Award 2024



Hong Kong is one of the largest shark fin consumers and a major hub for its trade, accounting for over 40% of global shark fin trade annually. This, combined with the absence of regulations and limits on shark catches has led to the absolute desimation of Hong Kong's shark populations.

Shark fin soup holds cultural significance in Chinese cuisine, symbolizing wealth and prestige for centuries. It is commonly served at weddings as a gesture of respect to guests and a display of the host's status. Unfortunately, the popularity of shark fin soup is a main contributor to increased shark endangerment. However, an increasing number of Hong Kong companies, such as HSBC and Swire, are introducing shark-free policies to demonstrate corporate social responsibility.

This painting demonstrates the brutal impacts of shark finning in which shark fins are cut off whilst the rest of the body is discarded back into the sea (usually when the shark is still alive) to maximise space for valuable shark fins on fishing vessels. Portraying a drowning shark in a soup bowl aims to raise awareness about the ethics of shark fin soup and encourages reconsideration of consuming it in the future.

Upper Secondary - Critical Eye
Category Winner

Sarmah, Tanusha, 16 years old
German Swiss International School