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Taking time out for community

Express News Service

Chennai: For students of Stella Maris College, the last few weeks have been busy. It was one of the five institutions to be selected from India to attend the International Conference and Service Learning Programme held in Philippines that concluded recently.

Four students from the department of sociology had the opportunity to study about the disruptive effects of the typhoon Yoolanda that hit Philippines in November last year.

They attended discussions themed around the topic 'Disaster Response, Community Resilience and the Role of Asian Universities'. The nine-day programme had the students volunteering to

help day care centres, organise coastal cleanups, conduct awareness programmes on self-help groups, visit bunk houses and interact with residents. They also got an opportunity to interact with NGOs and engage in restor-

ing community life there. Besides all this, they also found some free time to go fishing, collect shells and play with the local children.

Madhavi, a participant, says, "There were so many things I had never done be-

fore. It was all for the first time." Another participant, Minu, adds, "For me, the experience has been nothing short of life-altering."

The learning programme was organised by The United Board for Christian Higher

the all-women college unveiled their new slogan 'Dream, Explore and Discover' at the investiture of the Student Union of 2014-15 on July 9.

The new Union uses the logo of an eye to depict the



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Education in Asia (UB-CHEA), in association with Silliman University, the University of St. La Salle, the Central Philippine University and Filamer Christian University.

Meanwhile the students of

vision each student must develop to explore and discover life. And to initiate this year's social theme of fitness, the Union's first project, an organic food kiosk, was inaugurated after the investiture ceremony.