JAPAN – PHILIPPINES TEENAGE AMBASSADORS PROGRAM (IN JAPAN)

ACTIVITIES REPORT

We have carried out the Teenage Ambassadors Program for Japanese and Philippine high school students. The contents and achievements of the program are summarized as follow.


II. Places: Tokyo, Miyagi, Iwate Prefectures

III. Participants:
- 20 Japanese high school students (Miyagi Prefecture Sendai Nika High school)
- 20 Philippine high school students (University of the Philippines Integrated School (UPIS))

IV. Activity contents (See pictures for references)

1. Courtesy visits
   Visit to the Prime Minister’s Office 30 Sep. (Tue.)
   (welcomed by Mr. Kato, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary)
   Welcome Reception 30 Sep. (Tue.)
   (at the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Japan)

2. Historical and cultural activities
   Inspection of environment related facilities 30 Sep. (Tue.) ~ 1 Oct. (Wed.)
   Visit to the world heritage Chusonji, Moutsuuji 2 Oct. (Thu.)
   Kokeshi painting, Japanese dancing experience 2 Oct. (Thu.)

3. Exchange activities
   School visit and lecture attendance 3 Oct. (Fri.)
   Home stay 3 Oct. (Fri.) ~ 5 Oct. (Sun.)

V. Featured activities:

1. Upon the request of the Philippine government, we have organized for the students to visit and study about sewerage and waste treatment facilities.
2. The students also experienced wearing the kimonos, learning Japanese dance and also painting on the traditional Kokeshi dolls.
3. The Mayor of Sendai City has attended the Farewell Party.
VI. Photos of activities:

【1】[Courtesy visit]

Visit to the Prime Minister’s Office 30 Sep.

↑ Opening speech by Mr. Yokoo, Director of AEON 1% Club Foundation

↑ Speech by the student of UPIS

↑ The Japanese student presenting a souvenir to Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Mr. Kato

↑ The Philippine student passing to Mr. Kato a souvenir for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

↑ Greeting speech with warm encouragement by Mr. Kato Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary
Commemorative photo at the Prime Minister’s office
(1st row, from the left) 3rd, 4th, 5th places: coordinating teachers,
6th place: Mr. Kato – Vice-principal of Sendai Nika High school, 7th place: Mr. Kato – Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary,
8th place: Mr. Yokoo – Director of AEON 1% Club Foundation, 9th place: coordinating teacher

Welcome Reception at the Embassy of the Philippines in Japan  30 Sep.

↑ Opening speech by Mr. Hayashi, Chairman of AEON 1% Club Foundation

↑ Welcome speech by H.E. Mr. Lopez, Philippine Ambassador to Japan

↑ The Japanese students presenting the souvenirs to H.E. and Madam Lopez

↑ Speech by Mr. Motegi, Former Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry
↑ Speech by Mr. Nakagawa, Former Minister for Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

↑ The students having a friendly chat with Mr. Kaieda, a member of the House of Representatives, Democratic Party representative

↑ The students having cosy chats with directors of AEON 1% Club Foundation

↑ The Philippine students performing Barong dance

↑ The Japanese students performing Yosakoi Souran dance
I think the reason why I had very good relationship with Minister Domingo was that Minister Domingo’s wife was a huge fan of Japan. It is not just about the wives but if one of your family members is a fan of Japan, then there will be a lot of generation of the relationship being generated from that. I hope that the students will take this opportunity of visiting Japan to have exchange with people of their same generation, and experience various aspects of Japan. And I expect that they will go back to the Philippines with those experiences with them.

I am very interested in the activities of AEON 1% Club. Activities like this Philippines Teenage Ambassadors or China Teenage Ambassadors have had a very long history; and I have been invited (to their Welcome Parties) several times. I think the exchange activities among the youth are very important, which will bear fruits in five or ten years later. Japan, in the hope to promote the image of a friendly and respected country to the others in Asia, needs to continue its exchange with them. And this program, I believe, helps to fulfill that purpose.

I know that this program has been carried out by AEON 1% Club for a long time, just right after its establishment in 1989. I really admire and feel grateful to their programs facilitating the exchange between Japan and other countries in Asia, especially ASEAN. The relationship between the Philippines and Japan is strategic; and I think it is vital that the youth of both countries can understand each other. I hope that this program can provide them with good opportunities to do that.
【2】[Historical and cultural activities]

**Inspection of environment related facilities  30 Sep.-1 Oct.**

1. ↑ The Philippine students listening to the explanation of the household water-pipe system at Sewerage Museum in Tokyo
2. ↑ The Philippine students listening to the explanation of 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) at Matsumori Waste Disposal Plant of Sendai city
3. ↑ The Philippine students listening to the explanation of the process of recycling PET bottles
4. ↑ Inspection on the process of recycling the waste at Matsumori Recycling center

**Historical places visit, cultural experience  2 Oct.**

1. ↑ The Philippine students learning to perform the “Sakura Sakura” dance in Japanese kimonos
2. ↑ The Philippine students painting on Kokeshi, the traditional dolls of Miyagi Prefecture
【3】【Exchange activities】
School visit, lectures attendance  3 Oct.

↑ Sendai Nika high school welcoming The Philippine students

↑ The Philippine student presenting a souvenir to Mr. Kuramitsu, Principal of Sendai Nika high school

↑ The Philippine students performing a dance in front of students of Sendai Nika high school

↑ The Philippine student enjoying an English game

↑ The Philippine students enjoying a Japanese – Chinese class

↑ The Philippine students trying the Zunda-mochi making
Home stay  3-5 Oct.

↑ A welcome toast with the host family

↑ The Philippine student chatting with the host family while baking kamaboko (a dish made from fish)

↑ The Philippine student selecting souvenirs with the host family

↑ A souvenir photo with the host family

Farewell Party  5 Oct.

↑ Speech by Ms. Okuyama, the Mayor of Sendai City

↑ Speech by Mr. Kuramitsu, the Principal of Sendai Nika High school
The Philippine student presenting souvenirs to Mayor Okuyama

Bon-dance (traditional dance in Japan) performed by both Japanese and Philippine students.

A dance by Philippine students

Students of both countries crying at the farewell moments

Commemorative photo

(3th row from below, from the left) 5th place: Mr. Murakami, AEON Co. Ltd. Tohoku representative, 6th place: Ms. Okuyama, Sendai city Mayor, 7th place: Mr. Kuramitsu, Principal of Sendai Nika High school
VII. Feedback:

**Philippine high school students**

(Quoted from questionnaire) I will never forget the feelings of meeting such kind Japanese people, being inspired by them and being reminded of the wonderful values the Filipino culture also has. I will forever treasure the cultural experience this program has provided me. I’ve learned to appreciate both Japanese and Filipino culture even better, and I have gained inspiration from this program, to use culture as a bridge connecting many countries now as a student and in the future.

**(UPIS student)**

(Quoted from questionnaire) I have opened my mind to other cultures and accepted the differences. Through the homestay, I have learned the value of respect and cleanliness and punctuality. I also like that the Japanese have an inkling towards simplicity, nature and balance, and they show it in the house and behaviors. I hope that Filipino people should also embrace this lifestyle.

**(UPIS student)**

**Japanese high school students**

(Quoted from questionnaire) Through this program, I have learned that languages were merely a tool. Although I and my family cannot speak English fluently, we could communicate somehow by gestures and a mixture of English and Japanese. At the school in the Philippines, I could even solve an assignment and explain it in front of everybody, and had fun all the time during the homestay. I’ve learned that I’d better talk to more people to learn more things rather than being passive and keeping silent.

**(Sendai Nika High School student)**

(Quoted from questionnaire) I did not know exactly what country the Philippines was before participating in this program. After visited the Philippines, I realized that there are many things that I should learn more about the country. It was not easy for me to explain things related to Japan in order to answer the questions from the Philippine students. Whereas I have studied about foreign countries, I have not tried getting to know more about my own country. Through this program, I realized that it was very important to get to learn my home country first before learning about other countries.

**(Sendai Nika High School student)**
**Coordinators, Student parents, Guests**

Simply it was very fun. She (Tin) was very polite and good at using chopsticks. I was impressed that she was eager to taste dishes which she might have never tried before. Homestay was a very good experience even though it lasted only two days. My daughter says "I want to go again!!" every time our family travels to countries outside Japan. I hope that Japan also makes Tin want to visit again like that.

I was surprised at the effort of the Japanese government for the environment related facilities, and that the environmental education starts from elementary school. It makes me consider the seriousness of the environmental issues. Also, I had better understanding of Japanese culture through visiting and experiencing Tokyo Tower, Chusonji, Sadou, and practice. I appreciate Aeon 1% Club Foundation which has been working on social contribution activities worldwide.

I think this wonderful program has provided the high school students of both countries, who are very sensitive to changes and will play active roles in the near future, the valuable opportunity to visit the country of each other and deepen their friendship. I hope that from now on they will take advantage of the experience they have gained in the program, to promote more and more international exchange in both personal and career lives.

Not only does this program deepen the exchange between the Philippines and Japan, but it also deepens the exchange of the youth for the next generation. And it would lead to the good relationship in the future. This program makes me understand that the students are influenced by many aspects. I was very impressed that besides the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, private entities are also organizing such kind of global activities.