

## Futoshi Sato, Advisor

In the Environment Course, we talked about a big theme “What should we, the world citizens, do to lead productive life without damaging the environment which should be passed on to the next generations, and reducing the natural resources (and without leaving garbage/wastes)?” In this conference, due to the time limitation it was difficult for the participants to reach the answer as they wished. Still they concluded their learning well in the presentation.

From now on, I hope every one of them will lead their lives with this grand challenge in their mind constantly in their respective places. Ways how they practice or degree of interests and involvement can differ depending on a person. Some may take baby steps to tackle this in daily lives, some may study about this as a researcher, some may tackle this through business as a business person or entrepreneur, and some may get involved in politics in the local region or national level, or international level. Please keep working with the motto, “Think Globally, Act Locally,” be minded this grand challenge at heart and take action from where you are.

There is a finding from this year’s participants voice which I felt different from the previous years was that there were many voices touching upon the “gap” in the society. The voices were found in the assignment submitted in advance of the program. At the same time as our discussion program, “Summit for the sustainable development” was held at the United Nation in New York, and “2030 agendas for sustainable development” was adopted and in this agenda, “Dissolution of gap” was taken as a major challenge.

In the globalized world, as sustainability is the common challenge among mankind as the gaps seen in domestic and between nations are rooted in this globalization thus solution requires global perspective and new insight.

I truly wish for all participants’ success. I also would like to extend my gratitude to the volunteer staff members who organized this program from the initial planning to running, as well as to the committee members who took care of the participants. My sincere gratitude goes to respective people and the Cabinet Office of Japan for the priceless opportunity.

## Erika Kato, Coordinator

Discussion was held for three days. On the first day of the conference, Discussion of the Environment Course started with the ice-breaking. Participants seemed nervous first. However, as they introduced each other with their body moving, more smiles appeared in their faces and all the tension seemed to have melted away. After the ice-breaking activity, discussion goal was set by sharing their ideas based on the pre-assigned work. They shared the ideas what is “Richness” for each of them and what are the elements which fulfill their “Richness.” Also they confronted the specific cases which are environmentally and economically dis-balanced, and they understood respective country’s situations and conditions.

The next day, they had an institutional visit. The

objective of the next day discussion was to share the former day’s discussion, and deepen their discussion based on exchanging their opinions. Mr. Kanzawa from NPO Toziba gave a lecture which helped them deepen their understanding about the environmentally conscious lifestyle. And they exchanged the idea that would enable them to make the sustainable society in a real meaning based on the concept “Ecological foot print” which was given by the lecture of Advisor Mr. Sato on the first day. Participants constantly came up with flexible and fresh ideas as youths, and enjoyed sharing the idea to each other. After that, they discussed and made a presentation on the viable ideas in each country or countries in cooperation in order to realize sustainable society. On the last day

presentation, participants fully showcased the outcome of the discussion.

Through the meaningful discussions participants realized how they could take a role to

contribute in creating sustainable society. I believe that the participants had deepened understanding mutually through the discussions.

### **Yuka Mabuchi, Japanese Participant : Cambodia Delegation**

As I participated in the International Youth Conference, I learned that it is important to hear opinions of others sincerely and accept them flexibly. I also learned that as I had expanded my views from the people with various back ground, I myself can be the one who can inspire others.

In the discussion, I was asked “What about this in Japan?” several times, and I thought it was necessary to learn more about Japan. Also I barely knew about the situations of the participants’ countries. I came to realize how small the world I knew about it, and this made me feel fresh to join the discussions.

In the environment discussion group, we had various opinions from different views on the measures for sustainable development. Participants introduced respective countries’ cases or actions, we introduced about Japan as a developed country situation, and we could approach the topic from multi angles. We could share the same issues, collaborate opinions on the same page and generate good ideas. This was a very meaningful experience that this conference only could offer, I thought.

I am honored and happy to be part of this conference and had a great exchange with a lot of people from many countries.

