

Culture Course

◆ Theme:

Actions the youths can take to pass on traditional cultures

◆ Course Goal:

Share traditional cultures of each country and discuss to understand the meaning and value of why we carry on traditional cultures. Explore specific ways how participating youths can work for their succession.

◆ Course Objectives:

By sharing various traditional cultures, discuss the similarities and differences with consideration to their historical background and how they were carried on. Based on the first discussion, find out what are traditional culture and its importance.

Consider the necessity and value of carrying on the traditional culture and examine what kind of elements of traditional culture should be inherited.

Furthermore, think of an action plan for the participating youths to pass on the traditional culture to the next generation and how to develop it.

◆ Assignment:

1. Study a few traditional cultures in your own country, among which you wish to carry on to the next generations. Of each culture, considering its historical background, please include the following points in your explanation;
 - (1) How it was started.
 - (2) How it was carried on.
 - (3) Why it was successfully carried on?
2. By utilizing your researched materials in the Assignment (1), prepare a 5-minute presentation together with your delegation members from the same country. Please choose 3 traditional cultures per country and be ready to present on September 23.

◆ Institutional Visit on September 24:

Urasenke, Tradition of Tea

◆ Course Staff:

Advisor: Ichiho Abe (Urasenke)
Coordinators: Arisa Hirooka/Sae Matsuo
Staff: Riho Takenaka
Staff: Ayaka Hikimoto
Staff: Kanako Takahashi



Date / Time	Program	Venue
Sep. 23 (Wed.)		
10:45-11:45	Orientation	Narita Excel Hotel Tokyu
12:30-13:45	Welcome Lunch	
14:00-15:20	[Course Discussion 1] Presentation on traditional culture of each country based on pre-task assignment	
15:25-16:20	[Course Discussion 2] • Based on your presentations, find similarities and differences of different countries' traditional cultures, considering their historical background • Define what is "Traditional Culture"	
16:25-17:00	[Course Discussion 3] • Why have some traditional cultures been passed on from generation to generation? • Why have some traditional cultures been in danger?	
17:10-18:00	Lecture by Advisor: Ms. Ichiho Abe "Why has Chado been passed on for nearly 500 years?"	
19:00-21:00	Exchange Dinner	
Sep. 24 (Thu.)		
8:15	Travel to the Institutional Visit Site by bus	Urasenke, Tradition of Tea
10:00-11:30	Institutional Visit: Urasenke, Tradition of Tea	
12:30-13:30	Lunch	Narita Excel Hotel Tokyu
15:00-16:10	[Course Discussion 4] • Do we need Traditional Culture? If so, why? • What kind of elements of traditional culture should we carry on?	
16:15-17:00	[Course Discussion 5] Think of an action plan on government, company, NPO, media and school level	
17:00-17:30	Summary	
19:00-21:00	Cultural Exchange Party	
Sep. 25 (Fri.)		
9:00-10:15	[Course Discussion 6] Presentation on your own action plan	Narita Excel Hotel Tokyu
10:30-12:00	Travel to the Hotel New Otani Tokyo by bus	Hotel New Otani Tokyo
12:00-13:00	Lunch	
13:00-15:00	Summary of Course Discussion	
15:30-16:30	Discussion Summary Presentation	
17:00-18:00	Evaluation Session	
18:30-20:00	Reception	
20:15	Leave the Hotel New Otani to National Youth Center (Japanese Youth Goodwill Mission only)	



Ichihō Abe, Advisor

It is said that taking culture as a discussion theme is difficult. Because culture is presupposed to be something should be diverse and doesn't fit in the setting to conclude in one direction. Or culture is constantly being born every day but takes time to become a tradition. Some may disappear meanwhile. So in this course, in consideration of the historical backgrounds of traditional cultures which have been inherited in each country, participants conducted discussion to find what each of them can do to inherit traditional culture as conclusion.

Many participants mentioned of globalization or westernization as the reason why traditional culture are endangered. Certainly culture can preserve better its originality without exposing to different world. However, thanks to globalization, we are able to obtain information through the Internet or media and take what we need to keep traditional culture existing, developing and promoting to the world. Only essential quality should be preserved. In Sado, Japanese tea ceremony practice, many new measures

are taken to be developed and to be inherited, still, "Wa Kei Sei Jaku" ; harmony, prudence, purity and tranquility as the regulations of the Japanese tea ceremony will never change.

In order to have participants remember what they learned from the program, I asked the participants to make a statement on a star shaped card what they can do now or they want to do now in order to inherit traditional culture, also as a result of practicing their action, what kind of grandmother or grandfather they will become in the future. It was impressive that there were many participants who were interested in both passing down the heritage to the next generation and connecting with other culture and passing down to the decent.

Participants of the Culture Course, when you were engaging in the discussion your eyes were serious, sparkling and that was brilliant. Please stay passionate and keep shining or even become brighter as well as the card you put down your statement!



Sae Matsuo, Coordinator

Two days before the International Youth Conference, "What is traditional culture?" I reviewed this in myself from what we talked about in the previous five preparation meetings which had been held before the conference day came. The highlight of the three-day conference was the presentation session by the participants that had been prepared as assignment. After each delegation finished the presentation, there were too many questions exchanged to proceed the session and we had to limit the number of questions. This showed how enthusiastic they were to learn and study about other countries. Following this, Advisor Abe gave a lecture and at the next day's Urasenke visit, participants were able to learn how Chado, Japanese

traditional tea ceremony transformed and inherited. From this experience participants learned that it is important for inheritance of traditional culture to take steps and transform into new shapes in accordance in process of time.

Participants were engaging in activities barely showing their fatigue when arrived in Japan. The time allocated in discussion was so short that they were not able to discuss well in entire topics. However, this experience gave them an opportunity to realize what they could do toward traditional culture. I strongly hope that their opinions exchanged and knowledge gained through this program will be utilized in their respective actions in the near future.