

ally appreciated that.

Finally, in visiting the elementary school, we were able to show participants my former working place. The children with a look of expectation welcomed the youths. After the program, many school students came out of the school gate and

linked their hands to form an arch to farewell the youths. Every child smiled brightly. I was impressed with all of that. I felt we were able to make an opportunity for the children with the future.

Thank you very much for the precious opportunity this year again.

### **Mako Yoshimoto, Discussion Participant**

I participated in this program for the second time as a local youth but it was my first time to be part of the discussion program. This time we welcomed Cambodian and Papua New Guinean youths. Since those countries were not familiar to me there were many discoveries through this discussion. There were three discussion groups such as culture, environment and education and our group's discussion theme was culture. Since this topic has a wide range to talk about such as traditional costume, food, marriage, alcoholic drinks, language, we had an active discussion about various topics. Since Papua New Guinea is a country which has the characteristic to have a number of ethnic groups with more than eight hundreds of language, the question "How do people take the situation such as marriage between people who speak different languages?" "How do they have conversation at home?" were asked, and they answered as in case people with different languages got married, they have communication with common language called

"Tok Pisin" and each parent talks to his/her child in each language so that the child would become bilingual. I felt the difference between Japan and Papua New Guinea through the answers. Also I learned the interesting fact of Papua New Guinea, such as in case of marriage, the number of pig possessed by the person is important.

After participating in this discussion program, I got the feeling that participating youths spent most of their time for discussion held indoor since they arrived in Japan and they seemed tired. If they had more time walking around the town by themselves, they could deepen their understanding about Japanese culture for a change, and had more different views in the discussion. During discussion, I sometimes ran out of the topic and nothing to talk about, so it was a good opportunity for me to realize that I needed to improve the skill to talk about wide range of topics and to improve English.

I truly thank for the experience and appreciate this opportunity.



## Sophoanvotey Hum, Cambodian Participant

Cambodian Participating Youths highly appreciate the amazing and memorable four-day educational trip in Ishikawa. We have experienced a great combination of educational development, technological advancement, cultural preservation and environmental protection through many activities in Ishikawa Prefecture.

The journey to Ishikawa was convenient due to the existence of direct Shinkansen from Tokyo. We received a very warm welcome from the local coordinators and youths who accompanied and facilitated throughout the whole program. On the first day, we visited Kenrokuen Garden and experienced tea ceremony. It was truly amazing since we had a great opportunity to feel the prosperous culture of Japan. The following cross-sectional discussion was done successfully with a very fruitful result.

The second day of the program was a great eye-opener to the new way of green lifestyle when we, environment team, visited Kanazawa-city Seibu Kankyo Energy Center. We received a very descriptive explanation regarding high-tech waste treatment and waste management. This visit was very beneficial as it provided concepts for us to start developing green lifestyle in our home country. The final presentation at the end of the day was done successfully when our previous concepts were embedded with real life experiences and exhibition in Ishikawa.

The third day was incredibly unforgettable at Kosaka Elementary School. We had a very good time talking with kids and at the same time sharing many things regardless of the age

gap. We will also never forget Prefectural Police visit and the warm welcome of Ishikawa Prefectural Government during the courtesy call.

The visit at Komatsu Corporation showed an amazing technological advancement of Japan. The following program was an in-depth cultural experience when youths were allowed to cook Japanese dish, do Japanese calligraphy and learn Japanese language.

During the program, we did not only have a chance to experience Japanese culture but also gained cultural understanding through many cultural performances and sharing sessions. We strongly believe that cultural exchange is very crucial for all of us to accept the great diversity of the world culture.

The last farewell was very memorable with the presence of the representative of Ishikawa Prefectural Government, coordinators, local and international youths.

Once again, we really appreciate the remarkable experience in Ishikawa Prefecture and we promise to carry the knowledge received from this visit to locally and globally practice in a very wise way.

