

Sanda Bruna, Latvian Leader

Jurita Krūma, Nauris Mālītis, Arita Voicehovska, Latvian Participants

During the Local Program in Okinawa, delegations were divided into three discussion groups – Environment, Education and Culture.

Within the Education Course we had a chance to discuss about differences in Japan, Latvian and Egyptian education system. In parallel with discussions we visited and hear more stories about Japanese youth centers and community involvement in education activities. The main outcome that we all as a team learned how to empower young people be more interested in lifelong learning education – we need to let kids be kids; we need to bring education for kids through games – this will provide the status where we give tools, not specific knowledges that can change in decades. We need to teach children our culture, traditions and nature in order to secure self-learning process. Diversity in education is important (different generations, information bubble). We as a group spoke about the societies involvement in building better education environment – there is a need to promote and develop cooperation between government and society.

Environment group had the opportunity to share environmental problems of their own countries. After that we visited a local volunteer association that

were protecting a local beach and a turtle-like looking-peninsula-Ka-mi-ji. They told us their interesting approach to changing government policies in order to protect nature. They didn't protest and go against the government, instead they started to educate the local youths about the history and the natural diversity of the beach. By many interesting actions and activities they managed to educate the society around that place. The government was interested in the positive actions that they did, so after several discussions they managed to change the plan of building a bridge over the sea. In the end we chose one problem from each country and thought about what similar activities we could apply to overcome. How can we use the Ka-mi-ji example in order to solve our own problems.

The experience we, delegation of Latvia, gained in Culture Course in Okinawa is amazing! We understood that culture isn't only customs and traditions. Culture shows your identity, way of living and it represents our countries. It inspires you on big actions in future. Of course, there are a lot of differences between cultures, but we learned that all should be respected and understood.



7. Kagawa Prefecture

Date	Time	Activities
Sep. 30 (Wed.)	16:20	Arrive at Takamatsu Airport
	18:00-19:30	Dinner and interaction
	19:30-20:00	Orientation
Oct. 1 (Thu.)	9:30-11:00	Institutional visit to Nippura Co. Factory tour and lecture
	11:45-14:00	Visit to Sanshu Izutsu Yashiki, a restored merchant house * Tour at Soy Sauce Warehouse, Lunch, tour at Sanshu Izutsu Yashiki
	14:30-16:30	Fuji Cardboard Industry Co. Factory tour and lecture
	18:00-19:30	Dinner
Oct. 2 (Fri.)	10:20-15:15	Visit Kameoka Elementary School * Exchange with Japanese students * Learn about Japanese education * School lunch exchange * Cultural performance by each country
	16:30-17:00	Courtesy Call on Kagawa Prefectural Government * Speech by the representative of Kagawa Prefectural Government * Speech by the representative of Egypt * Gift Exchange
	18:00-20:00	Welcome Reception * Speech by the representative of the Preparation Committee * Speech by the representative of Kagawa Prefectural Government * Speech by the representative of Latvia * Cultural performance by each country * Homestay Matching
Oct. 3 (Sat.)		Homestay
Oct. 4 (Sun.)	12:00-12:45	Exchange of opinions
	12:45-13:00	Farewell Ceremony
	13:40	Depart from Takamatsu Airport by ANA-536
	15:00	Arrive at Haneda Airport

Keisuke Suga, President of International Youth Exchange Organization of Kagawa

I have been in charge of one of the local programs every year for more than ten years. For the last six years, I served as the chairperson of the organizing committee as well as President of Kagawa IYEO. This time at the farewell ceremony, I burst into tears and I could not give a farewell speech at the ceremony. Why did I get so emotional this time, even more than ever? This year, in the first half of the program, we arranged the program for three different factory tours and visiting an elementary school, and courtesy call on the Governor of Kagawa Prefecture. The companies who allowed us to visit this time usually do not offer any factory tour to the public, which seemed difficult to make this happen. Yet, they especially gave us the opportunity. This opportunity came true just because of kind and generous support of the companies and the people who were involved in this program.

Also the elementary school we visited had taken time to prepare for the exchange even though the timing we visited was in their busy season, which is right after their sports festival. The students seemed to have practiced a lot for the opportunity. These efforts were made by a lot of people who were working hard in the back of this program. Participants were fully

engaged in any occasions enthusiastically like asking questions, exchanging with local people. That made me assured how capable the participants were.

In the homestay program, each family welcomed a participant as a real family member and the participants must have had an unforgettable experience which would last for a life time. In order to conclude these programs, we had the farewell ceremony. When the time came, I got emotional and teary because I thanked all the related people who paid a lot of support for this program implementation and also I had to say good bye to the participants.

The local program is a wonderful program that impresses people beyond the races or boundaries. Because we can meet the world even if we are too busy with the hectic daily life to go abroad. I have strong expectation in this program continuously.



Toshiharu Kasai, Host Family

Although I happily had accepted to host the participant, as I hear the person was a thirty-year-old female delegation leader, I had a thought if an older man like me would have something in common to talk about with her or if I could speak English well.

All the anxiety was gone away after I hosted her. Ms. Bruna knew well about any topics such as politics, economics, education, religion, and different culture and especially it was impressive for me that she showed interest in children education. I had an