

impression that she was sincerely tackling with some things concerning Europe. What impressed me most was her attitude to challenge those things positively as youth instead of showing negative observations. My wife seemed to be impressed by her attitude that she expressed herself fluently although my wife didn't fully understand what she was talking about.

When it comes to hosting a foreign guest, language is necessary. First I was not sure if Latvians were able to speak English but their fluent English surprised me. I asked about English language education to two other university students other than Ms. Bruna. They both said that they used English movies with subtitles or animation to master English and chose to study English when they were in the first grade in an elementary school. Latvia is the

country with the population of two million or so. Compared to Japanese English education, it seemed so different.

I was thinking that now is not the time for traveling abroad. However, I came to be interested in Latvia and started thinking about going abroad again. Although Japan and Europe are geographically far away, this homestay-experience made me feel like having a friend just from some neighboring countries. I feel that these merely three-day brought our family "Youthfulness" and "Passion."

I would like to extend my gratitude to this program for this opportunity and I positively would like to cooperate in this program next year as well. Thank you very much.

Mohamed Fekry Abdelmaboud Almoghazy, Egyptian Participant

I am glad to deliver a brief report about the visit of Egyptian and Latvian delegations to Kagawa Prefecture.

After arriving at the airport, we were welcomed by Mr. Keisuke Suga and some host families. We received gifts from the International Youth Exchange Organization of Kagawa. Later, we moved to a traditional Japanese restaurant for dinner. The most of the delegation members liked the food in this restaurant, especially Udon noodles. After dinner, both Egyptian and Latvian delegations sang a Japanese song as a greeting for the attendees.

Next day we visited three types of manufacturing companies. We started our tour by visiting Nippura Co. which produces acrylic products for aquariums. After watching 15 minutes video about the company activities, our guide took us a tour inside the factory to see the manufacturing process. Next we visited Kamebishi Co. which produces soy sauce using traditional method.

Ms. Kaori Okada (the 18th generation of her family) took us for a guide where she described the manufacturing process. We had a chance to visit their family house to see how traditional Japanese houses looked like. Later, we visited factories that produce cardboard products with different sizes and colors.

On the third day, we visited the oldest elementary school in Kagawa Prefecture. At the beginning we had a reception in the school in which students made a performance with using traditional



musical instruments. Then, both Egyptian and Latvian delegations gave two performances expressing our cultures. After reception we went for visits to classrooms where we had a chance to attend some classes like art, origami and music which helped us know more about the education system in Japan. After finishing school visit, we moved to the prefectural building where we met the Governor. This meeting was started by the Governor's speech, and the Latvian delegation leader, Ms. Sanda Bruna,

gave her speech on behalf of the participating youths in the local program. After exchanging gifts between the Governor and delegation leaders we had a discussion time with the Governor about different aspects in Kagawa. After that we moved to have a dinner and every participating youth got introduced to his/her host family.

We enjoyed homestay program and on the last day, we moved to the airport. We had a sum up session and left for Tokyo.

Sanda Bruna, Latvian Leader

During the Local Program in Kagawa we had a chance to visit an elementary school and local businesses - cardboard company, acrylic glass factory and soy sauce warehouse. The most exciting part was homestay program, where each participant had a chance to spend 1.5 days in local Japanese families. All participants from Latvia mentioned that homestay program was the emotional peak or top of whole INDEX 2015. This was a life changing experience because during the homestay program all participants had a chance to experience the Japanese family traditions, catering and more deep conversations about Latvian and Japanese values, history, traditions and culture.

Visit to the elementary school gave great inside look into the Japanese education system - all Latvian participants were amazed and highly appreciate that within the schools every child cleaning their school on a daily basis (which promotes the value of taking care that you have been given and this is very typical Japanese culture cornerstone). During the lunch time prepared and served by children taught us that the best meals are served not by restaurants, but by true kindness - a value that will secure prosperity and development of Japan, as well as keep both our countries connected through the many years to

come.

Institutional visit to soy sauce warehouse and cardboard acrylic factories was very inspiring on one hand and practical on the other hand in the terms of business contacts - some of the participants have some ideas how to develop cooperation in the future. We experienced both the traditional family heritage promoted by younger generations, as well as modern approaches in the use of technology, ideas and business development. Despite the feeling that Japan is the country of mysterious ways, we found out that the key of their success is not some secret formula, but their hard work, dedication and respect for their job that secures the growth of their business, therefore the growth of the economy of the whole country.

