

1 Evaluation Method

At the time period of “Evaluation” 10:00-10:35 on October 6, the overseas participating youths were requested to fill out the questionnaires consisted of multiple choice questions (scale of one to five) and free description.

2 Response Rate

Overseas participating youths: 55 out of 55 participants responded. (100%)

3 Questions Asked

Overseas participants were asked questions on the entire International Youth Development Program (21 questions). Concerning the Local Program, contents of the questions were different for the group who visited Ishikawa Prefecture and Toyama Prefecture (Cambodia and Papua New Guinea), the group who visited Yamaguchi Prefecture and Osaka Prefecture (Dominican Republic and Mozambique), and the group who visited Okinawa Prefecture and Kagawa Prefecture (Egypt and Latvia).

4 Summary

Overseas Participants' Reason for Participation in the Program

When asked why they participated in this program, 35 participants said they were “interested in the international exchange program,” which was the most common answer as in the case with last year. Contrary to the result of the last year, 13 participants joined in this program because they were “advised by the government, office, youth organization, or school,” whose number was doubled from one year ago. There was not much difference in other questions.

International Youth Conference (September 23-25)

When asked to list two memorable moments, many of them answered “Discussion” and “Institutional Visit” in the free description. Although the program was limited the three-day-two-night, every youth was committed to the discussion enthusiastically. At the end of the reception party, many of youths were unwilling to part from friends with tears.

Local Program (September 26-October 4)

The discussion program with the local youths was held in Ishikawa Prefecture, Yamaguchi Prefecture and Okinawa Prefecture. Thanks to the elaborate preparation as well as careful arrangements by the local executive committee staff, very good programs were created with utilizing unique features in local areas. The home-staying program, which the overseas participants always look forward to, was conducted in Toyama

Prefecture, Osaka Prefecture and Kagawa Prefecture, scoring high marks in every prefecture.

Overall Impression of the Program

The overall impression of the entire program received a high evaluation of 4.4 this year. Especially the following two questions received a high score of 4.9, which were asking “Do you agree that this program contributes in promoting mutual understanding between you and the Japanese people?” and “Do you agree that this program is valuable to your future (ex. Career, Study, Life)?” Positive comments were also found in the free description appreciating not only “to get new friends” but also “to create networks” gained from this program. This shows participants’ willingness to use their networks for solving problems in their countries.