

Chapter 7

Evaluations and Suggestions



1 The Administrator's Report

Hideki Uemura Administrator of the 42nd Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program in 2015



1 Preface

On December 15, this year's participants of the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program safely come back to Tokyo. The Administration was fully committed to conduct the program safely and put all our efforts so that all the participants maintained their health and they were able to complete the program.

This time, there was homestay program while the representatives had a courtesy visit to Lao P.D.R. and the ship visited Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, for the first time in the last twenty years. Thanks to the positive support and assistance of people of the Governments of ASEAN member states and Japan, I believe participating youths (PYs) have accomplished their mission and surely obtained fruit from this program.

I would like to review this program with something I had witnessed through this program.

2 Country Program in Japan

PYs assembled and met each other for the first time and inauguration ceremony and welcome reception were held on October 28. In the morning on 29, National Leaders (NLs), Youth Leaders (YLs) and Assistant Youth Leaders (AYLs) had an audience with Her Imperial Highness Princess Mako. Then until November 1, all PYs visited 11 local regions such as Yamagata, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Niigata, Aichi, Shimane, Ehime, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto Prefecture, and Kitakyushu City by Solidarity Group (SG). Interaction with local youth and homestay at each place were great opportunity for ASEAN PYs to learn about Japan. At the same time, it was also a good chance for the Japanese PYs to show their hospitality to their fellow PYs from ASEAN countries as the youth of the hosting country.

From November 2 to 3 for 2 days, PYs joined "Japan-ASEAN Youth Leaders' Summit." In the Summit, they had a discussion under the theme of "Youth Participation in Social Activities – As a youth, what can you do to create an inclusive society" and had a cultural exchange

including performances and exhibition of respective countries with the great support of Embassies of ASEAN member countries in Japan. At that time, I was impressed to witness how quickly the circle of friendship among the PYs had expanded. During the YLS, PYs actively engaged in the interaction with 100 Japanese Local Youth who were exclusively recruited for the event.

On November 4, PYs had institutional visit according to their discussion group theme in order to deepen their understanding towards the discussion activity onboard. On the same day, NLs, YLs and AYLs paid a courtesy call on Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, and they received warm and encouraging words from him.

3 Activities on Board

(1) Discussion Activity and Post-program sessions

PYs engaged in the discussion activity according to eight discussion themes and deepened their understanding on the situation of the respective country and exchanged their ideas and opinions. Later they had presentation on the results or outcomes gained from their discussion activities. After that, they discussed how effectively they can bring what they had learned to the society after the Program. Consequently, they had sessions to learn and acquire the practical skills necessary for their project management to approach the social problems. Those discussion activities were guided by eight facilitators who were recruited from the participating countries.

Facilitators disembarked in the last port of call in Malaysia and outcomes of the Discussion Program was passed down to the OBSC representatives who are the representatives of the respective Alumni Associations. In the Post-program sessions, PYs in the respective contingents discussed and developed the plans of the post program activity with the support of OBSC representatives and NLs. Those plans were presented at the debriefing session onboard.

(2) Solidarity Group Activity

Solidarity Group (SG) is the unit for PYs to engage in several activities onboard and some institutional visit in the port of call countries.

In order to enhance understanding and interaction among the SG members, PYs initiated recreational activities such as creative games and development of SG Kingdom.

These activities helped them unite and cooperate to run activities both onboard and in the countries to be visited.

(3) Club Activity

Club activity is to encourage spontaneous communication among PYs in pursuit of their common hobbies and interests. This year, each contingent brought various plans based on their culture. PYs actively participated in the clubs to learn each other's culture through the activities. At the same time, PYs developed leadership skills through the experience of teaching their own culture to others. PYs performed dances, martial arts or presented cultural aspects which they had learned in the respective clubs at the presentations of the results of club activities.

(4) National Presentation

National Presentation (NP) is the stage exhibition to introduce various aspects of the respective country by performing arts, presenting history, culture, people, and current environment of the youth.

I truly enjoyed the marvelous and well-prepared presentations that I could easily assume the long-term effort put by PYs. I could learn a lot from the presentation and I am sure that it was a great opportunity for PYs not only to learn about culture of other countries but also to re-learn the diversity of their own culture from the preparatory process for the presentation.

(5) Voluntary Activity

Since last year, voluntary activity had been officially included in the schedule of onboard activities and PYs were to organize events and activities by themselves beyond the contingent or other set groups. PYs took advantage of this opportunity to introduce their cultures which they could not cover during the National Presentation or to organize activities to share common interests or various events in which many of PYs from different contingents could join and enjoy together. The music club established as one of voluntary activities onboard had an opportunity to performed the original songs and receive great applause at the welcome dinner in Myanmar.

4 Activities of Port of Call Country

On November 5, being sent off by a lot of people, we set sail from Tokyo Port to the Philippines and then Vietnam, Myanmar, and Malaysia. Representatives also visited Lao P.D.R. by airplane.

We stayed in each country for 3 to 5 days and PYs

experienced courtesy calls, institutional visits, interaction with local youth and 1 or 2 night homestay.

During the homestay, PYs exposed themselves to the different values of different religions and ethnic groups. However, they were able to nurture friendship or bond with their host family members. At the send-off moment, it seemed difficult for most of them to say goodbye to their host family without tears.

As for the non-port of call countries this year such as Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand, PYs had a chance to deepen their understanding about these countries through NP or everyday interaction among participating youth.

(1) Philippines

In the Philippines, the first port of call after Japan, PYs went for institutional visit based on discussion group themes to expand knowledge regarding respective discussion group theme and also had interaction with local youth. NLs attended the solemn Wreath Laying Ceremony at Rizal Monument. Just as the send-off ceremony started, we had sudden heavy rain and the venue had to be changed onboard, however, by the time we set sail, the sun came out and we were spectacularly sent off with flower shower from the helicopter.

(2) Vietnam

In Vietnam, the country program was for 5 days because representatives visited Lao P.D.R. during this time. NLs paid a courtesy call on Ho Chi Minh City's leaders. For the institutional visits, PYs visited various institutions including governmental organizations, private enterprises, and universities. They were able to gain various knowledge and interact with local youth during the institutional visits. PYs also had a precious opportunity to learn about culture and history of Vietnam through visiting museum and Cu Chi Tunnel Complex.

(3) Lao P.D.R.

NL of Lao P.D.R. and all YLs visited Lao P.D.R. by airplane. Since the representatives stayed in the country for two nights instead of one night as previous years' schedule, the homestay program was organized in Lao P.D.R. for the first time. The representatives had the honor to pay a courtesy call on Deputy Prime Minister, and had great opportunity to explore the Lao culture as well.

(4) Myanmar

SSEAYP visited Myanmar for two consecutive years

from last year. PYs visited eight different universities in groups and had the opportunity to interact with the local students, to explore the campus, as well as to learn about the higher education system in Myanmar. All the PYs experienced 1 night and 2 day homestay with local host family. Unfortunately, we had a short homestay due to Yangon River tide situation, although it was originally planned to be 2 night and 3 day homestay. Regardless of the length of homestay, PYs were able to have priceless experience with the family.

(5) Malaysia

In Malaysia, the ship made a call at Kota Kinabalu, not at Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, after 20 years since 1995. PYs visited institutions such as universities and companies, and had discussions with local youth. They were also given a good opportunity to touch the culture of State of Sabah through cooking local food. Although it had been a long time since the last visit to Kota Kinabalu, we had a great support from the federal government of Malaysia, the state government of Sabah, and Alumni Association to make our visit successful.

5 Gathering of Alumni Association on Board

In the port of call countries, while PYs were away for the homestay program, reunion onboard was held and ex-participants gathered to reunite on the ship. Not only ex-participants from the visiting country, but also ex-participants from neighboring countries joined the reunion onboard across borders. Among those were participants from the very early years' batch. The strong network of ex-participants beyond the border of ASEAN member countries was proudly shown by the participants of the reunion onboard. As for the reunion onboard in Kota Kinabalu, since it was a reunion after a long time, the party was excitedly joined by many people.

6 Closing

Above is the brief overview of the respective activities in the SSEAYP 2015. From now on I would like to describe summary of the Program including my own impressions.

First of all, I truly felt how highly the SSEAYP is recognized and loved in ASEAN member countries.

We were very much welcomed in each countries. High ranking personnel kindly attended the ceremonies and accepted us for courtesy calls. The Program had exposure in various local media as well.

Reception Committee members in each country put so much effort for our visit and warmly welcomed us, and

lots of people came for open ship and reunion onboard. Needless to say, many ex-PYs regardless of the generation, participants from batch of a few decades ago to last year batch gathered for these occasions and I am grateful for that.

I also heard so much words of appreciation toward the Japanese government. I tried to tell them this program has been successful for over 40 years not only by the effort of the Japanese government but because of the support and cooperation of ASEAN member countries.

Truly, the SSEAYP is a symbol of the friendship among Japan and ASEAN member countries. If this region is under the conflicts, there is no way to cruise the ship. Therefore, the SSEAYP is also a symbol of peace in the region. Thus, I really hope that this program will last for a long, long time as it has been continued for the past 42 years.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to the ship crews of Nippon Maru. I realize that this cruise has been relatively comfortable throughout the program without severe waves. I believe that the good judgment and kind consideration of navigation ship crews behind the scene greatly contributed to such comfortable sailing. I also would like to express my sincere appreciation to the kind and caring crew in charge of housekeeping to make my cabin life comfortable.

Regarding the PYs, I was totally impressed by their power to enjoy the moment. I was very moved to witness their abilities to plan and act, and leadership and communication skill in various activities. Some of them probably had these abilities to a certain point prior to the program, but I am sure these skills were even more polished by participating in this program.

There were variety of activities including onboard activities and country programs. PYs behaved according to the situation; they sat courteously even under the strong sun and heat at ceremonies, they seriously discussed among each other in the discussion sessions, they were great performers in various settings, and they enjoyed fully at recreations. As they changed their attires, I could see different characters and expressions.

I believe that PYs got to know many people and deepened mutual understanding regardless of nationality, gender, and age throughout this program while country program in Japan and ailing for more than 40 days, or more than 50 days in total. I am sure that you will make worth of the network and commit themselves to post program activities. Foundation of peace is mutual understanding and friendship. I really hope that they will be the bridge

for peace.

Talking about myself, my English ability was not very high and I had some anxiety, but because of the support of many people, I could accomplish the responsibility as an Administrator. NLs, facilitators, OBSC representatives, and administrative staff got along well and assisted me, and they all sincerely cooperated me to manage the Program.

I had opportunities to pay courtesy calls to the leaders of respective countries, to talk, eat, and exchange gifts with important people at ceremonies and to deliver speeches in front of a lot of people. Truly precious experiences, I had. I experienced to wear various traditional clothes, and moreover, had more than 300 PYs to sing me happy birthday. These are all good memories for me.

One unfortunate thing that we all experienced during the program was the disembarkation of two Myanmar

PYs. They had to leave the program due to their health conditions. However, we are already SSEAYP FAMILY, including them. Ex-PYs are not only the members of SSEAYP FAMILY. Non-ex-PY National Leaders, facilitators, host families, local youth, and administrative staff are also members of SSEAYP family.

During the program, I heard “SSEAYP changed my life” from many ex-PYs. I assume that many lives of PYs of the 42nd SSEAYP may change, or have changed already. I was very fortunate to be part of the program that may change hundreds of people’s lives. I am proud of being the Administrator of 42nd SSEAYP which all of you have participated, and I am proud of you PYs.

Lastly, has the SSEAYP changed my life? I will probably know the answer to the questions from now on. I do hope SSEAYP has changed my life, too.

2 PYs' Evaluation of SSEAYP 2015

The 42nd Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program in 2015

Results of Evaluation by Participants

Results of Evaluation Sheets answered by 11 National Leaders and 309 Participating Youths at the end of the program.

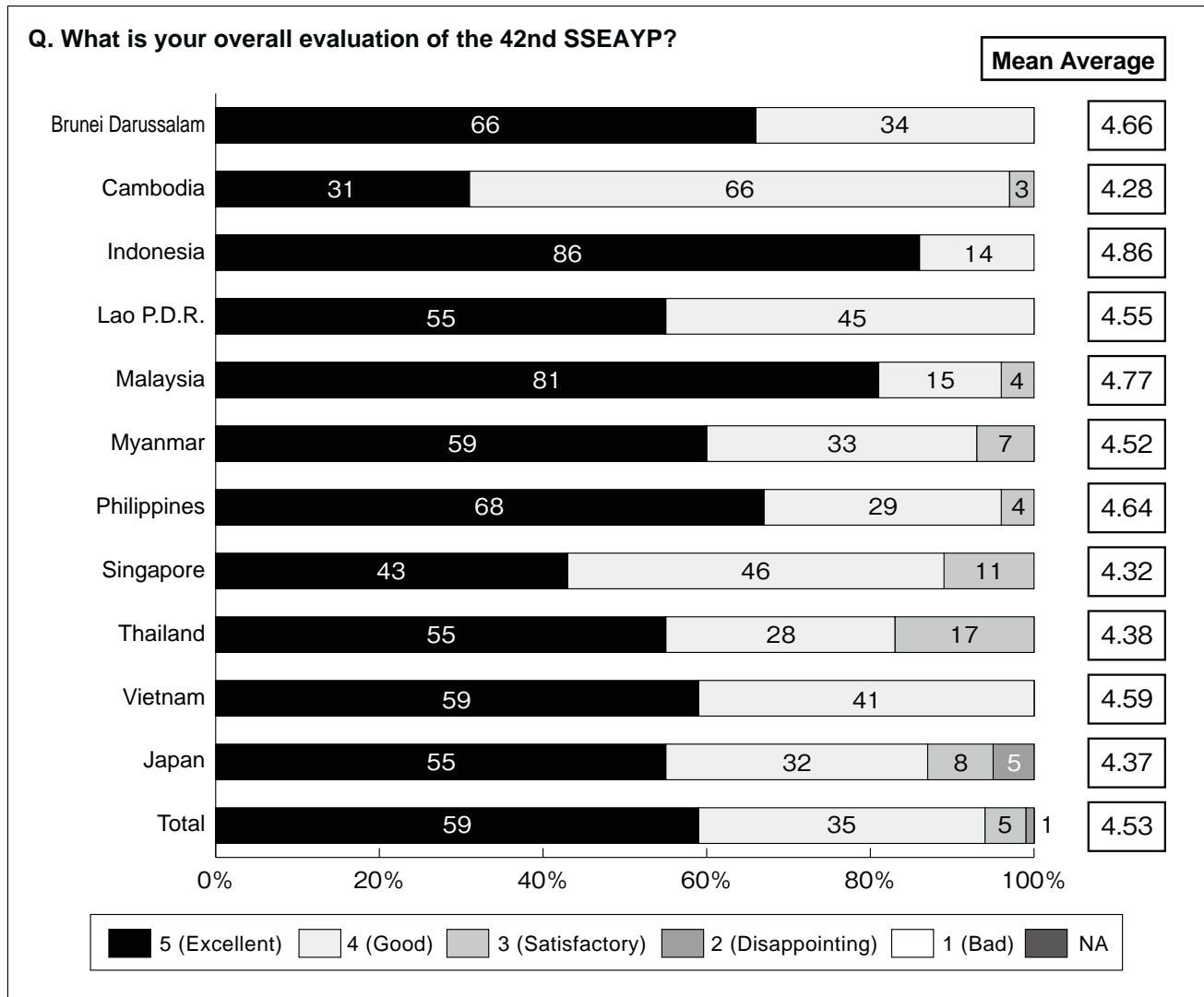
Note: Numbers are rounded off to the whole number.

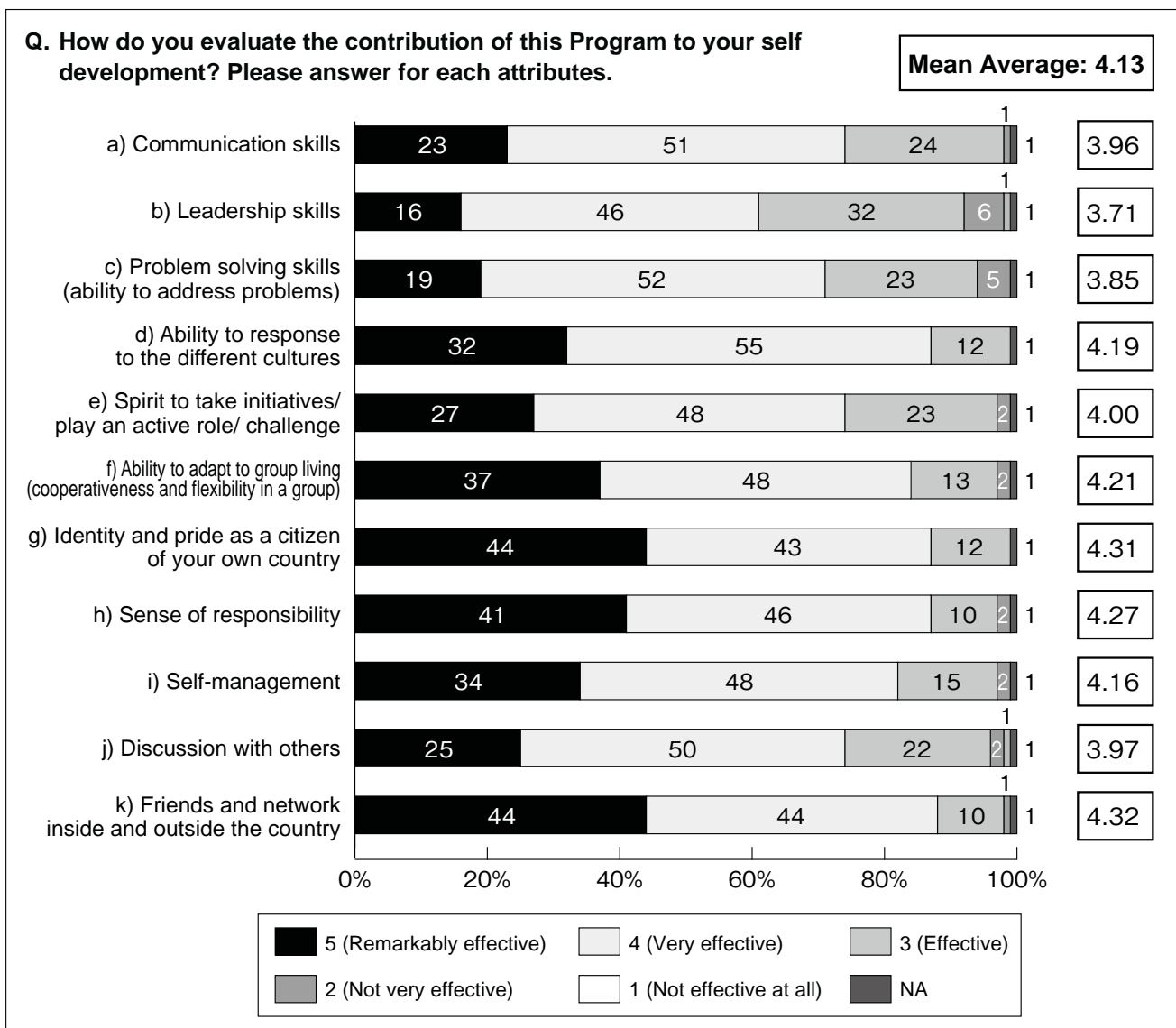
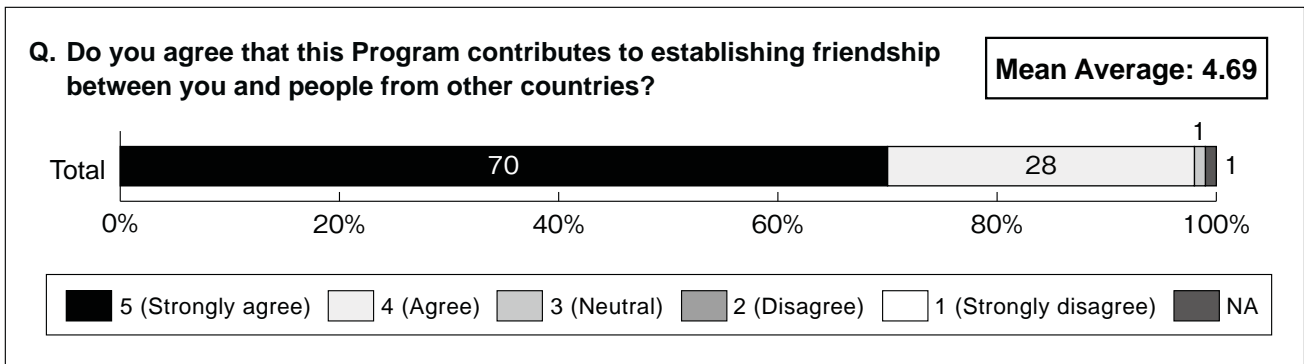
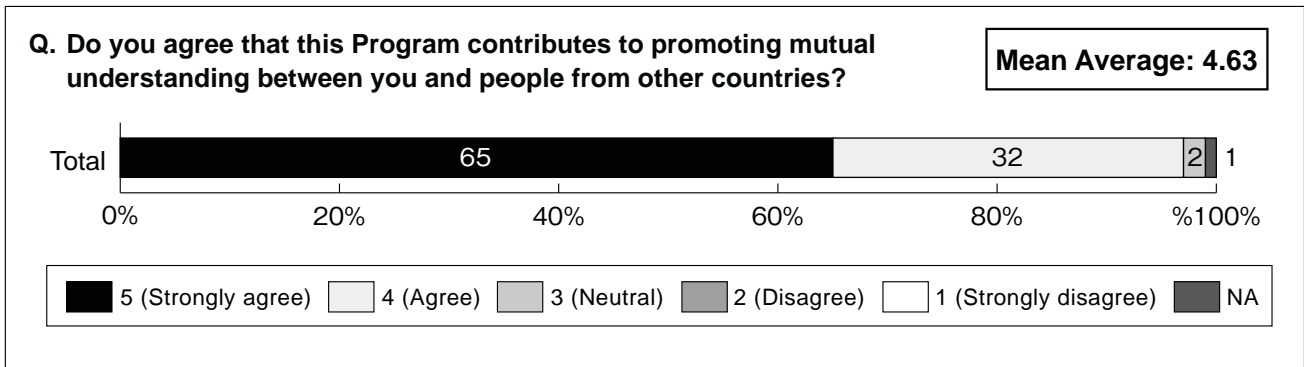
Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding.

[Overall]

The mean average of overall evaluation is 4.53 having 94% of participants rated 4 or above (good, excellent).

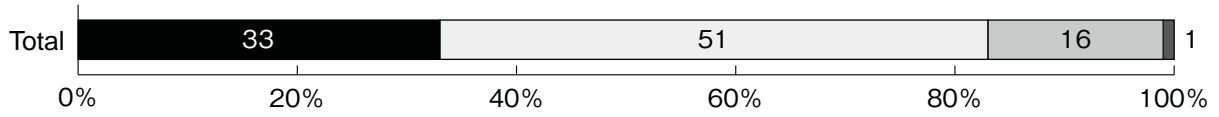
Rating 4 or above (agree, strongly agree), 97% of participants evaluate that the Program contributes to “promoting mutual understanding” and 98% to “establishing friendship” between people from other countries. In regard to the contribution of this Program to one’s self-development, 85% of participants rate 4 or above (very effective, remarkably effective) for development of one’s “ability to response to the different cultures,” ”ability to adapt to group living (cooperativeness and flexibility in a group),” ”identity and pride as a citizen of your own country,” ”sense of responsibility” and “friends and network inside and outside the country.”





Q. Do you agree that participation in this Program will enhance your career prospects?

Mean Average: 4.17



5 (Strongly agree) 4 (Agree) 3 (Neutral) 2 (Disagree) 1 (Strongly disagree) NA

Q. Do you agree that this Program encourages your willingness to participate in social contribution activities?

Mean Average: 4.41



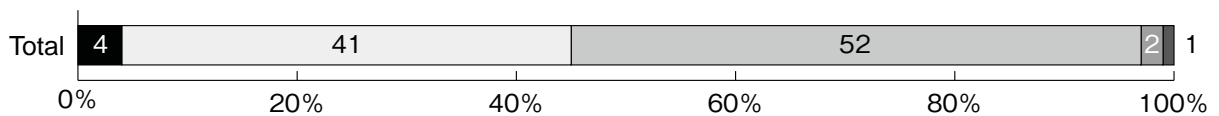
5 (Strongly agree) 4 (Agree) 3 (Neutral) 2 (Disagree) 1 (Strongly disagree) NA

[Onboard Activities]

Q. What did you think about the schedule onboard?

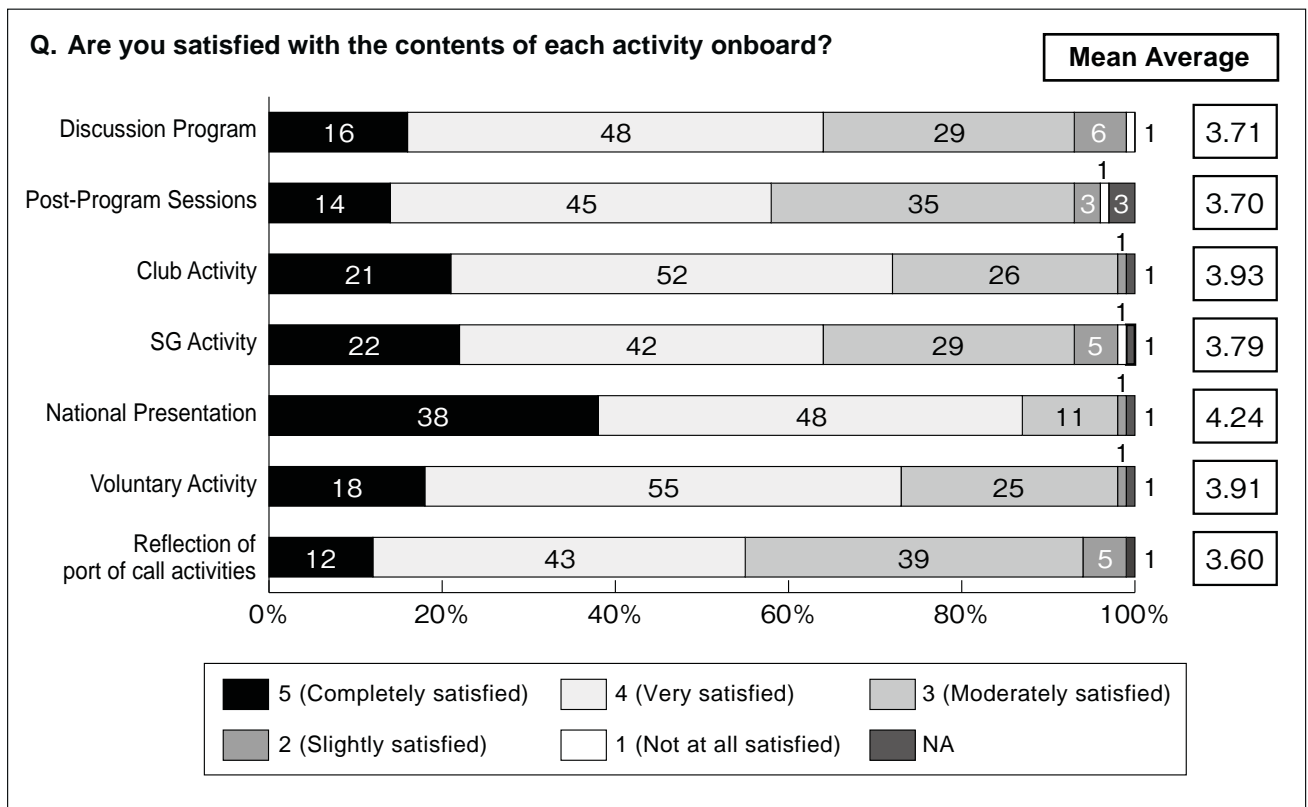
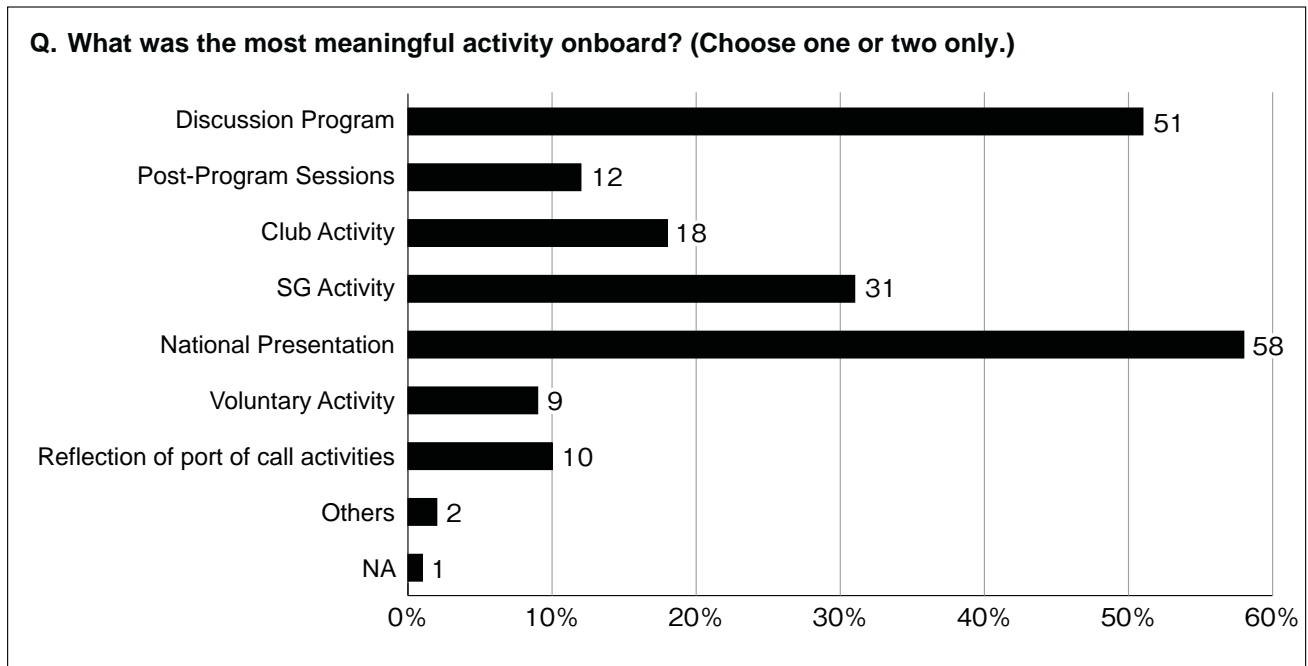
52% of participants rate the schedule onboard 3 (appropriate) while 45% rate 4 or above (tight, too tight). Compared to the previous year's evaluation (42% rate 3, 57% rate 4 or above, mean average 3.65), more participants evaluate that the schedule onboard is appropriate this year.

Mean Average: 3.47

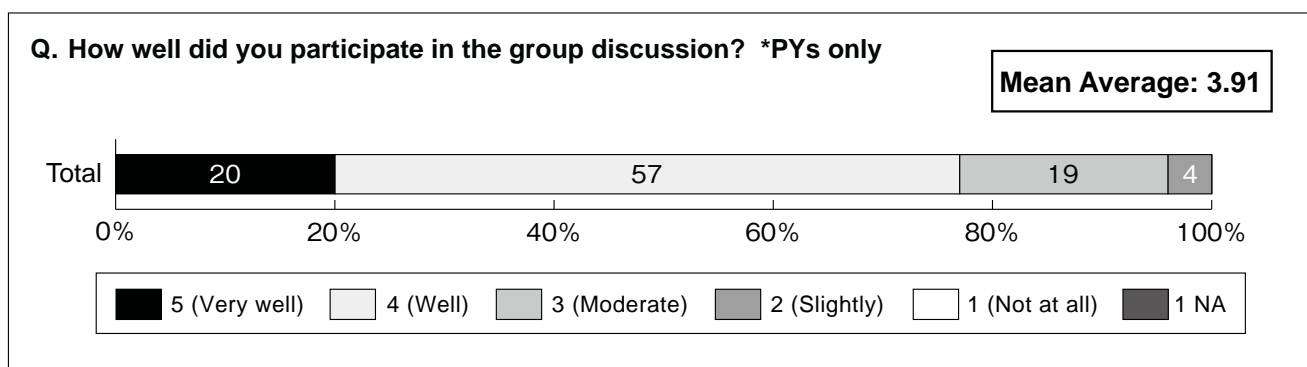
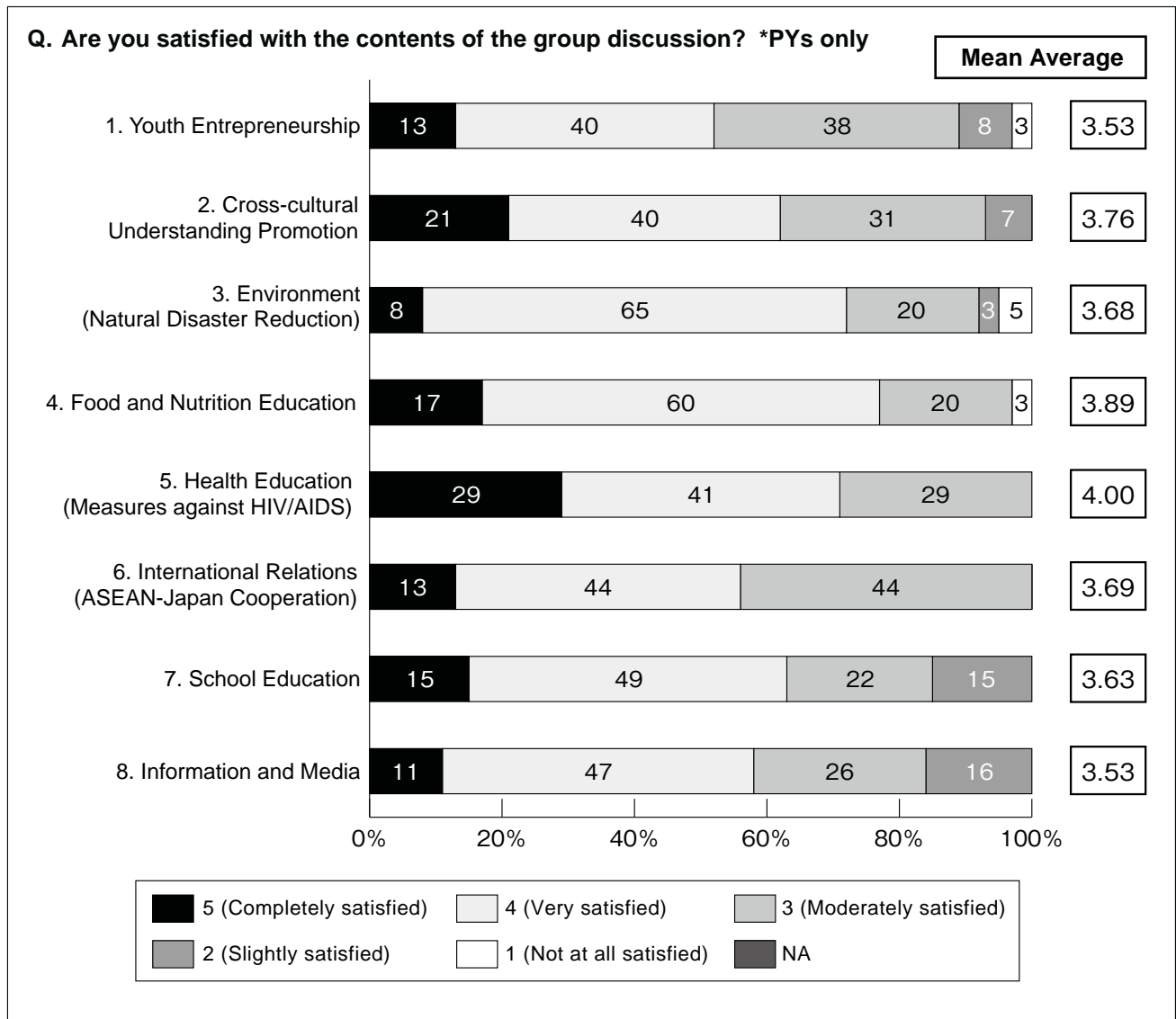


5 (Too tight) 4 (Tight) 3 (Appropriate) 2 (Loose) 1 (Too loose) NA

In regard to the activities onboard, participants evaluate that the most meaningful activities were National Presentation, Discussion Program, and SG Activity, ranked in descending order. Meanwhile, participants are most satisfied with the contents of National Presentation, Club Activity, and Voluntary Activity, ranked in descending order of the mean averages. There is not much big differences from previous year's Program.

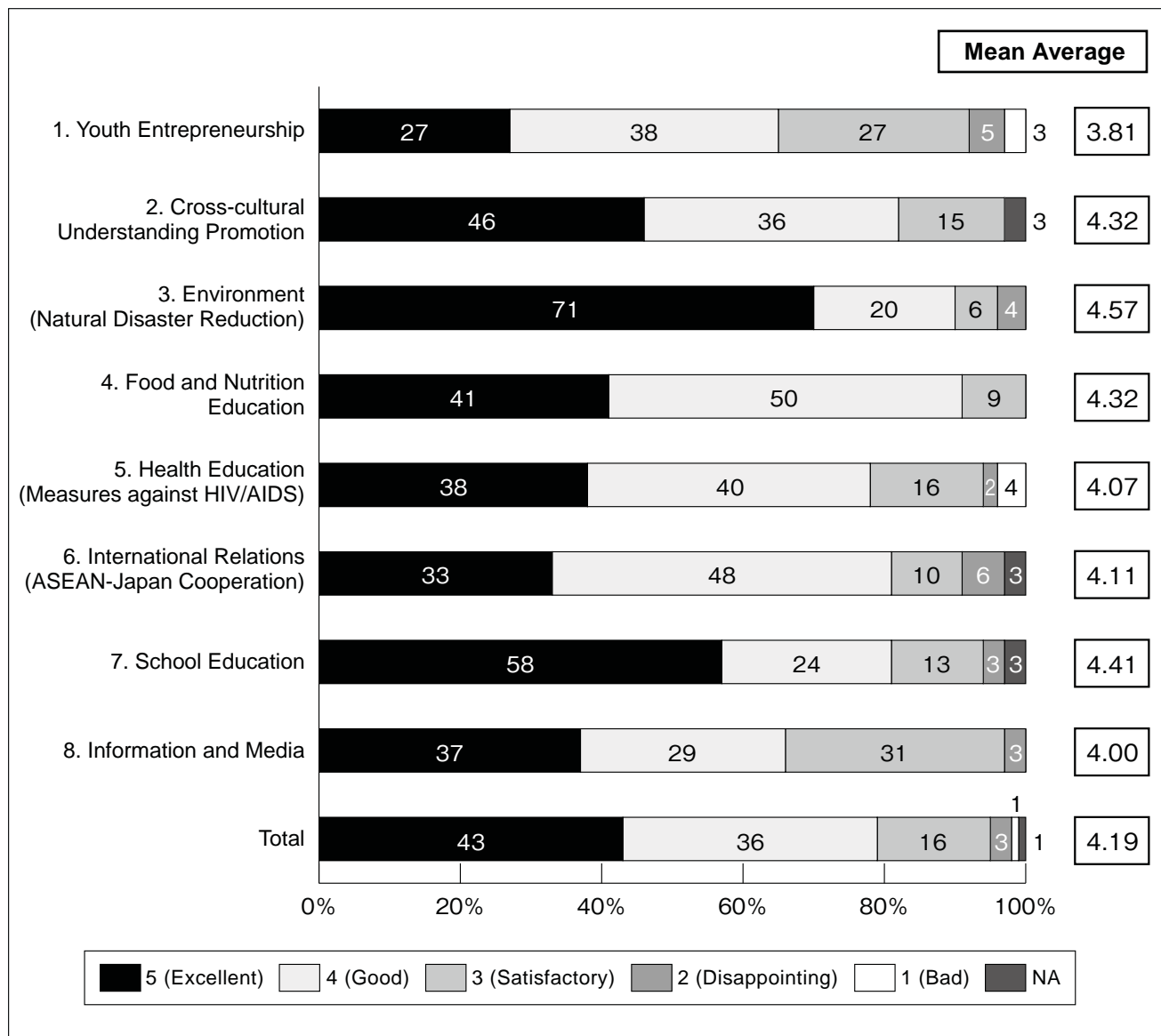


[Discussion Program]



[Institutional Visit in Japan and the Philippines]**Q. How do you evaluate the Institutional Visit in Japan in terms of its relevance to the group discussion theme?**

79% of participants rate the institutional visit in Japan 4 or above (good, excellent) in terms of its relevance to the discussion group theme.



DG-1. Youth Entrepreneurship: a.school

DG-2. Cross-cultural Understanding Promotion: The Urassenke Tradition of Tea

DG-3. Environment (Natural Disaster Reduction):

The Tokyo Rinkai Disaster Prevention Park / Association of Disaster Education Promotion

DG-4. Food and Nutrition Education: TANITA Research Institute Ltd.

DG-5. Health Education (Measures against HIV/AIDS):

NPO PLACE TOKYO (Positive Living And Community Empowerment TOKYO) / Community Center akta

DG-6. International Relations (Japan-ASEAN Cooperation):

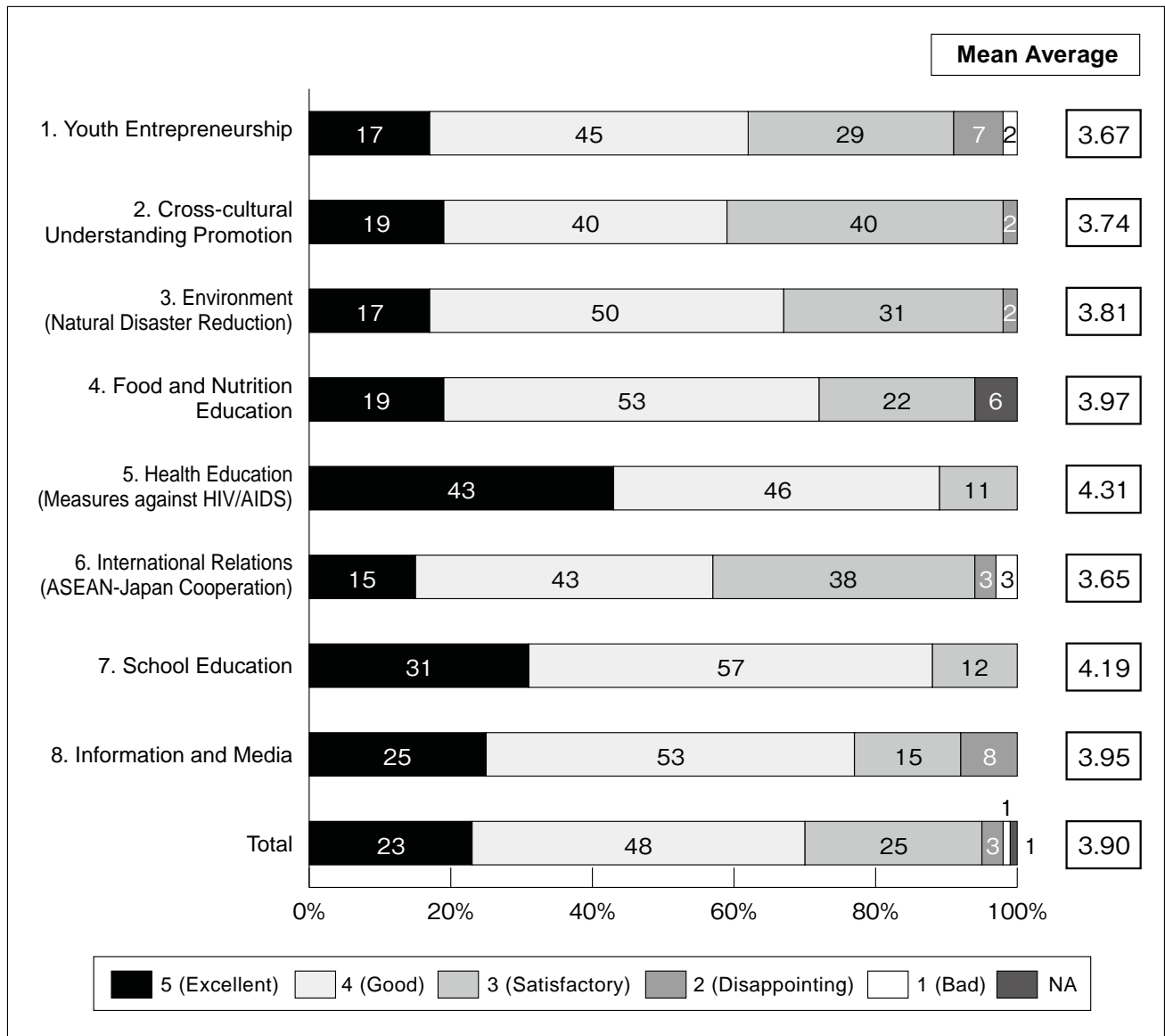
ASEAN-Japan Centre / Development Education Association and Research Center (DEAR)

DG-7. School Education: Shinagawa Joshi Gakuin

DG-8. Information and Media: YouTube Space Tokyo

Q. How do you evaluate the institutional visit in the Philippines in terms of its significance to the group discussion theme?

71% of participant rate the institutional visit in the Philippines 4 or above (good, excellent) in terms of its relevance to the discussion group theme.



DG-1. Youth Entrepreneurship: GK (Gawad Kalinga) Trese Payatas

DG-2. Cross-cultural Understanding Promotion: National Commission for Culture and the Arts

DG-3. Environment (Natural Disaster Reduction): Metropolitan Manila Development Authority

DG-4. Food and Nutrition Education: Philippine Women's University

DG-5. Health Education (Measures against HIV/AIDS): San Lazaro Hospital and Pinoy Plus Foundation

DG-6. International Relations (Japan-ASEAN Cooperation):

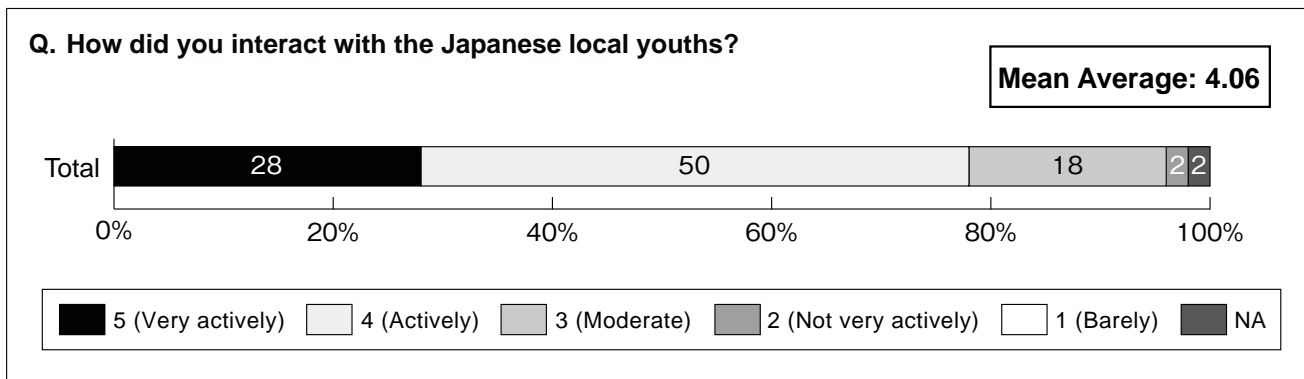
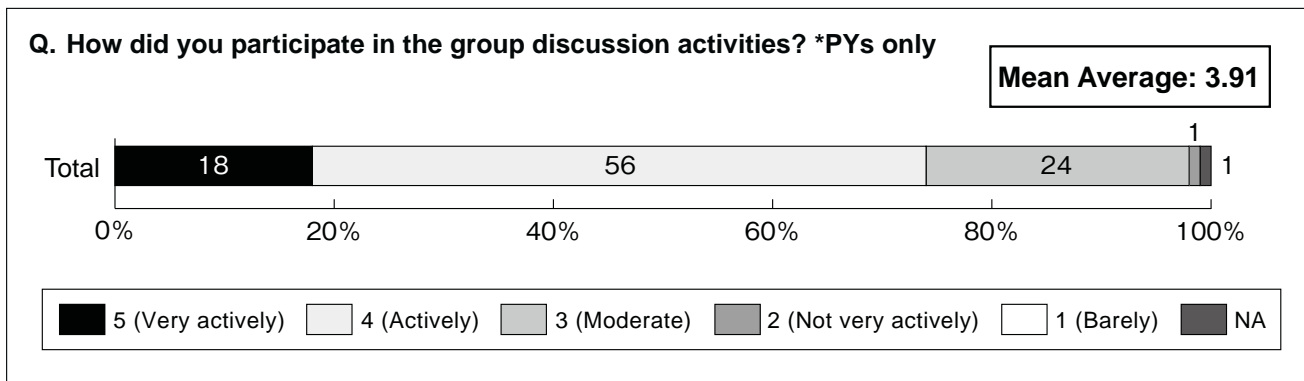
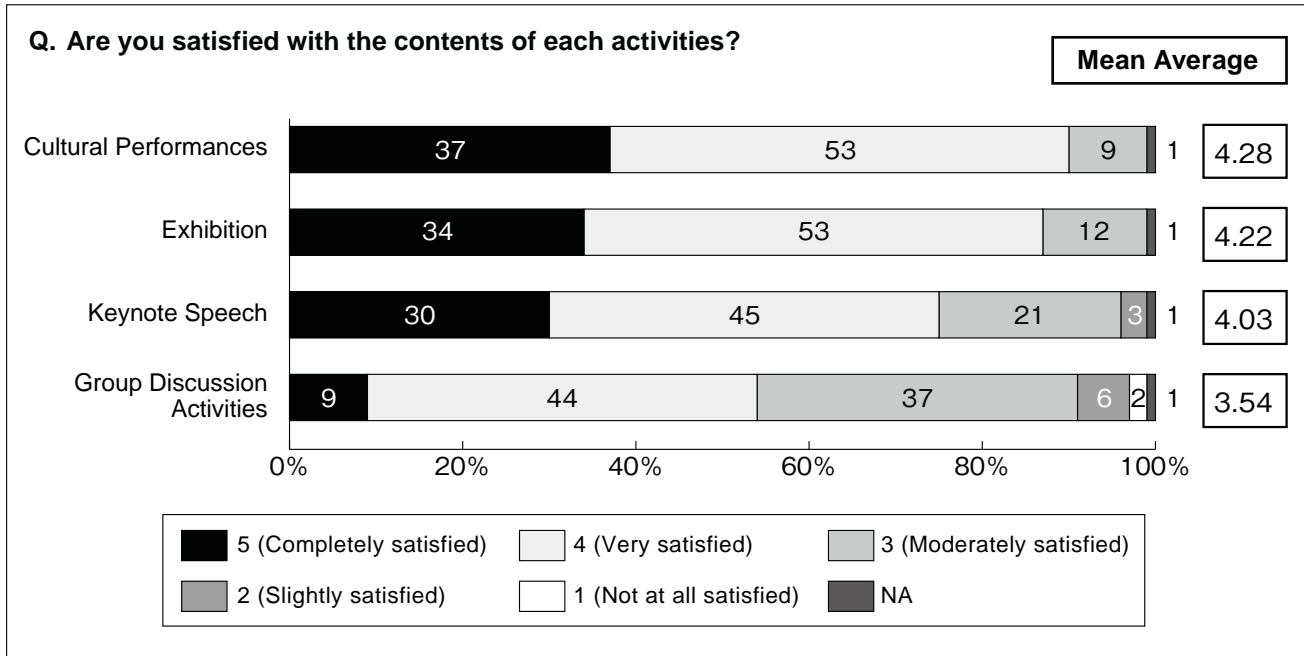
JICA Project in Rizal Experimental Station and Pilot School for Cottage Industries (RESPSCI)

DG-7. School Education: Don Bosco Youth Center

DG-8. Information and Media: TV5

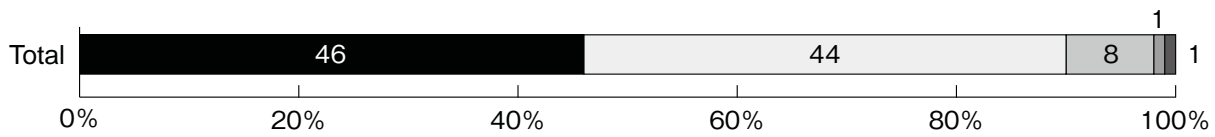
[Japan-ASEAN Youth Leaders Summit]

90% of participants rate the “Cultural Performance” 4 or above (very satisfied, completely satisfied) and 87% rated the “Exhibition” rate 4 or above respectively. 74% of participants rate 4 or above (actively, very actively) for the “discussion group activity” and 78% marked 4 or above for “interaction with Japanese local youths,” answering that they actively participated in these activities. Furthermore, rating 4 or above (agree, strongly agree), 90% of participants agree that Japan-ASEAN Youth Leaders Summit contributes to promoting mutual understanding between ASEAN member countries and Japan.



Q. Do you agree that the Japan-ASEAN Youth Leaders Summit contributes to promoting mutual understanding between ASEAN member countries and Japan?

Mean Average: 4.36



5 (Strongly agree)
 4 (Agree)
 3 (Neutral)
 2 (Disagree)
 1 (Strongly disagree)
 NA

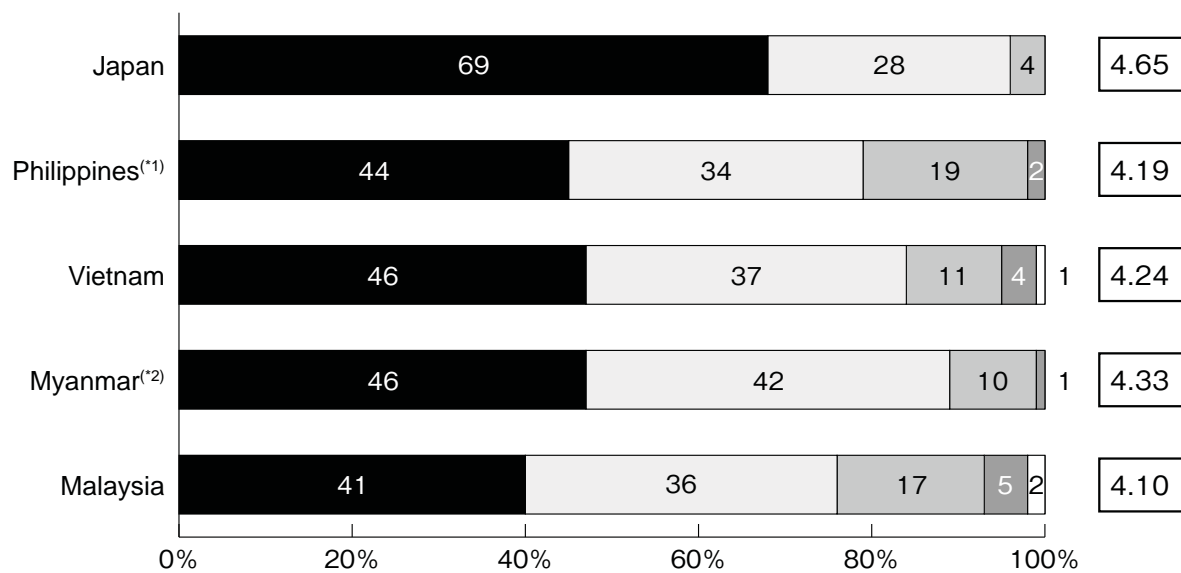
[Homestay]

Q. How was your homestay experience?

In all visited countries, 77-97% of participants rate the homestay 4 or above (very satisfied, completely satisfied).

***PYs only** *1: Except PYs from the Philippines; *2: Except PYs from Myanmar

Mean Average



5 (Completely satisfied)
 4 (Very satisfied)
 3 (Moderately satisfied)
 2 (Slightly satisfied)
 1 (Not at all satisfied)
 NA

3 Message from the Captain

Shigehiro Kubo Captain of Nippon Maru



Current “Nippon maru” is the third generation oceangoing cruise ship of Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. owns and it’s been twenty five years since it went into service first.

Age of the ship is called “age of vessel” and twenty five years old is generally considered as “fairly experienced.” When it comes to the history, this Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program has far longer the history of Nippon maru and the program welcomes its forty second time. Also for its previous cruises, Nippon maru the first generation, followed by last Nippon maru (and the sister vessel Fuji maru was used for the program in the past as well.) I am very grateful that Nippon maru has had opportunity of serving for the program.

I entered my company in 1990, the year current Nippon maru started its service. I myself have been involved in this SSEAYP as I walked in my career as a sailor with Nippon maru. This time is my first time to serve as a captain of this cruise, departed on November 5 from Tokyo, via Manila, Ho Chi Minh City, Yangon, (Singapore), Kota Kinabalu and go back to Tokyo on December 15. I am very happy and relieved to have spent forty-one day with you and complete the voyage safely as well as I would like to congratulate on successful completion of the program.

My appreciation goes to Mr. Uemura, administrator and administrative staff members, Cabinet Office of Japan, Center for International Youth Exchange, International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan, Reception Committees and Alumni Associations in respective countries, host families, National Leaders, Facilitators and all people involved in the program who paid efforts into it and I am very proud that all the crew members of Nippon

maru have been contributory to this legendary program.

The weather was the most concern for me as the captain of this voyage. However, comparing with the previous cruises of SSEAYP, this cruise was overall blessed by the weather and I feel fortunate that the cruise ran smoothly.

Although it was unfortunate that two participants had to disembark at Yangon port, the rest of the participants were able to complete the program fine, which was based on the great effort of administrative staff members who led the youth by keeping a good distance to supervise them. I was impressed by the effort also I imagine how big the pressure was.

This is my personal view as I experienced this program many times in the past. I had an impression that some of the participants seemed a little hesitated to others in the past programs, but that kind of attitude has disappeared and I have hardly seen such participants this time. I can imagine that vigorous development of participating countries, information technology or easy access to the information among the youth was affecting the change of participating youth’s attitude.

Although we experience the trend of the times, during the program participating youths from different background of culture, history, or religion encountered great nature or shared extraordinary experience and spent time under the roof of “Nippon maru.” Also during visiting significantly developed ASEAN countries I found that youth got together easily, accepted cultural, historical, or religious difference and tried to understand each other, which I felt very hopeful to assure the relationship between ASEAN countries and Japan also realized the importance of this program.

Let me wish the continuance and further development of this program for more of exchange between ASEAN countries and Japan, also participating youth’s continued outstanding success. Also Nippon maru and I myself truly hope to support this program continuously.