

## Part 2

# Overall Evaluation



# FY2015 Young Core Leaders of Civil Society Groups Development Program: Evaluation

## 1 Objective

Aiming to build a ‘cohesive society’ where each diverse individual joins the society and supports each other as well as puts his/her own abilities to good use, social activities by the community and non-profit organizations need to be enhanced. In order to achieve this aim, mutual exchanges are organized that involve Japanese participating youths engaged in social activities with elderly people, persons with disabilities and youth are sent to overseas countries, while young leaders of overseas non-profit organizations and others are invited to Japan, to develop young “core” leaders of civil society groups in Japan and to create a network between those of Japan and other countries.

This Program consists of Sending Program of Japanese participating youths and Invitation Program of foreign participants: in Fiscal Year 2015, the Program was implemented in exchange with three countries, namely, Federal Republic of Germany (hereafter Germany), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (hereafter UK) and Republic of Austria (hereafter Austria).

Under the Sending Program, Japanese participants (participating youth) of Activities for Elderly People Course were sent to Germany, those of Activities for Persons with Disabilities Course to the UK and those of Activities for Youth Course to Austria.

Under the Invitation Program, foreign participants who are engaged in activities for elderly people, persons with disabilities and youth were invited from these three countries to have multilateral interaction among the foreign and Japanese youth in these three fields of activities.

In the view of nurturing Japanese youth, the common objective of international youth exchange programs of the Cabinet Office is “to foster youth who take leadership in a variety of areas in the international community and who can contribute to the society.” Adding to this, the Program further aims to develop organizational skills and professional expertise of Japanese youths, as well as to establish networks that facilitate collaboration of the three fields.

In order to achieve the above objectives, the Program sets a general theme which address the challenges of the respective fields. Also, each delegation of the Sending Program sets their objectives to address.

On the above basis, various activities are organized in light of respective themes, such as briefing on related policies at national and local levels, courtesy calls, visits to sites of advanced and distinctive social activities and related institutions as well as exchange of opinions at these facilities and homestay. Especially the Program places a high value on exchange of information and opinions with people in related fields of activities. Details of the Program is revised every fiscal year by sending requests to countries of exchange.

During the Invitation Program of foreign participants, NPO Management Forum is organized for Japanese and foreign participants who are involved in non-profit sector of the three fields of activities. They gather at once to hold discussion based on situations of NPOs and case examples, thereby exchanging their opinions multilaterally and understanding the current situations in Japan, ultimately expected to disseminate the outcomes.

To determine the outcomes of the Program this fiscal year, evaluation based on questionnaires was made for all Japanese participating youths and foreign participants at the end of the Sending and Invitation Programs. Numerical criteria for questionnaire evaluation was on 5-point scale (5 for the highest rating and 1 for the lowest).

The Report indicates the separate evaluation for the Sending Program of Japanese participating youths and Invitation Program of foreign participants.

\* For the detailed results of the questionnaire for the Japanese participating youths of the Sending Program, please refer to the Chapter 1 of Part 5. For the detailed results of the questionnaire for the Invitation Program, please refer to the Chapter 2 of Part 5.

### 1. Achievement of goals on the Sending Program of Japanese participating youths

#### ① Understanding in the area of expertise in the visited countries

For the question of “briefing by the government agencies and visited institutions,” 100% of the Japanese participating youths answered 3 (partially fruitful) or above.

#### ② Visit to non-profit organizations

For the question of “visit to the offices of NPOs and interaction and exchange with staff,” 96% of the Japanese participating youths answered 4 (fruitful) or above.

Also for the question of “activities at the visited institutions,” 100% of the participating youths answered 3 (partially fruitful) or above; 83% of all participating youths answered 4 (fruitful) or above, which left very high evaluation.

#### ③ Exchange of information with other areas of activities, learning on management

For the question of “having exchanges with participating youths in other fields during different sessions and learning from each other on management of social activities,” 91% of the participating youths answered 3 (satisfactory) or above, which confirmed that the Program has left significant influence on participating youths to raise their awareness for collaboration among three fields of activities.

#### ④ Impact on the future of Japanese participating youths by participating in the Sending Program

For the question of “whether the experiences of the Sending Program will be useful for the future,” 65% of the participating youths answered 5 (very likely); 26% answered 4 (fairly likely); and 9% answered 3 (moderately likely). All participating youths answered that the Program will be useful for their future.

#### ⑤ Personal Development of Japanese participating youths (evaluation based on self-assessment)

Personal development of Japanese participating youths, one of the Program objectives, based on their self-assessment, is summarized as follows for the evaluation rate 3 (effective) or above:

Basic knowledge and understanding on visited countries	100%
Communication skills	91%
Leadership	73%
Problem solving skills (creativity to solve immediate concerns)	82%
Adaptability to different cultures	100%

Voluntary, activeness, spirit of challenge	91%
Adjusting to group activities (cooperativeness and flexibility)	83%
Identity and pride to be Japanese	96%
Responsibility and mission	96%
Self-management	87%
Discussion skills	87%
Networking (making friends in and out of country)	100%
Specialist’s knowledge	100%

### Impact of the Program on the personal development based on self-assessment

All questions were answered with high evaluation. To grasp the characteristics, items which were self-evaluated as developed by answers of 5 (remarkably effective) and 4 (very effective) were verified: the highest items are “basic knowledge and understanding on visited countries,” “adaptability to different cultures,” “networking (making friends in and out of the country)” and “specialist’s knowledge.” This proves the effectiveness of the preparation participating youths did through their voluntary sessions and such, in addition to the Preparatory Session, to deepen their expertise on Japan and the visited countries prior to their departure.

Following the above question items, “identity and pride to be Japanese,” “responsibility and mission,” “communication skills” and “voluntary, activeness, spirit of challenge” showed that these skills were also developed. This indicates that participating youths effectively worked to develop their delegation themes during the short period of the Preparatory Session and prepared themselves well based on their roles within the group after the meeting, growing their sense as Japanese delegation. It is also considered that these skills were acquired through practical experiences, such as exchange of opinions with various people in many occasions under the Program, as well as precious experiences of courtesy calls as Japanese delegation which were not possible otherwise.

Comparatively low evaluations were given to the question items of “leadership,” “problem solving (creativity to solve immediate concerns)” and “adjusting to group activities (cooperativeness and flexibility).” It is presumed these skills could be improved by 1) incorporating programs that encourage participating youth to think about leadership development and problem solving skills during the program, and by 2) encouraging the delegations to include content that foster such skills, in addition to

knowledges, during their voluntary preparatory sessions.

## 2. Achievement of goals on the Invitation Program of foreign participants

### ① Understanding in the area of expertise in Japan

For the question of “What have you learnt from the Program?” 45% of the foreign participants answered “the current conditions/state of the respective fields in Japan.” Also for the question of “Was the lecture by government officials effective for your understanding of the situation of each field in Japan?” 100% of the participants answered 3 (satisfactory) or above, while 97% answered 4 (effective) or above, which left very high evaluation.

### ② Visit to non-profit organizations in Japan

For the question of “What have you learnt from the Program?” 61% of the foreign participants answered “the current condition/state of the NPO management in Japan.” Also for the question of “Was the Keynote Lecture effective for your understanding of the situation/state of non-profit sectors in Japan?” 97% of the participants answered 3 (satisfactory) or above; 94% of all the participants answered 4 (effective) or above.

### ③ Exchange of information with other areas of activities, learning on management

For the question of “having exchanges with participants in other fields during different sessions and learn from each other on management of social activities,” 97% of the foreign participants answered 3 (partially had) or above, which confirmed that the Program has left a significant influence upon them, as similar to the Sending Program of raising awareness of participating youths for collaboration among three fields of activities.

### ④ Impact on the future of foreign participants by participating in the Invitation Program

For the question of “whether to agree the Program improved career prospects of the foreign participants,” 18% answered 5 (strongly agree), 45% answered 4 (agree) and 3% answered 2 (disagree).

## <NPO Management Forum>

### ① Outcomes for the Japanese participants

Comparing the expectations for and learning from the NPO Management Forum among the Japanese participants, highest expectation were given to the item “networking with other participants,” followed by “specific contents of discussion topic” and “situation of the fields of

elderly people, people with disabilities and youth in other countries.” Ranking of the learning outcomes corresponds to participants’ expectation, which can be evaluated as adequately fulfilling the expectations of the Japanese participants.

### ② Outcomes for the foreign participants

Comparing the expectations for and learning from the NPO Management Forum among the foreign participants, highest expectation were given to the item “situation of non-profit organizations in other countries,” followed by “networking with other participants” and “situation of the fields of elderly people, people with disabilities and youth in other countries.” Ranking of the learning outcomes corresponds to participants’ expectations, concluding that the Forum met the expectations of the foreign participants as well.

### ③ Future consideration

For the question of “whether the NPO Management Forum experiences would be effective to develop skills of the participants to operate their organizations,” 91% of the Japanese participants answered 3 (satisfactory) or above. As for the foreign participants, 71% answered 3 (satisfactory) or above and 24% answered 2 (not so effective) or below. Similar to the previous fiscal year, the different levels of experiences and expertise between Japanese and foreign participants could be the possible cause for this result. For the future, it is considered very important to set a theme of the Forum which both Japanese and foreign participants will find mutually interesting, thereby creating an environment comfortable for both groups to exchange their opinions.

## <Local Program>

### ① Outcomes for the foreign participants

For the question of “overall satisfaction of the Local Program,” 100% of the foreign participants answered 4 (moderately satisfied) or above in each visited prefecture, which left very high evaluation. Local Seminar in each prefecture also received high evaluation, being answered by 87% of foreign participants for 4 (satisfactory) or above.

### ② Outcomes for each prefecture

Visited organizations evaluated the Program highly for the excellent quality of discussion achieved. Local Seminars in the visited prefectures were also given high evaluation, being answered by 98% of Japanese participants for 4 (satisfactory) or above.

### 3 Overall evaluation

For the Sending Program of Japanese participating youths, 100% of the participating youths highly evaluated the overall program for 4 (good) or above; while the question of “whether the goals were achieved” was answered by 35% for 4 (achieved) or above. This low evaluation is similar to the outcomes of last year, presumably resulting largely from the lack of knowledge and experiences of the participating youths for one reason. It is acknowledged as necessary to provide more effective instructions on their preparation before visiting the countries.

Overall evaluation on the Invitation Program of foreign participants was also high: 100% of the foreign participants answered 3 (moderately satisfied) or above, and 90% of all participants answered 4 (very satisfied) or above. For the question of “expectations towards the Program,” they gave the highest score for “current condition/state of the NPO management in Japan,” followed by “current condition/state of the respective fields of Japan” and “advice on meeting the challenges of their respective field.” For the paired question of “learning from the Program,” highest scores were given, in addition to the same items of the expectation, to the “current condition of NPO management in the other two invited countries.” This results can be acknowledged as that the Program having met the foreign participants’ expectations as well as enabled effective information sharing.

In light of establishing relationships among Japan and the participating countries, 87% of the foreign participants answered for 4 (agree) or above for the question of “whether to agree this Program has deepened mutual understanding

between Japan and the participating countries”; while the question of “whether to agree this Program deepens friendship between Japan and the participating countries” was answered by 95% for 4 (agree) or above.

Contrary, for the question of “communication with the Japanese participants to establish networks by participating in the NPO Management Forum,” 92% of the foreign participants answered 3 (satisfactory) or above, while 53% of the Japanese participants answered 3 (satisfactory) or above for the same question on communication with the foreign participants. The number indicated is much lower than the outcome of the last year; the concrete cause is yet to be examined. It is acknowledged there needs efforts to improve operational approach in order to encourage Japanese participants to have more active communication with foreign participants. Overall, however, the Program can be evaluated to have achieved developing a certain level of network among participants this fiscal year as well.

\* Young Core Leaders of Civil Society Groups Development Program, initiated in 2002, comes to an end at fiscal year 2015. Starting from fiscal year 2016, the program will be implemented as Community Core Leaders Development Program, with special emphasis on community vitalization and in a newly revised framework. Upon its implementation the Program will utilize the network established through its forerunning program and the achievements of the former participants, realizing further enhancement and significance.