

Preface

With today's society, an ageing is in progress with lower birthrates as life-style further diversifies. Social activities by communities and non-profit organizations on basis of an individual's viewpoint play more important roles to establish a "cohesive society," where each individual is capable of fostering humanity and zest for life, and every citizen helps to nurture and support children and youth to live with a sense of security regardless of age as well as physical and mental conditions.

Based on this awareness, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan has been implementing the "Young Core Leaders of Civil Society Groups Development Program" since Fiscal Year 2002 with the aim to develop core leaders who have a broad global view, knowledge, skills and human network in order to conduct social activities, by providing opportunities for interactions among Japanese youths involved in social activities and foreign youths actually managing and playing core roles in social activities. This fiscal year represents the fourteenth program with 855 youths in total having participated in the Sending Programs (for Japanese youths) and the Invitation Programs (for foreign youths).

In FY2015, Japanese youths who are involved in social activities in three different areas - elderly people related, persons with disabilities related and youth related, were sent respectively to the Federal Republic of Germany (elderly people related), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (persons with disabilities related) and Republic of Austria (youth related) to learn their systems, current situations and innovative efforts. Youth leaders who are actively involved in respective areas in these three countries were later invited to Japan to interact with Japanese youths to participate in the NPO Management Forum, Local Seminars and other various activities.

This report covers the records of activities of the Sending and the Invitation Programs under the FY2015 Young Core Leaders of Civil Society Groups Development Program. It would be my pleasure if this report could help deepening your understanding of this Program in the hope to receive further support in the future. Moreover, it is my wish that Japanese and foreign participants of the program who are rich in cultures and background will utilize many things they learned and gained through mutual interaction in their further activities as "core leaders" of their respective social activities, and the network will expand and flourish.

Lastly, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to those who played important roles; the governments of the related countries, organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, diplomatic missions, local governments, visited institutions and host families, for their support and cooperation to this program.

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