

Outline of Disaster Management Course

◆ Theme:

Disaster Management

◆ Course Goal:

Conference participants of this course will understand diverse disasters taking place globally in recent years and build awareness that those disaster experiences are widely shared today by international community. Governments and international organizations have actively collaborated to learn important lessons, together discussing disaster experiences of local people and societies, making research on post-disaster reconstruction and care in need as well as means to prevent disaster risks and reduce damages. Understanding such a global trend and grasping the idea of “disaster management,” the participants are to discuss to build own visions for future disaster management of their own community and also for developing global cooperation in this area in the future.

◆ Institutional Visit on October 7:

Tokyo Fire Department Ikebukuro Life Safety Learning Center

◆ Course Staff:

Facilitator :

Staff :

Staff :

Staff :

Facilitator

Now that natural disasters are increasing every year around the world, causing unexpected serious damage, it was significant that young people from seven countries had an opportunity to discuss together at International Youth Development Exchange Program, in which “Disaster management” was set as one of the course themes.

While the disasters and damages that the participants have experienced in their own countries have many in common, the types and scale of disasters, the infrastructure and technologies surrounding them are so different. It was, therefore, necessary to establish a relationship among the participants to share a common understanding and relevance to disasters.

First, a facilitator gave a lecture and, taking Japan as an example, presented the history of

disaster experience, lessons learned, methods and techniques for disaster risk reduction, and explained how the international community has been collaborating with the United Nations to strengthen and improve efforts against disasters, by showing examples of active international conferences and forums, such as “Sendai Framework.”

The participants also learned that the term “disaster prevention measures” does not just refer to a government policy, but it means a comprehensive response to the entire disaster, and that it is related to enhancing the disaster prevention ability of entire society, including disaster prevention, reduction, risk management and disaster preparedness. We started discussions using this lecture as a common basis, by all the participants together or being divided into small groups, and spent a total of 14 hours over three days.

Starting the discussion by talking about their own disaster experiences in each country as a narrative, the participants discussed lessons learned from scientific facts, social factors or findings from the disaster experiences, and further discussed disaster reduction measures and action plans taken as a result, and other issues to be solved. The participants gradually became aware of the disasters in other countries and shared their feelings, and they further recognized disaster as a whole and deepened their awareness that disaster is a global issue that they should work with. It was very impressive to see their discussion become even deeper when the

participants finally came up with an idea that disaster reduction measures are closely linked to human rights issues, environmental issues, energy resources and gender issues.

In preparing for the final result presentation, everyone was eager to demonstrate their ideas and talents and gave a three-dimensional and colorful presentation. There are no other pleasant achievements than their willingness and attitude to face the challenge of disaster with the youth of the same generation in the world going hand in hand, which could be strongly felt throughout the course.



Japanese Participant, Mexico and Peru Delegation

I did not have much experience having discussions, and was not good at presenting my opinions in front of lots of people. In the pre-training session, I strongly realized that I had always avoided joining discussions when I was asked to speak. Thus, through the project, I determined that “I will at least speak in public even if I cannot express my opinions beautifully. I will be prepared to present my

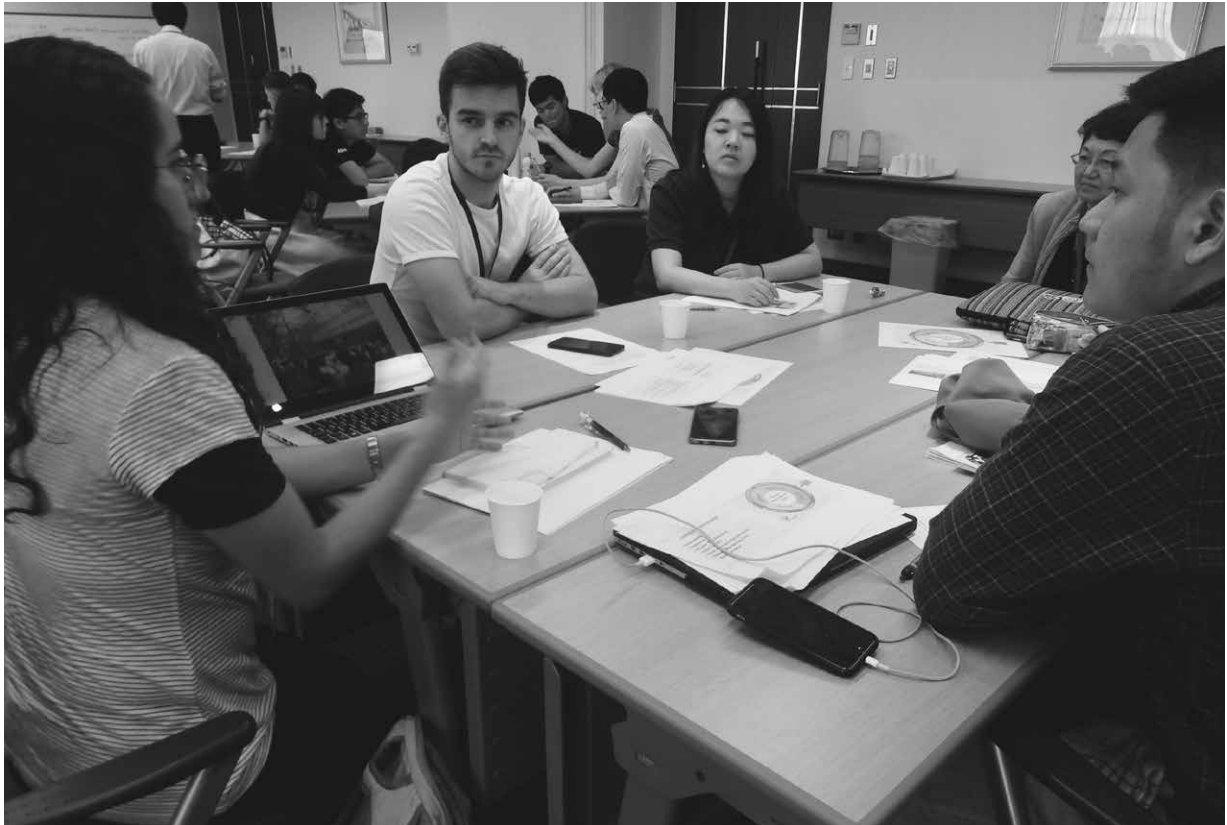
opinions or ask questions.”

In fact, quite few times, I thought I was not able to give presentations well at the conference. However, when I tried hard to give my opinion, the people around me listened to me carefully and tried to understand what I wanted to say. When I raised my hand to express my opinion in my poor English, a person said to me, “Thank you for saying that,

because I was thinking the same thing.” When my intention was not understood well, someone from overseas who was able to understand my opinion explained it to other people on behalf of me. Many friends helped me to achieve my goals.

I became very confident because I was able to speak spontaneously many times on a big stage like

at the International Youth Conference. It was a great chance for me to grow when I chose to “speak” at times when I had to choose between “speaking” or “not speaking”. Now I strongly feel that I would like to take advantage of this positive experience and continue to improve myself.



Overseas Participant, Mexico and Peru Delegation

The term “YOUTH POWER” is the word that we have often encountered throughout the conference, and at the same time is the word that is most unforgettable to me. It means the power of young people to bring change to society and the power of young people to appeal change to society.

For example, when the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019 was held in New York in September this year, protests by youth took place in many cities around the world, and many young people spoke out about climate change. Now, young people are making movements to change society in

many parts of the world.

In our course, we discussed disaster countermeasures. During the discussion, while comparing disasters in each country and searching for effective means, we focused on what each person can do as “YOUTH”. The discussion was filled with enthusiasm and hope for change so much that I felt if Japanese youth here and overseas youth could unite, we could change society.

During the conference, I strongly thought “If we young people do not act on a problem, nothing begins.”



Overseas Participant, Viet Nam Delegation

According to the United Nations Development Program, Vietnam is one of the countries most affected by natural disasters and climate change, which faces six or seven typhoons every year on average. That was the reason why I chose Disaster Management course.

First of all, I was impressed by the professional and creative way the conference was organized. During the four successive working day, we were divided into different groups to discuss, present, play games, visit institutions, etc. Through those activities, we had a lot of chances to learn new knowledge. Thanks to our facilitator's presentation, I have learnt about the different types of disasters; the disaster management cycle, the 'build back better' terminology, etc. Thanks to group discussions, I have gained a lot of experiences from other countries in tackling with disasters, especially from Japan. For examples, making TV animation to cheer people up after nuclear disaster; setting up safety centers and training programs to teach the children how to protect themselves in case of emergencies. In

addition, I have learnt a number of "key" skills from other participants such as the leadership from the Austrian, the critical thinking from the Lithuanian, the effective listening from the Peruvian and the teamwork spirit from the Phillipine and the Mexican.

The most unforgettable memory is the wrap-up part of our course presentation. We divided our presentation into four parts and I was in charge of the last one. All the participants were free to choose the group they were interested in. At first, nobody raised their hands to join in my group. Then, fortunately, two participants from Austria and Lithuania were willing to help. We worked on very well and came up with excellent ideas. We created a farewell party to disasters by listing the keywords about disaster management, putting them into a crossword, then making a hiphop melody on those words and ended our part in a song that I made a little change from the original version. Our whole course presentation was a combination of TV news, interview, comedy, slides, hiphop and song, which was definitely impressive performance, especially the

wrap-up part. The powerful lesson I have learned from this experience is that when you think out-side-of-the-box, you can turn any challenges into your opportunity to shine.

When it comes to exchanging discussion courses, I have had the opportunity to introduce to international friends about Vietnam - a reliable friend and partner of all countries from all over the world. In terms of cultural identity, Vietnam has our own national identity with Vietnamese language, traditional dress 'ao dai', 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, etc. In terms of labour issues, we are so proud that Vietnam is assessed by the United Nations to be

one of the countries with impressive gender equality achievements, where women can be paid equally to men, more and more women are becoming leaders in their domains.

Overall, thanks to this program, the most important and valuable thing we have achieved is our friendship. With the truly friendship, the creativity, the global mindset and the love for peace, the youth can change the world, heal the world to make it a better place for you and for me and the entire human race... We believe we can!



Overseas Participant, Mexico Delegation

From the moment we arrived in Narita, we were greeted with a warm welcome at the airport by members of the Japanese Cabinet Office. I was very excited about the new world I was about to discover; personally, I already had plans to visit Japan but not in this meaningful way. We were transferred to the Maystays Premier Hotel where we stayed for the following days.

The Japanese delegation headed by Mr. Fujiki

Satoru invited us to take a walk around Narita. We were impressed by its magnificent infrastructure, its inclusive roads and its cleanliness; there, I tried Ramen for the first time, it was delicious, not to mention that the Naritasan Shinshoji Temple was spectacular, I was amazed at how they take care of their heritage, their nature and especially the spaces visited by tourists. Certainly, it was a one of a kind experience.

I currently work in Mexico as General Director of Civil Protection and Firefighters in the local government of Guachinango, Jalisco and that is why I chose the Disaster Management course. During the entire course I learnt a lot about how the Japanese people turn disaster management into a culture of prevention, as this is the primary basis of a society that takes care of its own; I was amazed to visit the Tokyo Fire Department because I already felt at home, I will certainly never forget that part of the trip, knowing the department for me was the most spectacular thing that happened to me in the Disaster course Management.

I really liked the cultural exchange where all the invited countries showed their culture through performances, it was exciting to see that each country has its own traditions and customs and that they share with joy and pride the country they represent.

One of my prefectures I visited was Kochi, there we were greeted by members of the IYEO who welcomed us with open arms, we were surprised by the great nature of the prefecture when we visited the Godaisan Park; there, we had the chance to admire the wonderful view of the city. During my activities in the regional program, such as the

exchange of ideas with regional youths, I loved to get to know their ideas and expectations of Mexico and carrying out the different points of view was an apprenticeship for me and the local youth.

I loved my Homestay, I feel that I was very fortunate to be chosen to be with my homestay's family since all my delegation colleagues also wanted my family because we all adore children; During my stay I visited an "Onsen" it was a unique and interesting experience since in Mexico we are very reserved, I learned that everything is very normal in Japan and there is no morbidity, I liked it a lot, I would try an "Onsen" in the future when go back to Japan.

Okayama was my other prefecture that I visited, it is a very beautiful and somewhat cold prefecture, there we interacted with young people from the High School and the University of Okayama, it was very interesting to share knowledge about SDGs, garbage management and treatment of water in our countries.

When I returned to Tokyo it made me sad, I knew that it would be the last time we would be together as delegations; without a doubt INDEX changed my way of seeing the friendliness of the people of Japan, the tasty food, the beauty of its landscapes and especially the love of friends that I carry forever in my heart, I will never forget you.

