

1. Outline of Regional Program

The participating youths were divided into three groups and took part in the regional program from October 10, Thursday to October 18, Friday. The youths from Republic of Lithuania and Socialist Republic of Viet Nam visited Toyama Prefecture and Ibaraki Prefecture, those from Republic of Austria, Republic of Peru visited Kagawa Prefecture and Aichi Prefecture, and those from United Mexican States and Republic of the Philippines visited Kochi Prefecture and Okayama Prefecture. In Toyama, Kagawa and Kochi Prefecture, they enjoyed homestay. While they took part in the intensive discussion program with local youths in Ibaraki, Aichi, Okayama Prefecture.

Prefectures and City visited	Countries of Participating youths
Toyama, Ibaraki	Republic of Lithuania, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
Kagawa, Aichi	Republic of Austria, Republic of Peru
Kochi, Okayama	United Mexican States, Republic of the Philippines

2. Toyama Prefecture

Date	Time	Activities
Oct. 10 (Thu)	11:24	Depart from Tokyo Station
	13:57	Arrive at Toyama Station
	14:15	Arrive at Toyama City International Exchange Center
	15:15-16:00	Courtesy Call on Toyama Prefecture
		* Welcome speech by Director-General of Health and Welfare Department, Toyama Prefectural Government, Mr. Ichimura Hitoshi
		* Speech by the delegation leader of Republic of Lithuania
	18:30-20:00	Dinner Exchange
Oct. 11 (Fri)	9:00	Depart from hotel
	9:50-11:30	Visit to Kaiwomaru Park
	12:00-15:40	Fushiki High School
		* Speech by the delegation leader of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
		* Cultural Performance by the participants
	18:30-20:30	Welcome Reception / Homestay Matching
		* Welcome speech by the President of Toyama International Youth Exchange Organization
Oct. 12 (Sat)		* Speech by the delegation leader of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
		Homestay
Oct. 13 (Sun)	17:00	Assemble at Toyama City International Exchange Center
Oct. 14 (Mon)	9:30	Depart from hotel
	10:05	Depart from Toyama station

Toyama Prefecture accepted 16 overseas youths from the Republic of Lithuania and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from October 10th to 14th. On the first day, we paid a courtesy visit to the Toyama Prefectural Government with the overseas youths who arrived in the afternoon. I was impressed by the overseas youths with their excellent remarks and questions. In the evening, an exchange party was held at an Indian restaurant. They were very cheerful and intellectually curious, and we were very eager to deepen our friendship and ask so many questions. On the second day, we went to Kaihō Maru Park facing Toyama Bay. The Tateyama mountain range seen from the sea was so beautiful that the youths were happily taking lots of photos. In the afternoon, we visited Toyama Prefectural Fushiki High School to have an exchange class with high school students. Fushiki High School focuses on international exchange and famous for its intensive language training. A lot of high school students asked questions and it seemed that the overseas youths were enjoying answering and discussing with the students. In the

evening, a homestay matching event was held where they met their host family. The overseas youths were looking forward to homestay more than anything else. All the host families also waited for this day and it was a very exciting party. They spent the third and fourth days at each host family, but because of the approaching typhoon, the weather in Toyama Prefecture was so bad. I was worried that they could not have a good time because of the bad weather, but I was happy to see the satisfied faces of the youths who came back on the evening of the fourth day. When they parted, there were many youths and host families who shed tears, and I realized that the homestay program was a really good experience. On the morning of the fifth day, many host families came to see the youths off. I was deeply moved to see them waving their hands until they could not be seen.

Dear overseas youths, How was Toyama? It may be a small place in Japan, but I'm happy if it will be a place that will remain in your heart forever. Thank you for coming to Toyama.



Host Family

I have visited Hungary as a participating youth of the International Youth Development Exchange Program 2005. This time, I decided to participate in this program as a host family and welcome overseas youth because I was very happy with the hospitality of the local people in Hungary.

I live with my husband and a four-year-old daughter. My daughter was looking forward to this homestay so much. We welcomed Justina from the Republic of Lithuania. Right after we saw her at the matching event, my daughter seemed to love Justina so much that she couldn't leave her side. After arriving at home, I was surprised to see my daughter showing toys and singing songs together; the flexibility of children in lifting communication barriers without difficulty.

On October 13th (Saturday), we went to the Suiboku Museum, Toyama to see the tea room, etc. because it is a place in Toyama where you can feel Japanese. Then we ate lunch at a conveyor-belt sushi restaurant and made Lithuanian sweets together after

returning home. Justina was very pleased to wear a yukata and I felt that Japanese kimono was one of the best cross-cultural experiences for an overseas youth.

The next day, the 14th (Sunday), we had a tin craft experience. Justina was very interested when she knew that Takaoka City, Toyama Prefecture was famous for copperware and casting, and she seemed surprised at the properties of tin that can be easily reshaped.

In just a few days, I didn't have enough time to convey the Japaneseness and Toyamaness to her, but we were able to deepen our friendship and understand each other's countries somehow or other, despite language barriers. It seems that my (four-year-old) daughter had a first-hand experience of the world and had a good opportunity to learn about a different culture.

I would like to make the best use of this experience as a host family for the next international exchange. Thank you for the valuable experience.

Overseas Participant, Lithuania Delegation

On October 10-14th, the Lithuanian delegation visited the Toyama Prefecture, where cognitive and institutional visits awaited us. Also participants were eager to meet Japanese families with whom was planned the whole weekend. The visit to the prefecture began with a warm welcome at the train station and visit to the International Exchange Center in Toyama, where the activities of the institution were presented.

We had a memorable meeting with Mr. Ichimura Hitoshi, who is Director-General of Health and Welfare Department. He presented us interesting facts about Toyama Prefecture, it was interesting to learn more about the city, cooperation opportunities. Member of our delegation asked a question and after this we had a chance to have a longer discussion and exchange official gifts. The meeting provided us an

opportunity to get to know the prefectural authorities, learn more and discuss topics which was really interesting for us.

The second day we started at the ship port "Toyamashinko." We learned that a few years ago here was built bridge, but when there was no bridge, the citizens was moving from one side to another by boat. After crossing the other shore, we did not miss the opportunity to admire the panoramic view of the newly bridge. Nearby we had the opportunity to see the world's largest sailing ship "Kaiwo Maru", to learn the history of shipping, to get to know how to knit marine knots. We were very impressed by the school we visited, where we had the opportunity to interact with teachers and students in class. When we were working in groups, we introduced our countries. In the hall there were cultural performances of our

country, where we danced our traditional dances and sang songs. We have made sure that Japanese schools have a friendly and innovative environment. The long-awaited event took place in the evening. We met the host-families and spent the whole weekend with them.

All activities were very different but interesting. Some participants learned how to cook traditional Japanese dishes, went to places of interest, went to the mountains or tea ceremony. Members of our delegation taught families how to make Lithuanian sweets and drank our national tea. On Sunday evening, everyone returned full of excitement, which they shared a few more days with each other. Family life on the weekend brought the participants even

closer and allowed them to touch Japanese culture from a very close distance. We learned and learned many new things that even friends who were in Japan didn't know. According to the participants, it was one of the most exciting experiences not only in the program but also in their lives.

We left the Prefecture full of excitement from the places we visited, we met with new people who became our friends and we hope to see them in the future. We have learned a lot of information that we want to share with our friends and colleagues in Lithuania. Throughout the program, in Toyama we became more familiar with the Japanese culture and environment.

Overseas Participant, Viet Nam Delegation

As far as I know, Toyama has one of the most beautiful bays in the world. It's not only Toyama has many stunning sceneries but also the people there are extremely helpful and friendly. We went to Toyama just one day before the typhoon. At first, I thought that since Japan had to suffer from typhoon Hagibis, we couldn't have many chances to explore Toyama. The first day we arrived there, we were welcomed warmly by the mayor – council.

We learnt many new things, and got more information about Toyama prefecture thanks to the great introduction about Toyama spoken by the mayor. During nearly one week stayed in Toyama, we experienced many Japanese traditional activities. We also went to see around the city by “centram,” which is one of the most famous local stuffs that every tourist should try when they visit Toyama. Since that moment, I realized that Toyama is much more beautiful than what I expected and imagined. I also learnt from our Toyama friends, from the people working for IDYE in Toyama to the citizens there, everyone is so kind and thoughtful. We visited Fushiki high school and had chances to attend English classes of Japanese students that we learnt about the tradition and national identity of Japan and

both Vietnam and Lithuania through talking and discussion.

We also saw the performance of the students wearing Kimono and Yukata, which is super interesting to us and helped us know more about the custom of Japan. The best part ever of this program must be home staying. I stayed with my host family for only three days but they left so many memories in my heart. They welcomed me with a tight hug of each family members. I stayed in a traditional room in their modern house. They considered me as a family member, they took me to many meaningful places like Fujiko museum, temples, etc. It's a good and easy way for me in specifically and for every participant of this program in general to approach a new culture. Despite of the heavy rain came from the typhoon, my host family's still excited to take me outside. I learnt that it's normal for Japanese to suffer from disasters, and the way that they deal with it is really unyielding and made people from other nations admire them. There're many other things that made me feel unforgettable about Toyama that I can't use words only to express it in an obvious way. I spend my respect and love for Toyama.

