

4. Kagawa Prefecture

Date	Time	Activities
Oct.10 (Thu)	8:15/8:30	Assemble/Depart Hotel Mystays Premier Narita
	12:00	Depart from Haneda Airport
	13:20	Arrive at Takamatsu Airport
	14:30	Courtesy Call on Kagawa Prefectural Government Office 《Introduction of Setouchi Triennale》
		* Welcome speech by Governor, Kagawa Prefectural Government, Mr. Hamada Keizo
		* Guest from ex-participant of the 6th Japanese Youth Goodwill Program, Kagawa Prefectural Assembly Councilor
		* Speech by the delegation leader of Austria
	17:30	Kagawa Prefectural Government Office 《Appreciation of Setouchi Triennale》
	19:00-20:00	Dinner party
Oct.11 (Fri)	9:30	Depart from hotel
	10:00-15:00	Kameoka elementary school * Speech by the delegation leader of Austria / Republic of Peru
	15:15-17:00	Visit Police headquarters government building
	18:30-20:00	Dinner
Oct.12 (Sat)	9:30	Depart from hotel
	11:00-13:30	Welcome Reception/ Homestay Matching * Welcome speech by the President of Kagawa International Youth Exchange Organization
		* Speech by the delegation leader of Republic of Peru
		* Toast by the director General, Child Services Policy improvement, Kagawa Prefectural Government, Mr. Ogawa Hideki
		Homestay
Oct.13 (Sun)		Homestay
Oct.14 (Mon)	9:00	Assemble at Sunport Takamatsu from homestay
	9:15-10:00	Opinion exchange meeting / Farewell ceremony * Speech by the delegation leader of Austria / Republic of Peru
	10:40	Depart from Takamatsu station

This year, Kagawa Prefecture accepted overseas youths from the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Peru. This is the sixth time I have been working on the local program, but no matter how many times you experience, it is always exciting to welcome overseas youths.

The present local program overlapped with the timing of the “Setouchi Triennale.” On the first day, the Kagawa Prefecture staff explained the art festival and the art of blending the night view of Takamatsu City with projection mapping. I hope the youth could experience Kagawa Prefecture’s world-class festival.

On the second day, we visited an elementary school in Takamatsu City and the Kagawa Prefectural Police Headquarters. At the elementary school, after cultural exchanges, the youths were divided into each class to observe, to have school lunches together and to do classroom cleaning together. It seemed that the youths were even surprised to see the small children learning and living politely and waiting in a line when they were cleaning the classroom.

The main event of the program in Kagawa is homestay. It is impressive that the expressions of the youths were so nervous during the matching event and soon became natural as if they were part of a real family on the last day. I think it is thanks to the efforts of each host family to welcome the overseas youth.

I (probably all the people who were there) have an unforgettable sight with this program. On the last day, it was an exchange meeting. A boy of a host family expressed his gratitude with tears running down his cheeks. Although there may be some problems on both sides understanding the language for a short period of the visit, I thought that we had a wonderful exchange with the overseas youths. I think this kind of exchange program will lead to true international exchange.

Last but not least, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all those involved in the local program in Kagawa Prefecture and to the host families.



Host Family

We accepted overseas youth from the Republic of Austria as a host family for 3 days.

We were looking forward to this opportunity since my wife participated in SWY15, and we often said that it would be a good chance for our kids to see the world when he reaches a certain age, and since my father-in-law whose hobby is mountain climbing was dreaming of going to Austria. The whole family was filled with expectations and looking forward to accepting the overseas youth.

We welcomed a 27-year-old woman who is the leader of the delegation of the Republic of Austria. Having lots of experience in homestay in many countries in relation to her international exchange work in the EU countries, she treasured the time of dialogue with us. It was a precious experience in

which we learned that we could get closer by trying to know each other not only verbally but also in a nonverbal manner; my eldest son at the second grade of elementary school asked my wife how to say his questions in English for the Austrian youth, made a note by himself, and the father-in-law who majored in German at university helped him with translating the note into German by Google Translation. When she knew what my son had prepared, she answered every one of the questions so sincerely and wholeheartedly.

I started to become more interested in the Republic of Austria and would like to know more about it than before starting this program. I was able to feel the best part of international exchange. I would like to participate again if there is another opportunity.

Overseas Participant, Austria Delegation

After our first days in Narita, where we engaged with the youth delegations from all the participating nations, our journey took us to the South. As we arrived in Kagawa we were warmly welcomed by some of our host parents. We also got to know some people of the staff, who would accompany us throughout the rest of our journey. Besides that we learned that Kagawa is famous for its udon noodles, which we got the chance to try several times. We caught a glimpse of the beautiful island, enjoyed the sea and the diverse art, Kagawa has to offer. Another experience, which made a high impression on us was the exchange with the kids from the Kameoka elementary school. We got the chance to play and study with them. But what surprised and impressed us the most was how joyful the children were cleaning their school. After we ran around the

courtyard playing for thirty minutes, they went inside, grabbed buckets and brooms and started to clean. They all knew what they were supposed to do and they also taught us how we could support them. Another highlight for all of us was the stay with our host families, who made us feel at home and did all they could to make our stay memorable. We were shown around Takamatsu City, ate delicious food and got a better understanding for the Japanese culture just by spending a couple of days in a Japanese household. On the last day of our stay we all got together in a farewell ceremony, where we would relive our beautiful time and share our experiences. I can say that we are beyond grateful for the opportunity we were granted and will always keep our visit in Japan and Kagawa in great memory.



Overseas Participant, Peru Delegation

The days that I spent in the Kagawa prefecture, have been very exciting and full of learning, because I could see how organized the city and its inhabitants regarding to the formation in values and responsibilities given to children from an early age.

I could appreciate this at the Kameoka Elementary School. It was an incredible experience to spend time with the children, very close to them and being immersed in their daily chores, sharing a class time and having lunch together.

It is amazing to know, for us foreigners, that this kind of formation, is not only done in Kagawa prefecture, but also in the whole country.

Likewise, I experienced and felt the warmth and kindness of the people I met in Kagawa, as well as everyone else I met during the program; with whom I was able to share pleasant moments, everyone took the time to share with us.

Personally, I enjoyed everyone's company, from the members of the staff, the volunteers, friends of the program and members of my host family. I met a

little of each one of them and I learned a little more to the Japanese history, culture and traditions. I got to know places full of nature like Ritsurin Garden and Mt. Yashima; as well as places that are related to the traditional of Japan, and very modern places, all those coexisting in one place. This shows the level of development which Kagawa has; although it may be far from the capital city, it can easily be seen that it has an advanced level of organization.

Therefore, I believe that these kinds of experiences are very enriching. Since you can see different realities, experience a cultural exchange. From that, we must select the best practices to be replicated in our own societies for development and improvement.

As for myself, I am very grateful to the people that makes this program possible, because it has given me the opportunity to acquire new skills in all areas and create bonds of friendship, which I consider as an extended family.

