5. Aichi Prefecture

Date	Time	Activities
Oct.14 (Mon)	13:48	Arrive at Nagoya station
	14:10-16:00	Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology
		* Speech by the delegation leader of Austria
	18:00-	Dinner
Oct.15	9:15	Depart from hotel
(Tue)	10:00-11:30	Visit Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, Chubu Regional Development
		Bureau and Chubu Technical Office
		* Speech by the delegation leader of Republic of Peru
	13:30-16:30	Visit Kariya North High School
		* Speech by the delegation leader of Austria
		* Performance by each delegation
	17:30	Arrive at hotel
	18:00-21:00	Welcome Reception
		* Welcome speech by the Director, Bureau of Cultural Affairs, Mr. Saiki Hiroyuki
		* Guest speech by Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Austria in Nagoya., Mr. Yamaguchi Chiaki / by Consulate General of the Republic of Peru in Nagoya,
		Mr. Antonio MIRANDA
		* Speech by the delegation leader of Austria
		* Toast by the general manager of Citizens Services Division, Mr. Mizuno Naoki
Oct.16 (Wed)	8:50	Depart from hotel
	11:20-12:00	Courtesy Call on Aichi Prefectural Government Office
		* Welcome speech by Prefectural governor, Mr. Omura Hideaki
		* Speech by the delegation leader of Republic of Peru
		Lunch
	15:00-16:30	MIZKAN MUSEUM
	17:00-18:30	Dinner
	19:30	Arrive at hotel
Oct.17	7:20-8:00	Breakfast
(Thu)	9:00-17:00	Discussion
		Multicultural coexistence course Disaster prevention course
		9:00-
		Lunch
	17:00-17:40	Dinner
	18:00-20:00	Cultural exchange program (by local youth)
Oct. 18 (Fri)		Depart from hotel
		Lunch
		Visit Nagoya Castle
	15:12	Depart from Nagoya station
	16:53	Arrive at Tokyo station
	17:40	Arrive at Hotel Le Port Kojimachi

International Youth Exchange Oganization of Aichi

We spent over half a year with members of the executive committee preparing a program to accept youths from the Republic of Peru and the Republic of Austria.

Although some of the visits to facilities were unfortunately canceled due to the typhoon, we were able to implement a program to deepen learning about the history and industry of Aichi prefecture. Throughout the program, I was so impressed by the enthusiasm of the participating youths when I heard many positive questions being asked at any facility.

I hope this program will be a new experience for the youths in both countries and for local youth in Japan, which will be a catalyst for their future learning. I thought it was very precious that young people belonging to different cultural spheres such as Europe, South America, and Asia could interact with each other and be exposed to different values in this way.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to everyone who was involved in this program. Although I was unfamiliar with many things and was nervous and anxious, I was able to have a different perspective through this program than when I was a participating youth. I just wonder how much the management side had a hard time behind what I had enjoyed as a participating youth. I hope to make the best use of this experience and continue to be involved in international exchange.



Regional Youth

I participated in the local youth program as a youth who had already participated in the "Ship for World Youth" (SWY31) Program. The discussion program had two subjects of Multicultural Society Course and Disaster Prevention. I chose the latter because I experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake and I was interested in studying natural disasters in Japan. Here are a few things I thought through this 3-day program.

"English speaking skill is the best weapon. If you speak English, your world will be limitless."

The English skills and backgrounds of the participating youths were so diverse. We were living together only for 3 days, but I feel that friendship to build with overseas youth and the growth vectors of the participants after experiencing the discussions with overseas youth are proportional to your English skill.

The reason is that "growth" is not something that can be accomplished by one person, but it is something that is achieved by breaking your shell while being exposed to the remarks and actions of others. In this case, the key to helping my "growth" was "English ability".

In my course discussion, there were many Japanese youths who were not good at English, and even during a break time, they talked with their Japanese participants. However, since I was trying to take this as a great opportunity to understand different cultures, I started discussion with participants from the Republic of Peru and the Republic of Austria on their unique culture and educational gap in Peru and Austria.

At the end of the program, an overseas youth said "I thought Japanese woman was shy but I am so happy to meet a person like you who opens up the mind to me." I realized once again the importance of abandoning the embarrassment of grammatical mistakes when approaching others.

The most important thing of this program for me was the new discovery that people can understand each other as long as they don't lose their desire to know each other, no matter how their appearance, language, or culture is different.

Overseas Participant, Austria Delegation

First I have to say, that the organisation team in Aichi was very welcoming and flexible during the days we stayed with them and I want to thank them again for having us in their Prefecture and guided us during these days.

On the first day we learned a lot about the Toyota Company and it's big impact on economics for whole Japan in the Toyota Museum. I didn't know before, that they are also producing fabrics and that the company actually started by doing that.

The second day we visited Kariya North High School which was very impressive for me, as it is a big school with over 1000 students and very organized. There the students told us about festivals in the different seasons and we discussed about climate change in one of the classes.

After that we spent two days in Mihama Syounen Sizennoie where we met Japanese youth to have discussions about Multicultural Society and Disaster Prevention. There it would have been great to have a more deeper discussion about the topic, as we already talked about Multicultural Society and Disaster Prevention the first days in Narita. So from the topic itself I did not learn a lot of new things but it was still very interesting to discuss with Japanese Youth about their opinions. Also the facilitators were very flexible and tried hard, to make it a good and interesting experience for us. We had some problems with the rules in this accommodation, as it seemed to us that they are usually made for school kids and we couldn't understand some of the rules. I still think we made the best out of this situation by talking to each other and reflecting the situation. Also we organized an Austrian dancing class in the evening and had a really good time together.

On the last day we had the chance to see the Nagoya Castle which was very impressive and I could learn a lot about Japanese history.



Overseas Participant, Peru Delegation

To begin our program in Aichi Prefecture, we visited the Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology, where we could observe the origins of a successful company of Aichi Prefecture and Japan. This visit helped me confirm the image of Toyota as a symbol of continuous improvement and efficiency, based on innovation and commitment to a better future, through its focus on the use of new renewable energy options.

On the second day, we had the opportunity to visit Kariya Kita High School. This experience represented an approach to the educational system of Japan, from which, through social discussions with

students and club activities, we learned about the importance of values such as respect, teamwork and discipline in the formation of future leaders.

The next day, we attended a courtesy call with the Governor of Aichi Prefecture, Mr. Omura, who kindly welcomed us and gave us a broad perspective of the main achievements and challenges of Aichi Prefecture. After that, the delegation visited the Mizkan Museum. An interactive museum where we learned about the history of vinegar, persistency for manufacturing, and the charm of Japanese food.

On the fourth day, we participated in a discussion session on Natural Disasters Management and Multicultural Society with Aichi local youths, in which we were able to exchange different points of view based on the realities of each of our countries. This allowed us to strengthen mutual understanding and reach conclusions about what we can do to generate change in our societies.

Finally, on the last day, we had the opportunity to visit the Consulate of the Republic of Peru in Aichi Prefecture, where we received the guidance of the General Consul, Mr. Antonio Miranda. Here, we learned about the role of the consulate and its main contributions to the Peruvian community in Japan. And before leaving Aichi Prefecture, we had a brief but very interesting journey through Japanese history and culture, with our visit to Nagoya Castle.

All these experiences have allowed us to immerse ourselves in part of the historical and cultural heritage of Japan, as well as strengthen our leadership skills such as empathy, tolerance and critical thinking. I am very grateful for the great work and warmth of all members of the Aichi International Youth Exchange Organization, and the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan.

