

## Chapter 7

# Evaluations and Suggestions



# 1 The Administrator's Report

## Yamatani Hideyuki Administrator of the 45th Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program in 2018

(Revision of the Administrator's Report at the Debriefing Session on December 12, 2018)



\* Due to the outbreak of influenza among participants onboard, National Leaders (NLs), Youth Leaders (YLs) and Assistant Youth Leaders (AYLs) of each contingent attended the Debriefing Session in the Dolphin Hall. Other Participating Youths (PYs) watched broadcasting on TV in their own cabins.

### 1. Introduction

First of all, it is very unfortunate that the PYs have to listen to this report in their cabins, due to the outbreak of influenza onboard.

The 45th Ship for the Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) has safely arrived back in Tokyo today. We have visited Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam this year. I am confident that PYs have achieved their goals that they have set and obtained success during this approximately 50-day program.

Now, I'd like to explain the activities accordingly from country programs in Japan and four Southeast Asian countries, Reunion Onboard and onboard activities.

### 2. Country Program in Japan

October 24 was the day that all PYs met for the first time and on the same day, we had the Inauguration Ceremony. From October 25 to 29, PYs had local programs in 11 different prefectures (Yamagata, Fukushima, Tochigi, Kanagawa, Yamanashi, Niigata, Nagano, Aichi, Nara, Okayama and Yamaguchi). The local program in Japan was a great opportunity for youth from ASEAN member countries to know Japan better through going to homestay and interacting with local youths. I believe that Japanese PYs also gained precious experiences to welcome PYs from ASEAN member states.

Program in Tokyo started on October 30 with respective institutional visits by discussion theme. Cultural Exchange Program was held under the support of embassies of

ASEAN member states in Japan. I could already see friendship blooming among PYs from different countries at that time. NLs, YLs and AYLs had an opportunity to grant an audience with T.I.H. Prince and Princess Akishino as well as to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Abe Shinzo, and received warm encouraging words.

### 3. Country Programs in Southeast Asian Countries

This year, we visited Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. We stayed in each country for four days, and PYs had two-night homestay, institutional visit, interaction with local youths and courtesy call.

#### (1) Homestay

PYs might have felt hesitant at first facing differences in values based on religion and culture at homes of host family, but they managed to build close relationships with their host family in the end. I still remember vividly the scene PYs crying in sorrow and thankfulness when they had to say good bye to their host families at send-off. According to PYs' impressions, PYs enjoyed homestays overall. However, since there are a few cases where a host family did not understand enough about the meaning of homestay or the religious practices observed by PYs including restricted foods and pet dogs, we still need to ensure that all the host families fully understand the meaning of homestay.

#### (2) Institutional Visits

PYs visited institutions such as public organizations and universities to obtain information related to their discussion themes and to interact with local youths.

In Viet Nam, I visited a local media company. After the explanation by the company, PYs had a discussion on PR theme and media in small groups with officers of the company. They made a presentation in front of the professionals, and I believe it gave PYs valuable experience.

#### (3) Courtesy Calls

In Brunei Darussalam, NLs had an opportunity to grant an audience with H.M. Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan. We were privileged to have a talk with His Majesty. In Thailand, all the participants paid a courtesy

call on General Anantaporn Kanjanarat, Minister of Social Development and Human Security, and we received a word of encouragement.

At every port of call, heartwarming welcome ceremony and dinner were held and we received kind welcoming words and enjoyed local music and dances. PYs also fulfilled their roles as youth ambassadors through making speeches and performances on behalf of all the participants or their own countries.

#### (4) Visit to Davao City, the Philippines

In the Philippines, NL of the Philippines, all YLs and I visited Davao City for the first time since this program has started and received a tremendous warm welcome. At the Welcome Lunch, the former Philippine NL of the 39th SSEAYP, Ms. Mabel Acosta, City Councilor of Davao City gave us a warm welcome as a guest of honor and talked about her own experiences of SSEAYP. After that, we visited Public Security and Safety Command Center, interacted with ex-PYs in the Malagos Park. And, lots of ex-PYs joined us at Dinner and Fellowship Night.

#### 4. Reunion Onboard

We had Reunion Onboard at every port of call. Ex-PYs came onboard of their beloved Nippon Maru and renewed their old friendship. Not only the ex-PYs of the port-of-call but also ex-PYs from other countries participated in the reunion. Among the ex-PYs, there were participants from early batches and I felt the history of SSEAYP as well as strong network of ex-PYs regardless of the country.

#### 5. Onboard Program

##### (1) Discussion Program and Post-Program Session

Discussion Program was conducted until just before the ship reached the last port of call, Viet Nam.

The common theme of the Discussion Program was "Youth Participation in Social Activities," and PYs were divided into eight discussion groups according to different themes. PYs deepened their understanding of the situation in respective countries, exchanged their opinion on common issues and presented their discussion outcomes. And then, PYs discussed how they could effectively contribute to the society with the outcome they have achieved after this program and they learnt how they could put ideas and plans into the action to solve the issues they identified. Eight selected Facilitators from participating countries passionately guided and supported PYs for these discussion activities.

After departing from Viet Nam, Post- Program Sessions were conducted by the representatives of Alumni Associations of participating countries. PYs of each contingent developed their specific action plans with the guidance from the representatives of Alumni Associations and their NLs, regardless of the limited time of sessions due to the outbreak of influenza.

#### (2) National Presentation

National Presentation (NP) is introduction of their own countries from the various aspects including history, culture, national characteristics, and circumstances surrounding youth today.

All NPs were impressive and I could see that PYs have devoted their time on the preparation. I myself learnt a lot from respective NPs and I am sure that it was a great opportunity for PYs to learn other cultures and also to know the diversity of their own culture through preparation and practice.

#### (3) PY Seminars and other activities

On top of that, PYs had recreational activities to deepen their bond in their Solidarity Groups which each PY belonged to, for activities onboard and port-of-call countries. PYs also organized and conducted PY Seminars. One or more PYs organized various seminars including workshops to experience cultures and discussions or lectures about social issues. Through the seminars, PYs deepened their understanding of culture as well as developed leadership skills.

#### 6. Overall Comments

What amazed me the most is how high the SSEAYP is recognized. We were warmly welcomed in the countries we visited. High ranking personnel kindly attended our ceremonies and received us for courtesy calls. Many media came to our Press Conference and in fact, we were in many newspapers and on TV. Moreover, I received many words of gratitude towards the Government of Japan.

I could also directly feel how much this program has influenced participants and how much it is loved by ex-participants. Reception committee including many ex-PYs treated us with utmost care and effort. Lots of ex-PYs joined Reunion Onboard in all countries we have visited. I was surprised to witness that many ex-PYs from other countries actually came to join the Reunion Onboard in port-of-call countries. So many people of diverse generation, from ex-PY of recent batches to ex-PYs of batches from years ago, gathered for the reunion, and they shared with me about

their memories and thoughts towards this program. In Brunei Darussalam, I felt the history of this program when I met one of the ex-PYs of the very first batch when Brunei Darussalam participated in SSEAYP at the first time.

**7. Conclusion**

We received enormous support and cooperation for the success of the program again this year. I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to Governments and Embassies of respective countries, reception committees, host families, persons involved in institutional visits, and everyone concerned.

Personally, I was a little worried because, on top of my English skill, this was my first time to join this kind of program. However, with substantial support, I could carry out my duty as the Administrator till today. I would like to thank NLs, Facilitators, representatives of Alumni Associations, as well as Administrative staff members for passionately leading and taking care of the PYs and for your contribution to the successful implementation of the program.

It is also because of the tremendous effort of Captain of Nippon Maru Mr. Ninomiya and all the ship crew that we could comfortably cruise for 40 days. Nippon Maru is like my home now, and it is very hard to leave. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude.

Dear PYs, I would like to congratulate all of you for the completion of the 50-day program, including Country Program of Japan.

During this 50 days, I believe that you, as youth ambassadors, had special experience including meeting people from different countries, living together, having meaningful discussions, and exchanging various cultures, that you will not have experienced in ordinal life in your own countries. I frequently heard the word “life changing” throughout our journey, and I think many of you actually had life changing experiences.

Talking about myself, I was amazed by your power when I first saw your cheers on the first day when I met you. I was also overwhelmed by observing you discussing enthusiastically in discussion group sessions as well as performing brilliantly at your NPs. I am sure that you have increased your power even more throughout your journey. By treasuring knowledge and networks you have gained through the journey, I expect you to commit yourselves to post-program activities in respective areas and to become the bridge of mutual understanding and friendship between each ASEAN member counties and Japan.

The 45th SSEAYP is coming to an end today, but your activities start today.

At the Welcome Reception in Japan, YL of Indonesia Adrian said, “We are the future of Asia, we absolutely realized that we are responsible to shape the world, particularly Asia.” I would like to borrow his words and tell this to all of you, “You are the future of Asia.” I am confident that you will play the key roles internationally as well as in respective areas where you reside.

Thank you very much and see you again.

**2 PYs’ Evaluation of SSEAYP 2018**

The followings are the results of Evaluation Sheets answered by the participants at the end of the Program.

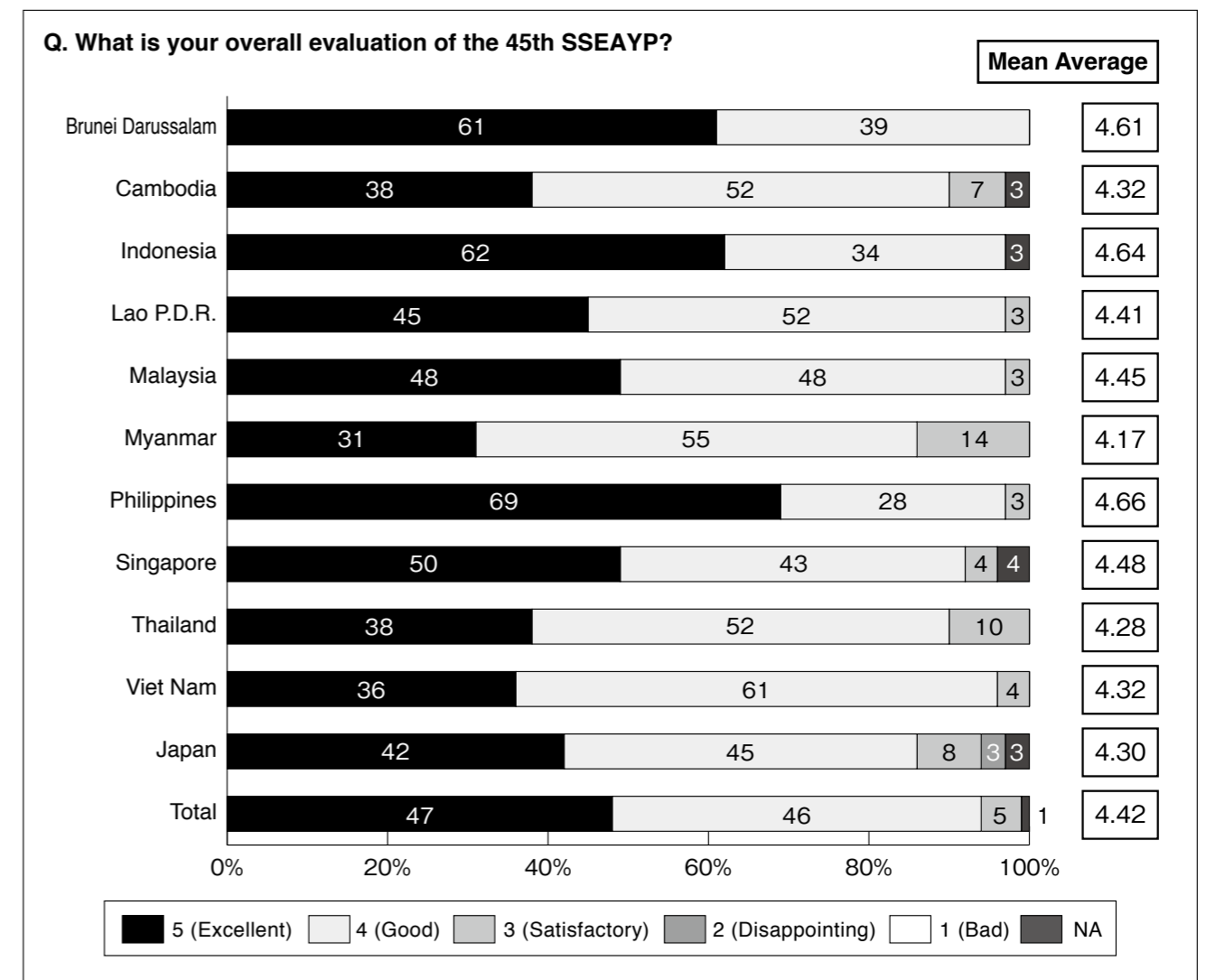
Note: Answered by 11 National Leaders and 314 Participating Youths.

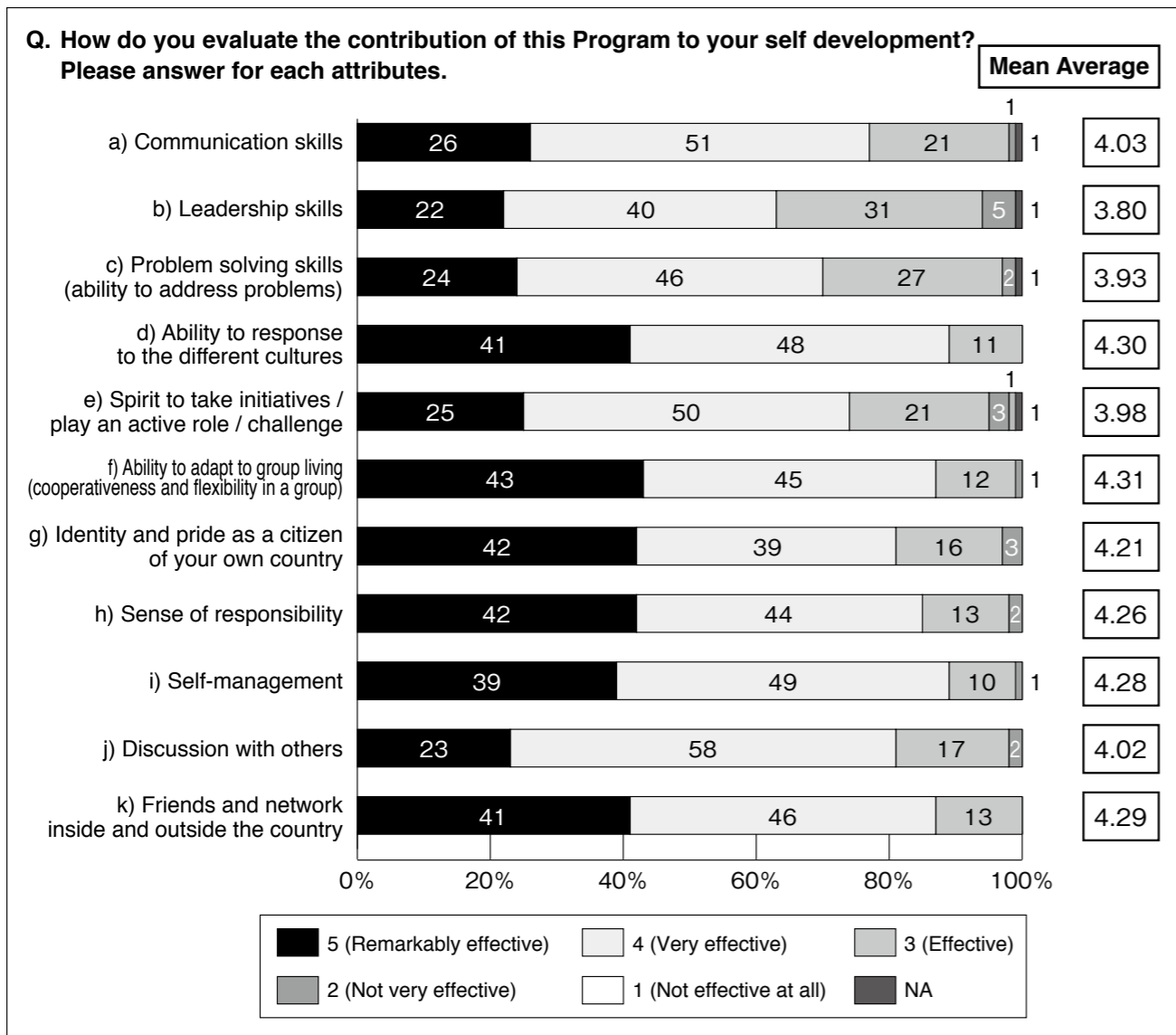
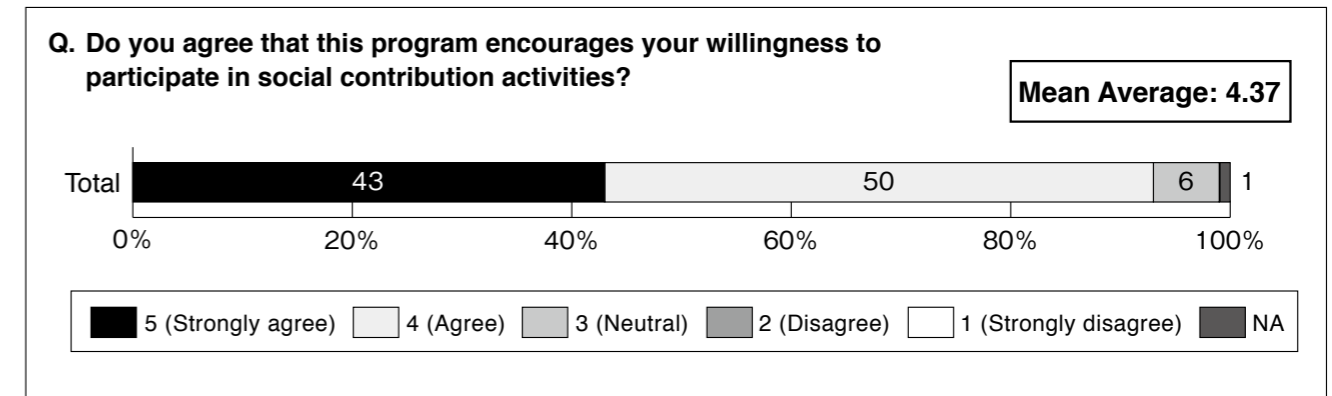
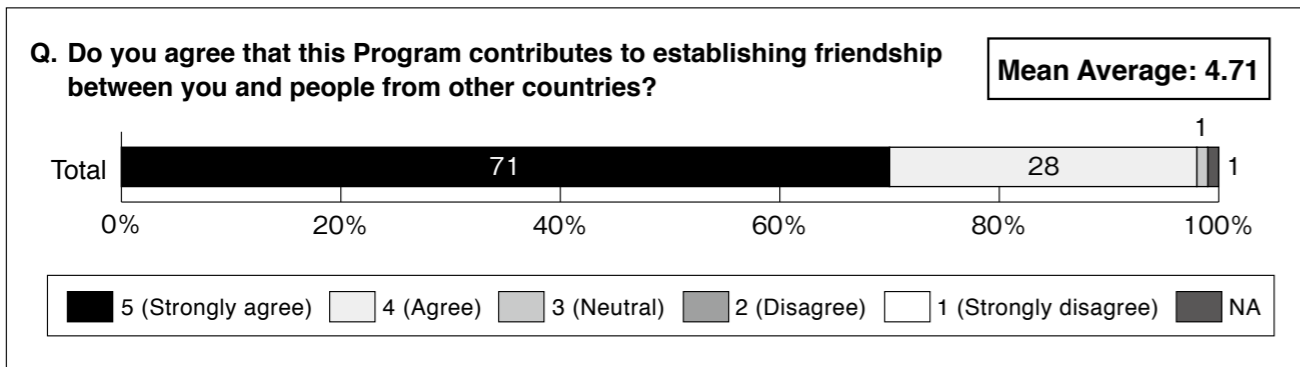
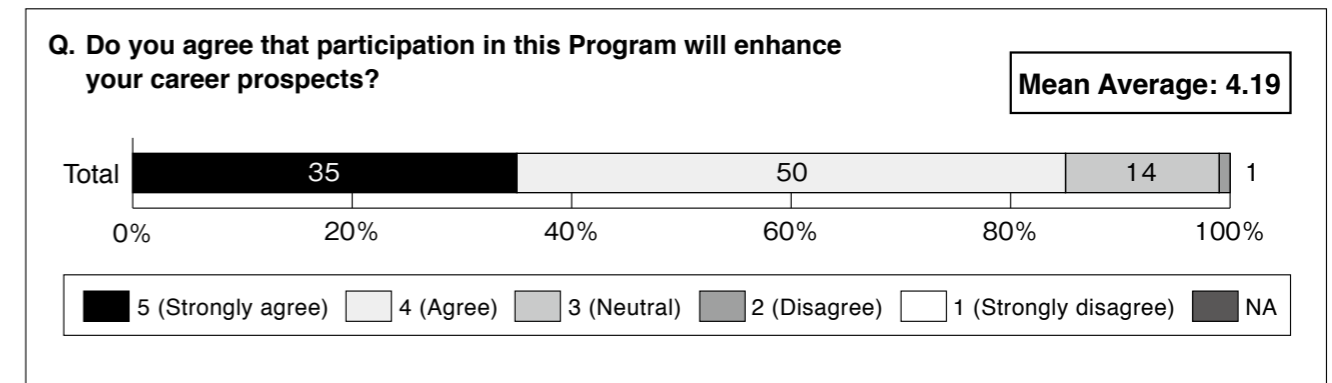
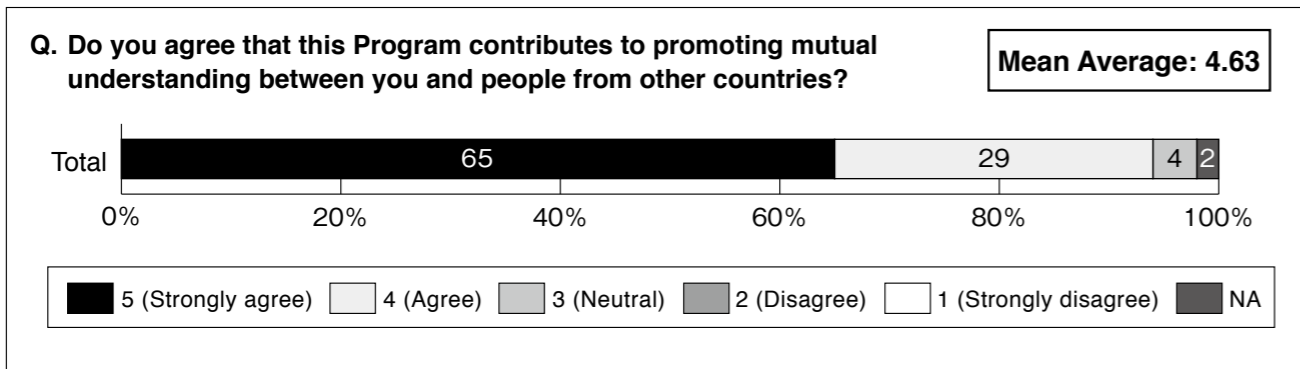
Numbers are rounded off to the whole number.

Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding.

**[Overall]**

The mean average of overall evaluation is 4.42 having 93% of participants rated 4 or above (good, excellent). Rating 4 or above (agree, strongly agree), 94% of participants evaluate that the Program contributes to “promoting mutual understanding” and 99% to “establishing friendship” between people from other countries. In regard to the contribution of this Program to one’s self-development, 86-89% of participants rate 4 or above (very effective, remarkably effective) for development of one’s “ability to response to the different cultures,” “ability to adapt to group living (cooperativeness and flexibility in a group),” “sense of responsibility,” “self-management” and “friends and network inside and outside the country.”

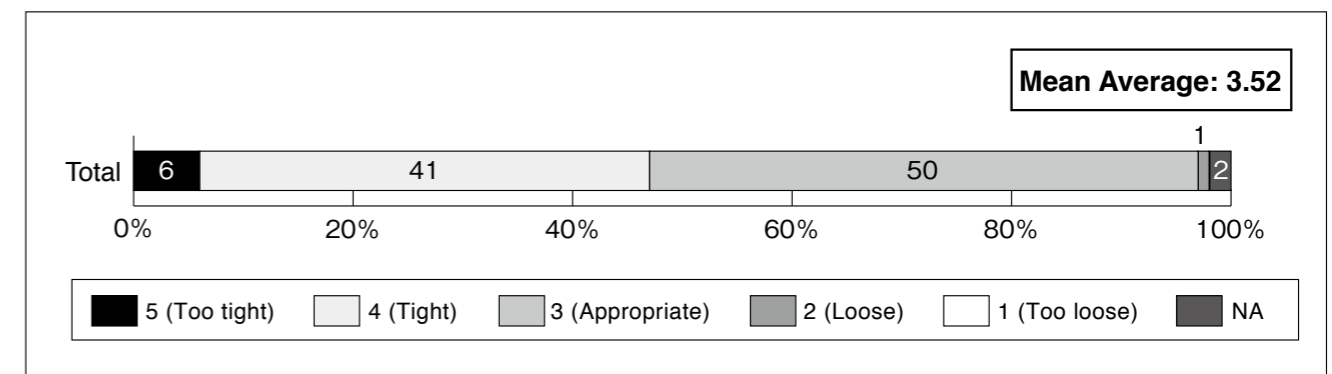




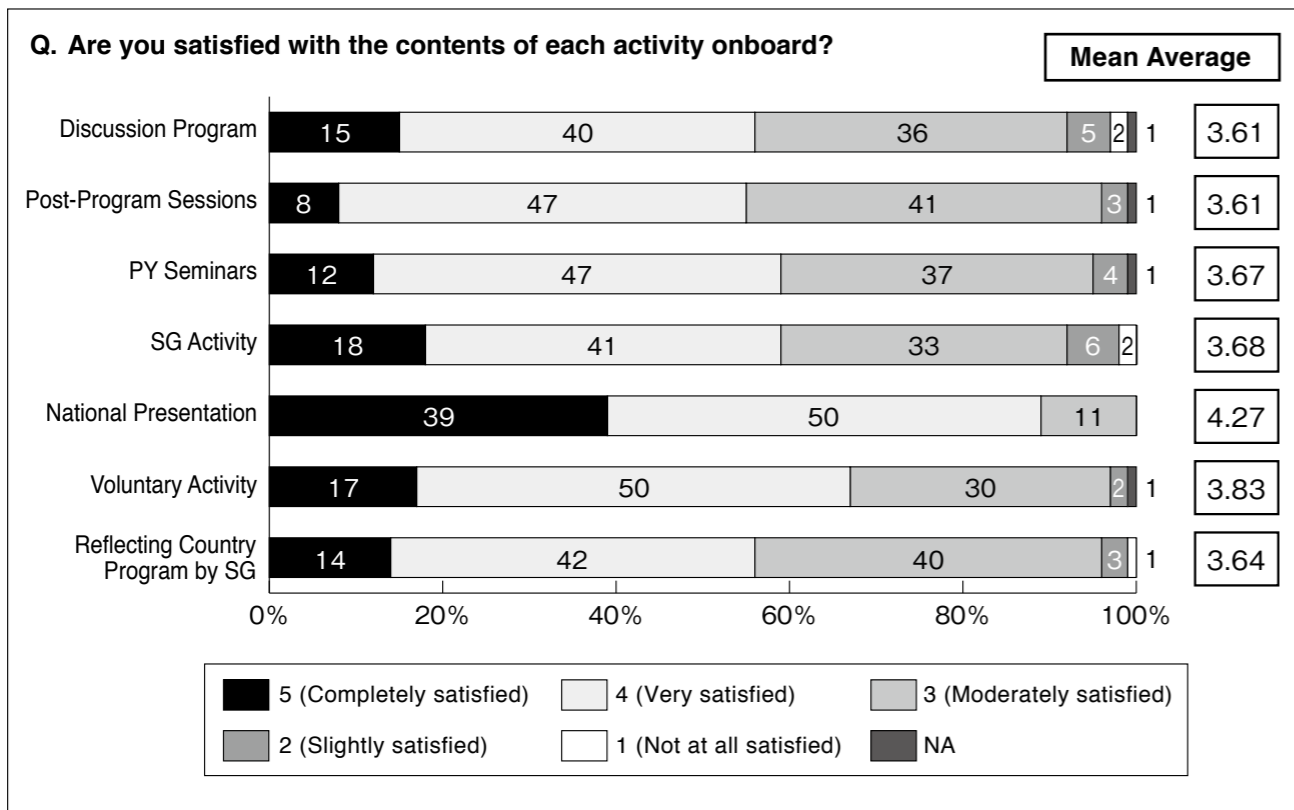
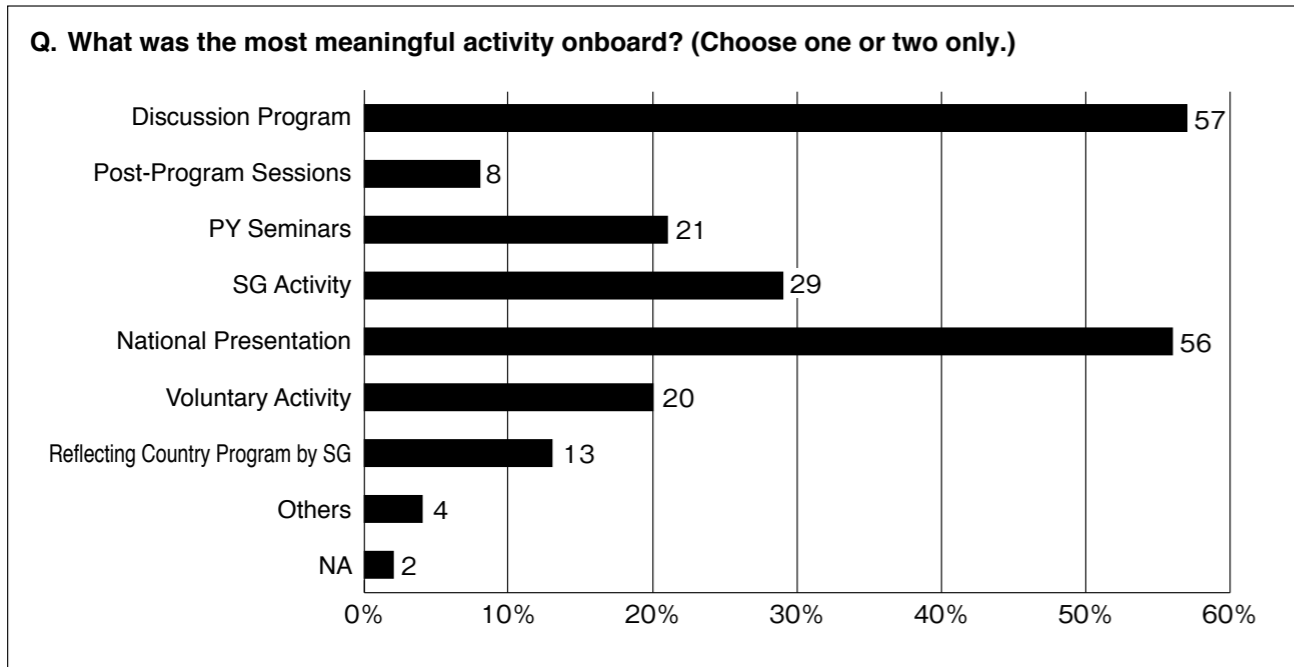
**[Onboard Activities]**

**Q. What did you think about the schedule onboard?**

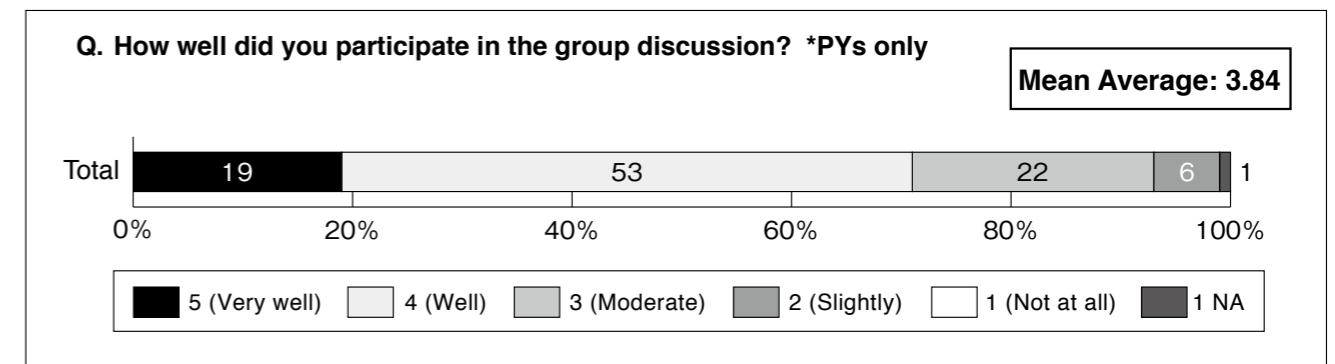
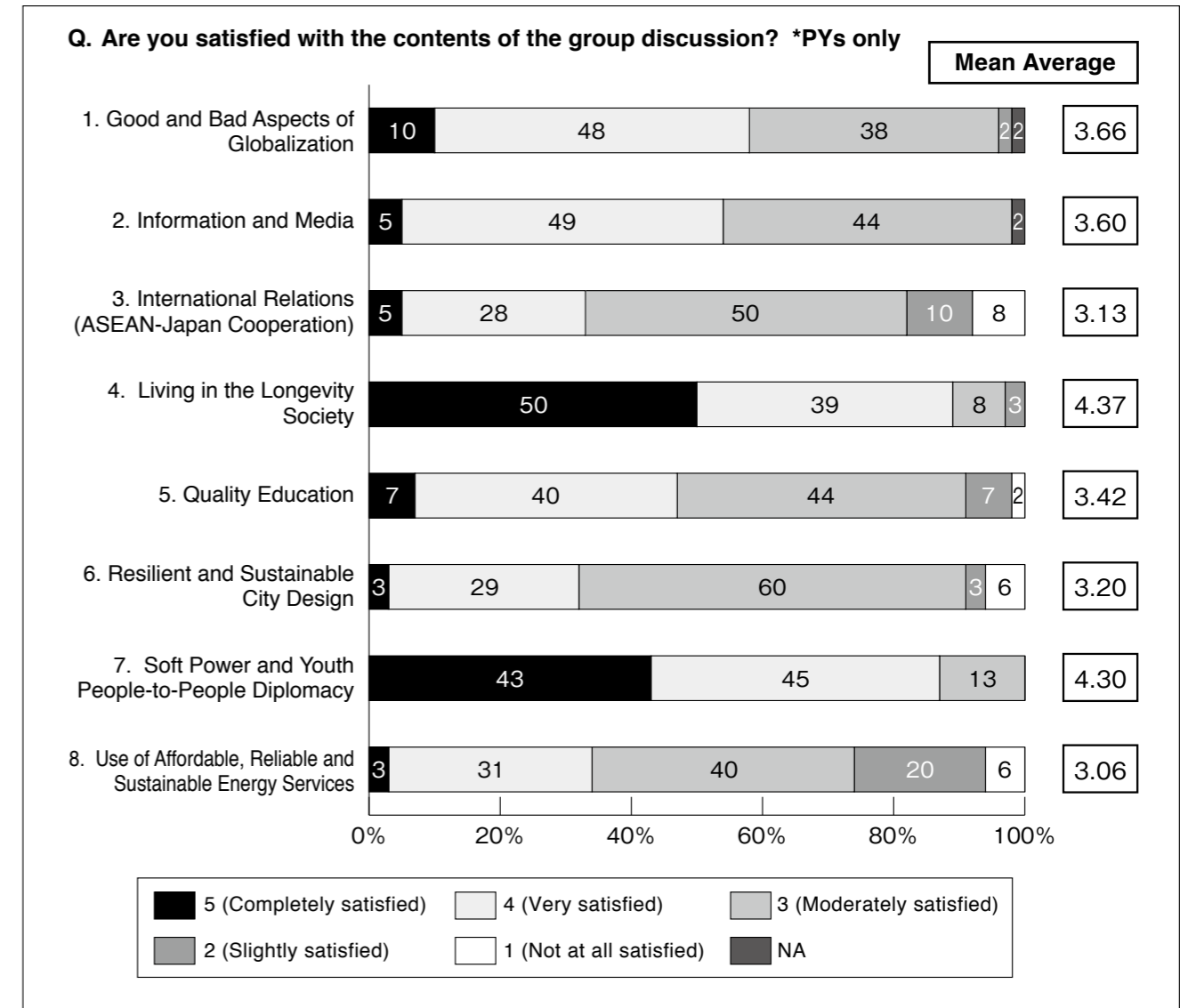
50% of participants rate the schedule onboard 3 (appropriate) while 47% rate 4 or above (tight, too tight).



In regard to the activities onboard, participants evaluate that the most meaningful activities were Discussion Program (57%) and National Presentation (56%), ranked in descending order. Meanwhile, participants are most satisfied with the contents of National Presentation (4.27) and Voluntary Activity (3.83), ranked in descending order of the mean averages.



**[Discussion Program]**

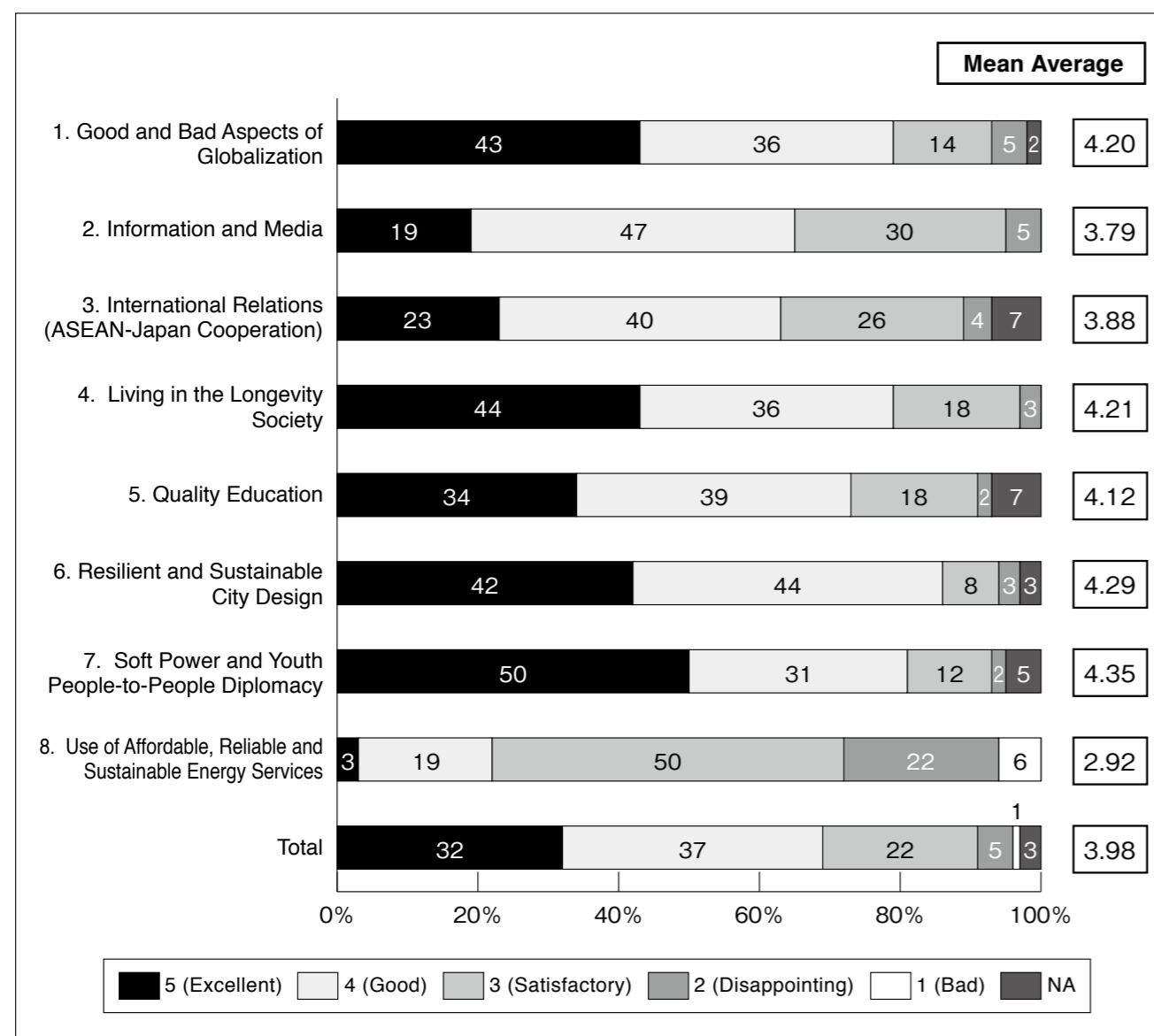




**[Institutional Visit in Japan and Brunei Darussalam]**

**Q. How do you evaluate the Institutional Visit in Japan in terms of its relevance to the group discussion theme?**

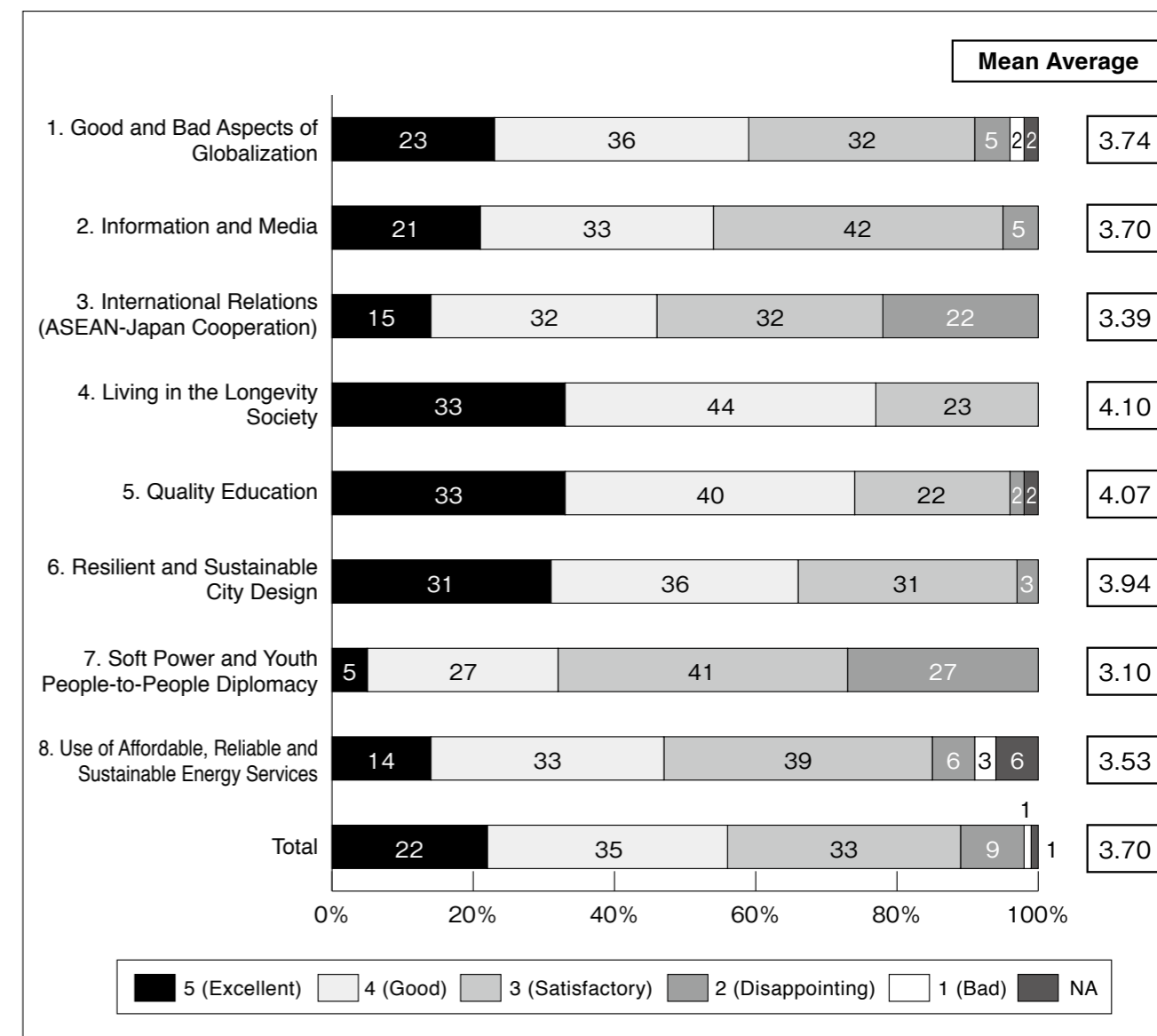
69% of participants rate the institutional visit in Japan 4 or above (good, excellent) in terms of its relevance to the discussion group theme.



- DG1: Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) / Development Education Association and Resource Center (DEAR)
- DG2: Yahoo! Japan
- DG3: ASEAN Promotion Centre on Trade, Investment and Tourism (ASEAN-Japan Centre) / Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- DG4: Social Welfare Corporation 'Kotoen'
- DG5: Tokyo Gakugei University International Secondary School
- DG6: Mitsui Fudosan Co., Ltd.
- DG7: GiFT (Global Incubation x Fostering Talents) / Toyo University
- DG8: Chiba University of Commerce

**Q. How do you evaluate the Institutional Visit in Brunei Darussalam in terms of its relevance to the group discussion theme?**

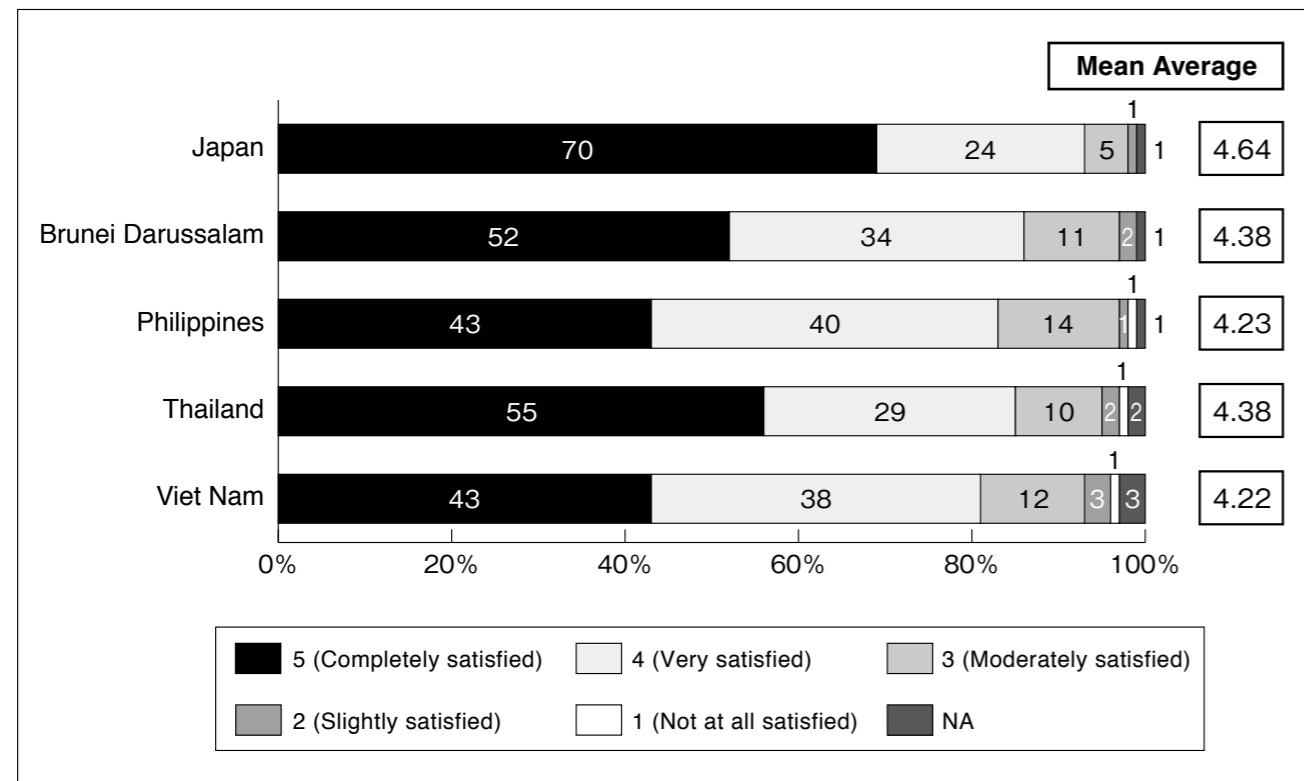
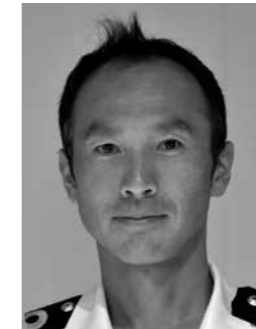
57% of participant rate the institutional visit in Brunei Darussalam 4 or above (good, excellent) in terms of its relevance to the discussion group theme.



- DG1: Institute for Leadership, Innovation and Advancement (ILIA), Universiti Brunei Darussalam
- DG2: Information Department, Prime Minister's Office
- DG3: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- DG4: Centre of Senior Citizens Activities under Control of Community Development Department, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
- DG5: Ministry of Education
- DG6: Kampong Ayer Water Village, Ministry of Development
- DG7: National History Centre and the Department of Language and Literature, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
- DG8: Ministry of Energy, Manpower and Industry

**[Homestay]****Q. How was your homestay experience?**

In all visited countries, 81-94% of participants rate the homestay 4 or above (very satisfied, completely satisfied).

**3 Message from the Captain****Ninomiya Satoshi  
Captain of Nippon Maru**

It was the occasion of introduction of the Captain when I first met PYs on the departure day. At that time, many of you looked nervous because of anxiety to your first time experience of long life aboard ship, or because of the ceremony. However, when I greeted you in the language of the respective countries, all of you replied to me with your smile on your face in spite of my poor pronunciation. I still feel like as if it happened just like yesterday.

Sent off by many people, we set sail from Tokyo Port to Muara on November 2. After sailing out from Tokyo bay, Nippon Maru started rolling and many PYs must have experienced seasickness for the first time. You often made joke of this experience of seasickness onboard. Because this joke is well understood among not only the 45th batch PYs but also ex-PYs of any batch, why don't you talk this joke with them if you have any chance? I am sure you will be able to have a lively conversation about memories onboard Nippon Maru. As we approached Luzon Island, the ocean gradually became peaceful and National Presentations started onboard by then. For the first several days after the departure from Tokyo, the groups that I had seen during the free time were PYs of the same contingents. However, by this time, I think that I came to see more diversified groups consisting of PYs from different contingents.

On November 10, the ship called at the first port, Muara. It took us eight days to arrive there since we had left Tokyo, so I am sure you felt they were very long eight days. You also might have felt that life away from the land for more than one week for the first time was hard and inconvenient without Wi-Fi. When you returned to the ship after the country program in Brunei Darussalam for four days and three nights, you all looked very relieved as if you came back home, which made me think you familiarized yourself with life on Nippon Maru.

Sent off by many people, we departed from Muara on November 13. After that, we called at the ports of Manila, Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City. Since the sailing days between each port were only three to four days, it felt time passed so fast during that time.

At each port, Reunion Onboard was held onboard Nippon Maru while PYs were off to the port of call activities. Having opportunity to attend this party, I realized the importance and greatness of this program. At the party in Bangkok, I observed that friendship, or something more like a bond, built through this program across the generations ranging from the ex-participants who used the former Nippon Maru to the last year's batch still continue to grow and I was very touched to witness such relationships of deep trust. Among the participants of the Reunion Onboard in Muara, Manila and Ho Chi Minh City were not only those who were living in the port of call countries but also those who came all the way from other countries, or those who were working locally because of the SSEAYP experiences, or those who came with their batch mates after 30 or 40 years of participation in the program. Every time I had a chance to meet and talk with those ex-PYs, I clearly came to feel the significance and wonderfulness of this program. I believe PYs of this years will also enjoy the enduring friendship with the 45th batch mates and you will be able to see each other again onboard Nippon Maru.

Between each country program, I enjoyed National Presentations. National Presentation of every contingent was fantastic and I was deeply impressed how PYs successfully created such high-quality presentation in a short time and I also felt how strongly PYs were united in each contingent. I believe PYs gained a sense of achievement when they completed National Presentations.

Like other ports, we were sent off by many people at the final port, Ho Chi Minh City and set sail for Japan on December 5. It took us seven days to arrive Tokyo, but I am sure you felt they were very short seven days compare to the first eight-day cruise from Tokyo to Muara.

Sailing through the Bashi Channel, the ship rolled more, but there seemed to be less PYs suffering from seasickness despite big motion. Around this time, I imagined that you felt a surge of sadness that this voyage was getting near to the end. On the day before arriving at Tokyo port, in order to respond to the request from PYs that they would love to see Mt. Fuji, I navigated the ship so that they could see and enjoy the beautiful Mt. Fuji from the ocean. However, as the Captain, my only regret was that I could not respond to the request from PYs due to bad weather.

We returned to Tokyo Port safely on December 12, and

ended the cruise without any trouble.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to the Administrator Yamatani and his staff members who appropriately managed onboard programs and led the 45th SSEAYP toward success, people of the Cabinet Office and International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO) and those who kindly cooperated at the respective port of calls. For PYs, 43 days onboard Nippon Maru were very short time in a life. I think you are very fortunate if friendship, trust, sense

of respect and such were built among you all in this short period of time. However, I hope you would not conclude that you just enjoyed the voyage and had a good experience. I would rather hope you would make use of learnings and experiences that you gained this time for your life to come as well as for the future of the respective countries, or for the people of the world.

I am looking forward to meeting you someday again onboard Nippon Maru.

Bon voyage.