

**Chapter
7**

Evaluations and Suggestions



1 Administrator's Report

Yamamoto Shigeki
Administrator of the 46th
Ship for Southeast Asian and
Japanese Youth Program in
2019



1. Introduction

The 46th Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program started its program by holding Inauguration Ceremony in Tokyo, Japan on October 25 and set sail to Southeast Asia from Yokohama port together with youths from 11 countries on Nippon Maru after completing the country program in Japan. After visiting Ho Chi Minh City (Viet Nam), Singapore, Yangon (Myanmar) and Port Klang (Malaysia), the Farewell Ceremony was held in Tokyo and the whole program was successfully finished. By sending all the Participating Youths (PYs) off at the Harumi pier one by one, who were departing to the airport to go back to their respective countries, I felt every PY has gained a sense of achievement and a certain degree of satisfaction.

2. Country Program in Japan

From the following day of Inauguration Ceremony, PYs visited prefectures of Aomori, Iwate, Fukushima, Chiba, Kanagawa, Niigata, Nagano, Osaka, Saga, Nagasaki and Kumamoto by Solidary Group (SG), and had local programs, such as interaction with local youths, homestay and so on. I heard it was a great opportunity for PYs from ASEAN member countries to know the society and culture of Japan, and for all PYs, who have just met, to open up one another beyond the country.

Discussion Program (Field Study) based on the discussion theme and Cultural Exchange Program were implemented after coming back to Tokyo. National Leaders (NLs), Youth Leaders (YLs) and Assistant Youth Leaders (AYLs) had an opportunity to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Abe on October 31, and to have an audience with H.I.H. Princess Mako of Akishino and H.I.H. Princess Kako of Akishino on November 1. Because it was not able to secure the accommodation in Tokyo, it was unfortunate that transfer required a lot of time so that PYs didn't have an opportunity to take a walk around the Tokyo metropolitan area this year.

3. Country programs in Southeast Asian Countries

This year, we visited Viet Nam, Singapore, Myanmar and Malaysia. We stayed in each country for four days, and PYs had homestay for three days and two nights, Discussion Program (Field Study), interaction with local youths, courtesy call, etc.

(1) Homestay

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the people who worked for the smooth implementation of the homestay program, which is one of the programs PYs had looked forward to most. I understand that it is not easy to arrange the host families, yet there were a few cases where the last minutes coordination was needed as well as host family did not understand enough about the meaning of homestay. I would like to expect further efforts of respective countries to prevent the issues of each individual case for the coming years.

(2) Discussion Program (Field Study) and Interaction with Local Youths

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

The activities were well devised and planned in each country. However, further improvements may be necessary according to the results of PY's evaluation, such as how to relate with Discussion Program, whether the visits should be done by Discussion Group (DG) or SG, whether there should be a lecture or discussion on site, or what is the best way of interaction with local youths.

(3) Welcome Ceremony and Courtesy Call

At every port of call country, heartwarming welcome ceremony and reception were held. We had a presence of high-ranking government officials and other VIPs and received kind welcoming words. I believe that these opportunities made PYs acknowledge how high this Program is valued. There were some executives enjoyed talking with PYs very frankly in some countries, and it might have created a strong impression and may remain in PYs' memory.

4. Onboard Activities

Onboard activities, as well as Country Programs, form a large part of this Program. Various activities were assigned within the tight schedule in between each port of call. I believe that the interactions in non-program hours are also meaningful so that certain measures should be taken to ensure the sufficient time.

(1) Discussion Program

PYs were divided into nine DGs; 1. Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery, 2. Diversity and Social Inclusion, 3. Education, 4. Employment and Decent Work, 5. Environment and Sustainability, 6. Good Health and Well-being, 7. Information and Media, 8. Soft Power and Youth Diplomacy, 9. Youth Entrepreneurship. PYs deepened their understanding of the situation in respective countries and exchanged their opinions on common issues. With dedicated efforts of Facilitators, I am convinced that PYs made the most of Discussion Program.

Nevertheless, I felt the importance of continuous review, such as, what are the appropriate themes and ways of discussion, how to make the effective discussion beyond the status of country representative with various backgrounds in terms of society, economics, politics and religions, and how to facilitate the discussion program with PYs' different proficiency of English and degree of interest in discussion themes.

(2) National Presentation

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

It was perceived that a substantial amount of time was spent in preparation in each country, and with creativity of visual aids, all the NPs were very impressive. It was a little regretful, however, that there were some countries, which focused too much on cultural introduction. It would be better if all PYs could share the issues of each country and were given the chance to think about them together.

(3) Other Activities

In addition to above-mentioned, SG Activities, PY Seminars, and Voluntary Activities which PYs take the initiative to organize the activity were held. Through

planning and implementing these activities, PYs could gain experience in acquiring the leadership.

5. Conclusion

I completed my regular career track of government official in the summer of 2019 and am currently working as a staff member of the Cabinet Office. I have served as the Administrator of the 29th and the 30th Programs, but I have never thought I would be appointed to the post of the Administrator again at the age of nearly retirement. In addition to the lack of English conversation skills, as usual, I was initially worried whether my physical abilities would be competent.

However, with NLs who made efforts to complete the Program successfully, Facilitators who maintained an appropriate relationship with PYs in a skillful manner, PYs who joined the Program as representatives of their own countries and understood the significance of the Program, and Administrative staff members who meticulously supported the progress of the Program, I barely managed to served out as the Administrator. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to everyone.

I was personally very happy to receive an encouragement from ex-PYs of the 29th SSEAYP at Yokohama port, as well as to see NLs and PYs of the 29th and the 30th SSEAYP in each port of call country. It was also a great benefit for me to realize the changes in the socio-economic situations of each country for the first time in 16 or 17 years. PYs have a strong command of English in general and I felt that more PYs could afford to "enjoy" the Discussion Program.

The participants of SSEAYP change every year. I was able to realize again how high this Program is recognized in each country. No matter how advanced information and communication technology become, I am confident that the intercultural experience and mutual understanding, which PYs from 11 countries gain by living together, are extremely significant. I strongly hope this Program will be taken over to the 50th and the 100th Program with continuous improvement.

Fortunately, I have never had seasick during the Program this time, but now I have such strong SSEAYP-sick. I am hoping to see everyone again in the future, and I would like to conclude my report by promising my active contribution to this Program if there is anything I can do.

2 PYs' Evaluation of SSEAYP 2019

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 317 Participating Youths.

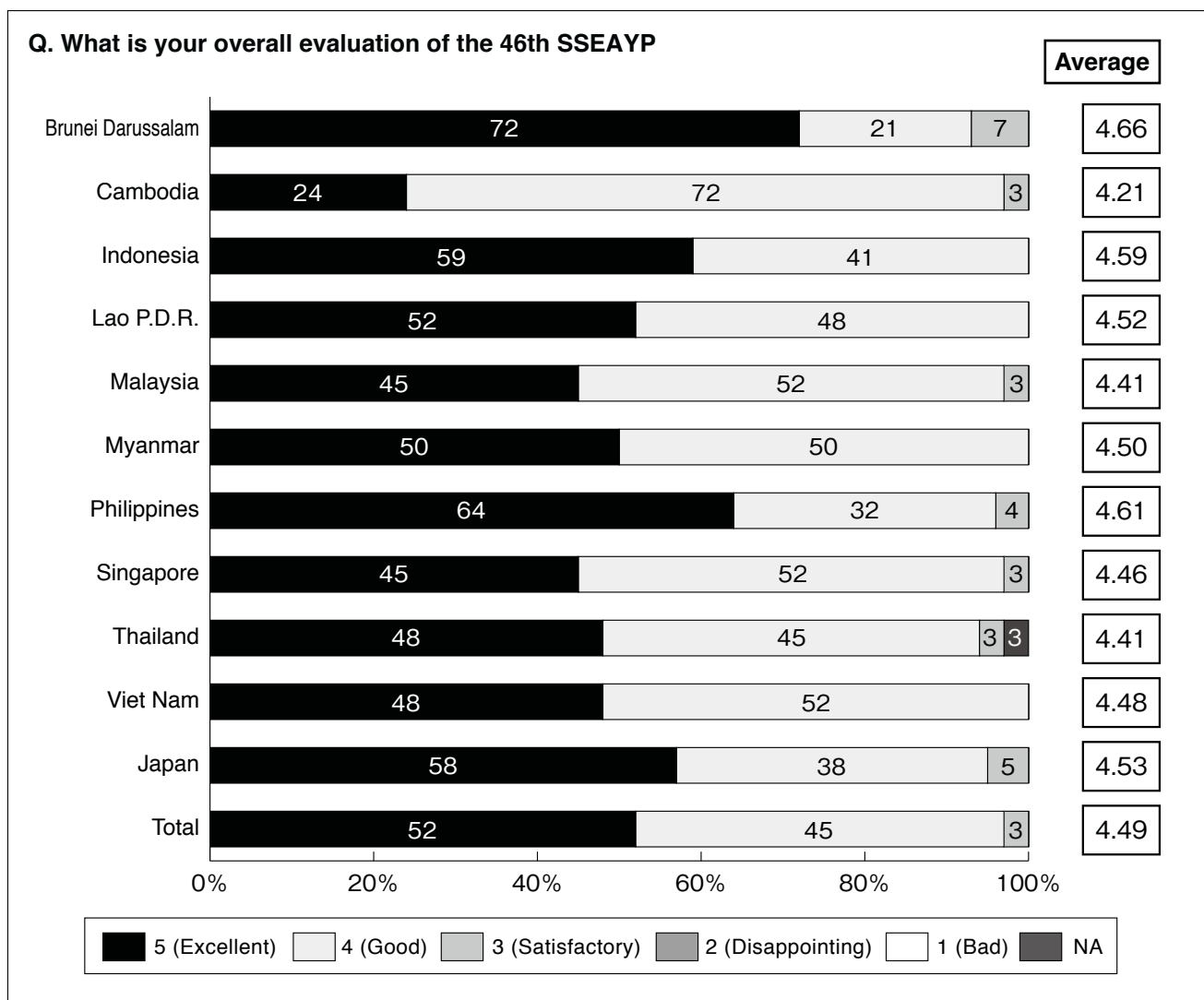
Numbers are rounded off to the whole number.

Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding."

[Overall]

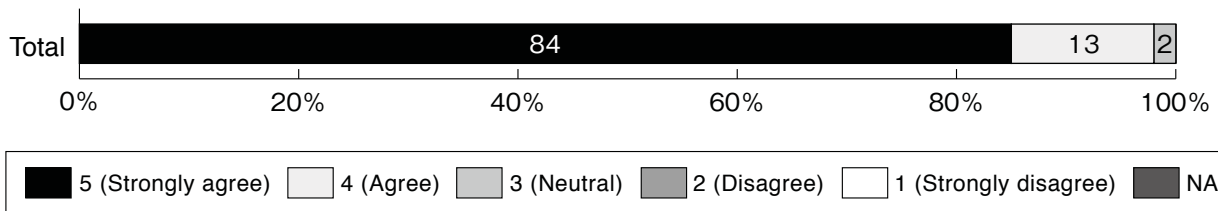
The mean average of overall evaluation is 4.49 having 97% of participants rated 4 or above (good, excellent).

Rating 4 or above (agree, strongly agree), 97% 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, 91 - 95% 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)," "identify and pride as a citizen of your own country," "self-management" and "friends and network inside and outside the country."



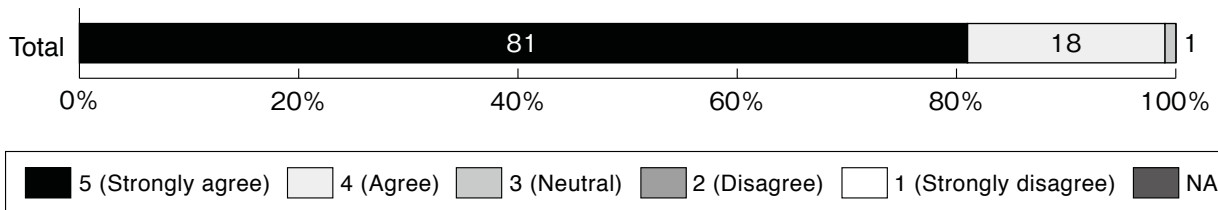
Q. Do you agree that this Program contributes to promoting mutual understanding between you and people from other countries?

Average: 4.83



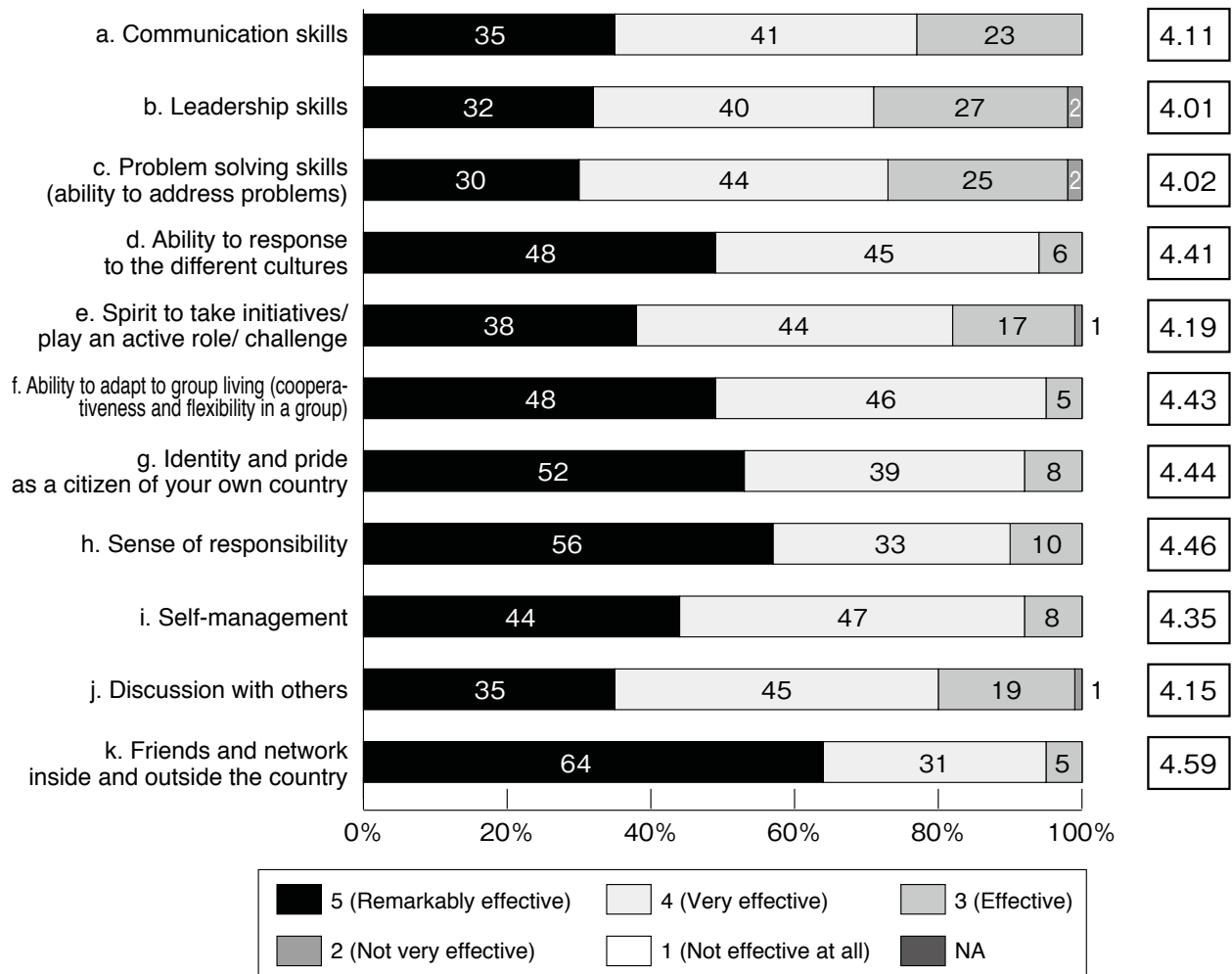
Q. Do you agree that this Program contributes to establishing friendship between you and people from other countries?

Average: 4.80



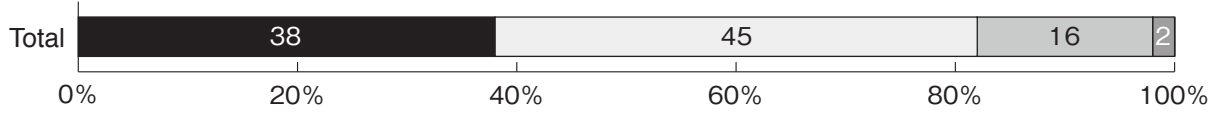
Q. How do you evaluate the contribution of this Program to your self development? Please answer for each attributes.

Average



Q. Do you agree that participation in this Program will enhance your career prospects?

Average: 4.19



Q. Do you agree that this program encourages your willingness to participate in social contribution activities?

Average: 4.53

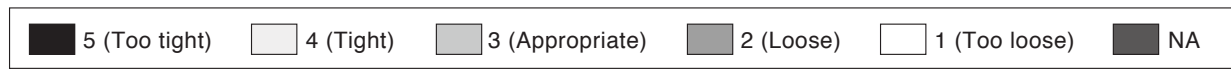
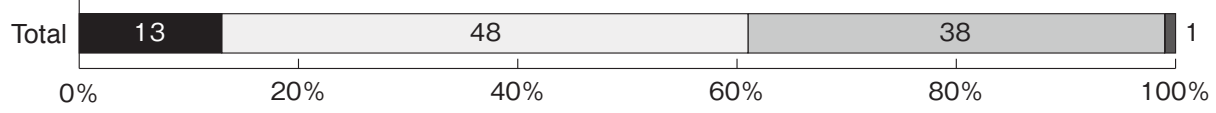


[Onboard Activities]

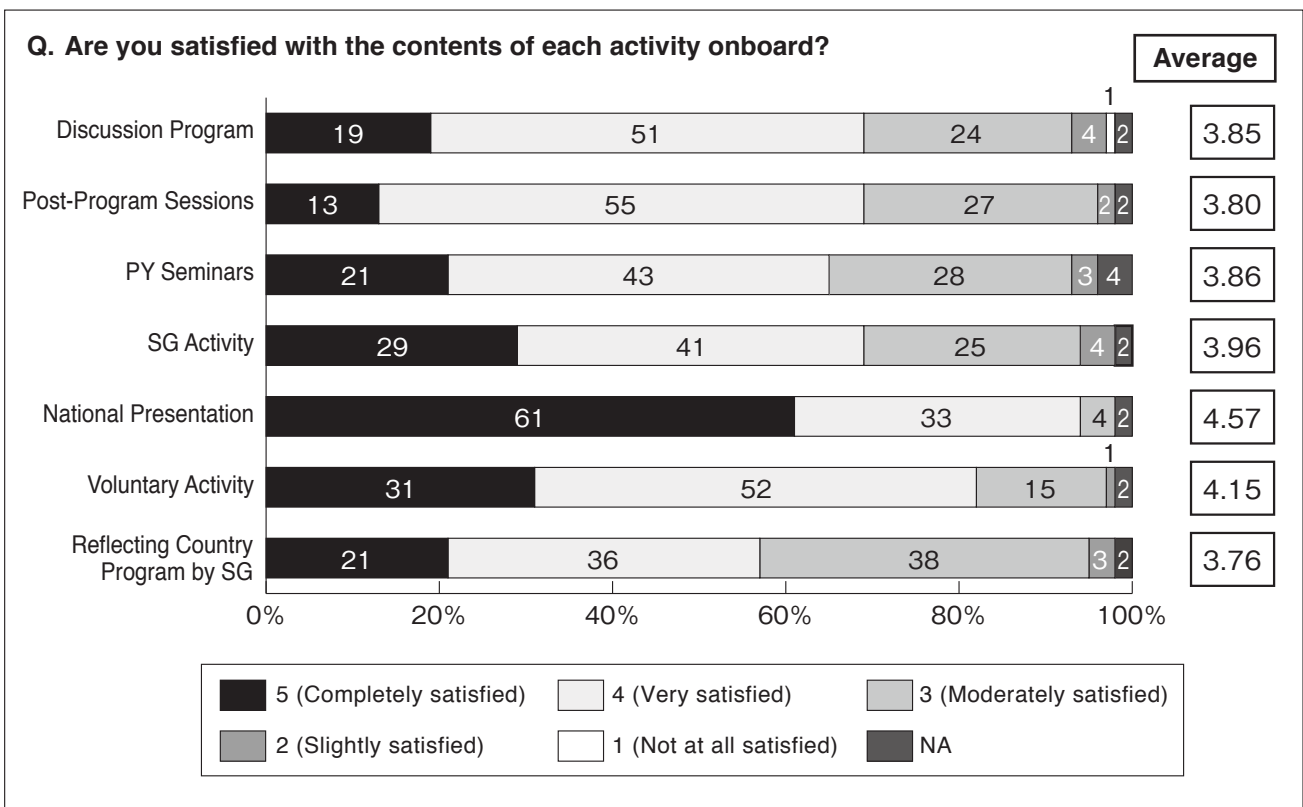
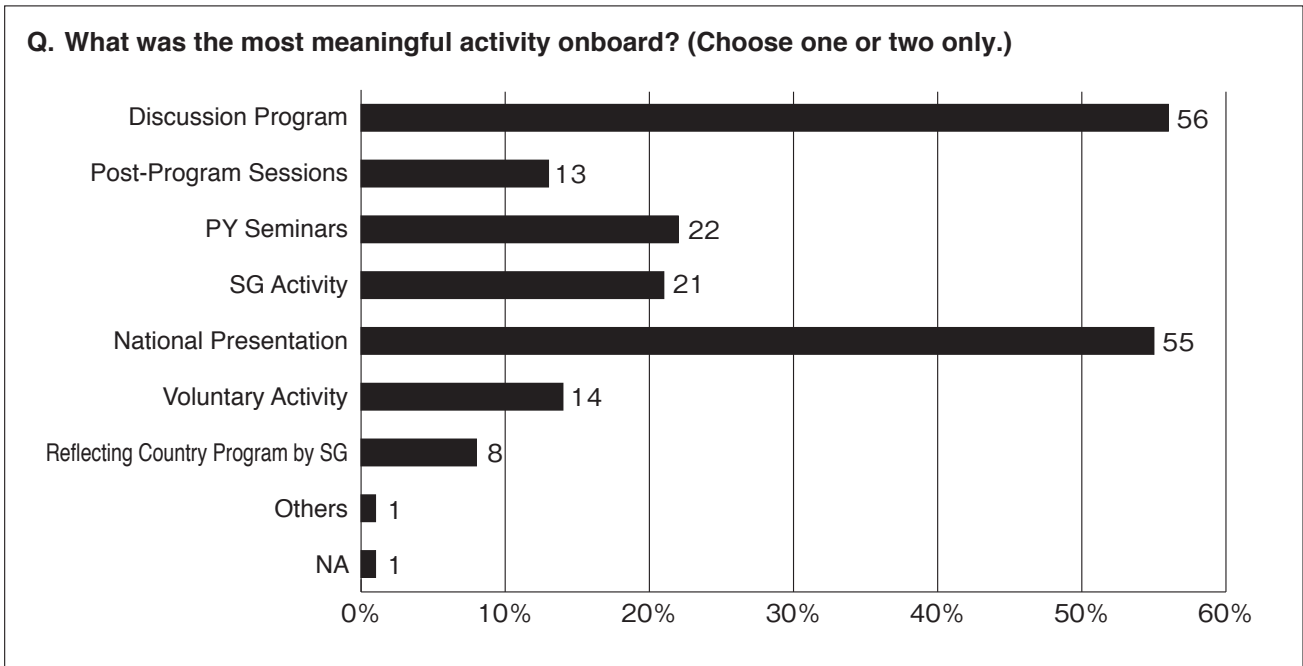
Q. What did you think about the schedule onboard?

38% of participants rate the schedule onboard 3 (appropriate) while 61% rate 4 or above (tight, too tight).

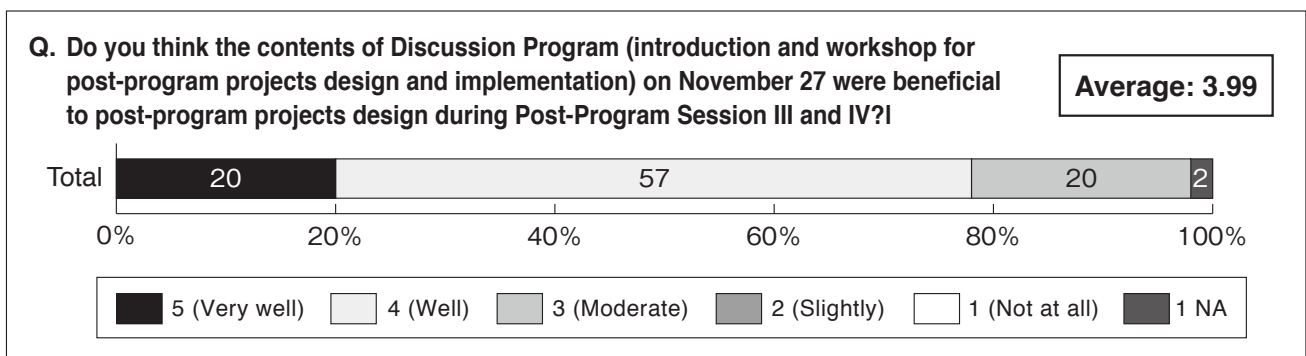
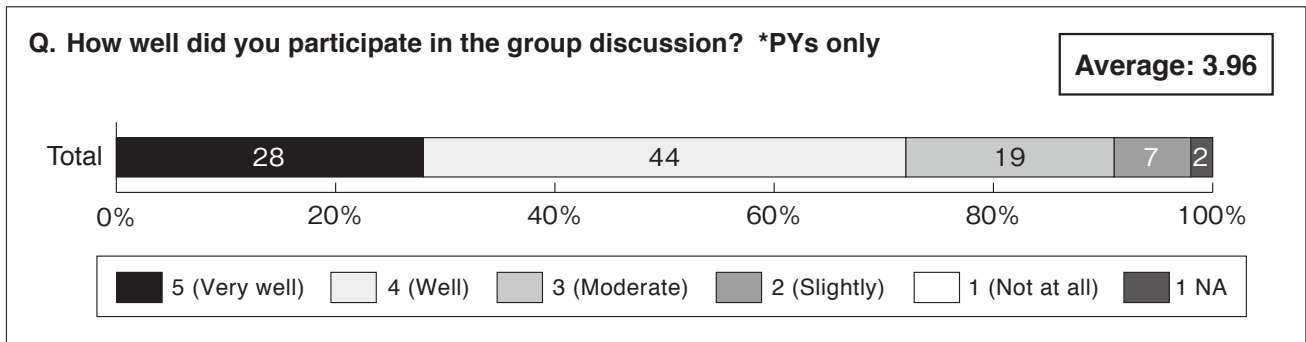
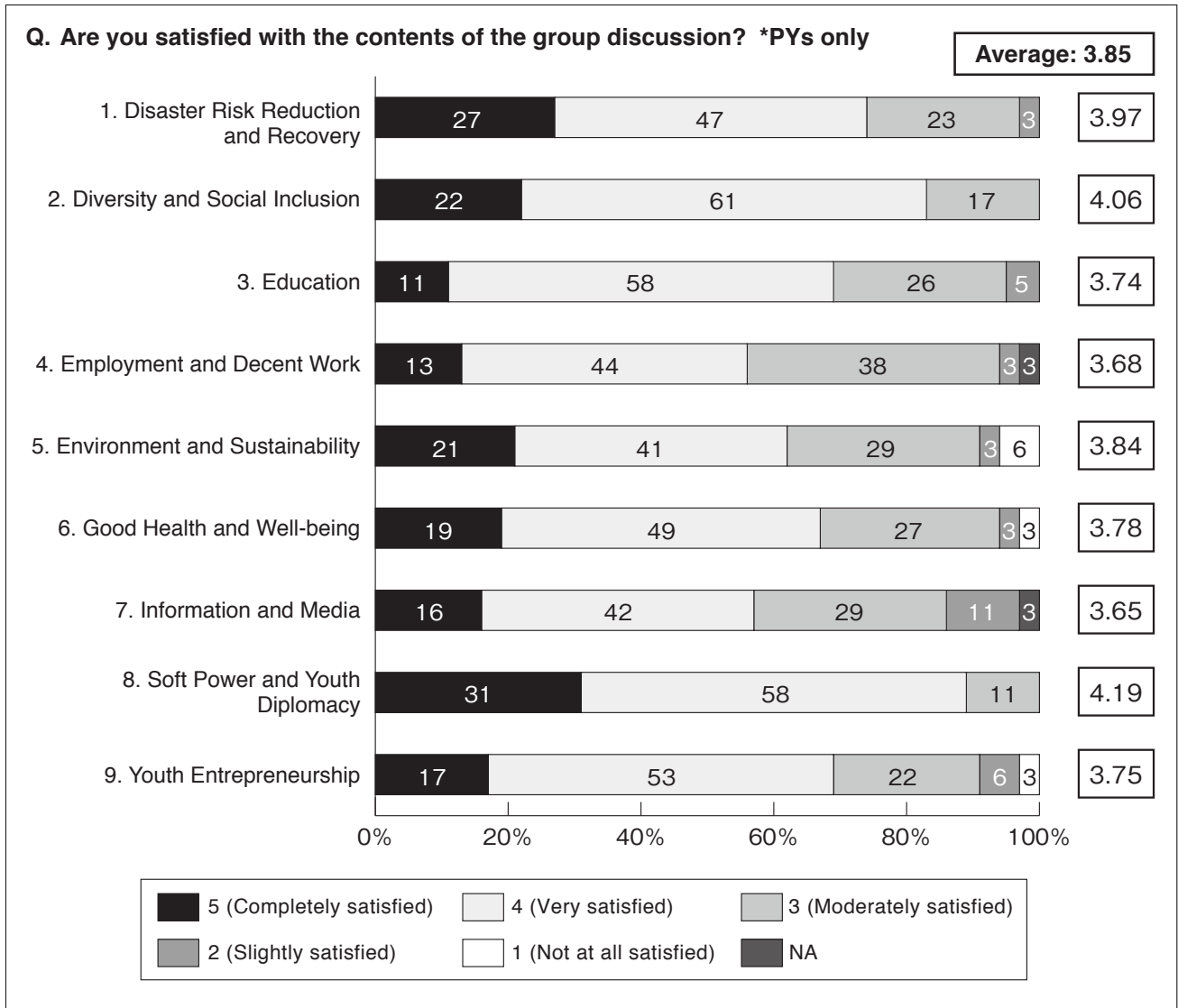
Average: 3.74



In regard to the activities onboard, participants evaluate that the most meaningful activities were Discussion Program (56%) and National Presentation (55%), ranked in descending order. Meanwhile, participants are most satisfied with the contents of National Presentation (4.57) and Voluntary Activity (4.15), ranked in descending order of the mean averages.

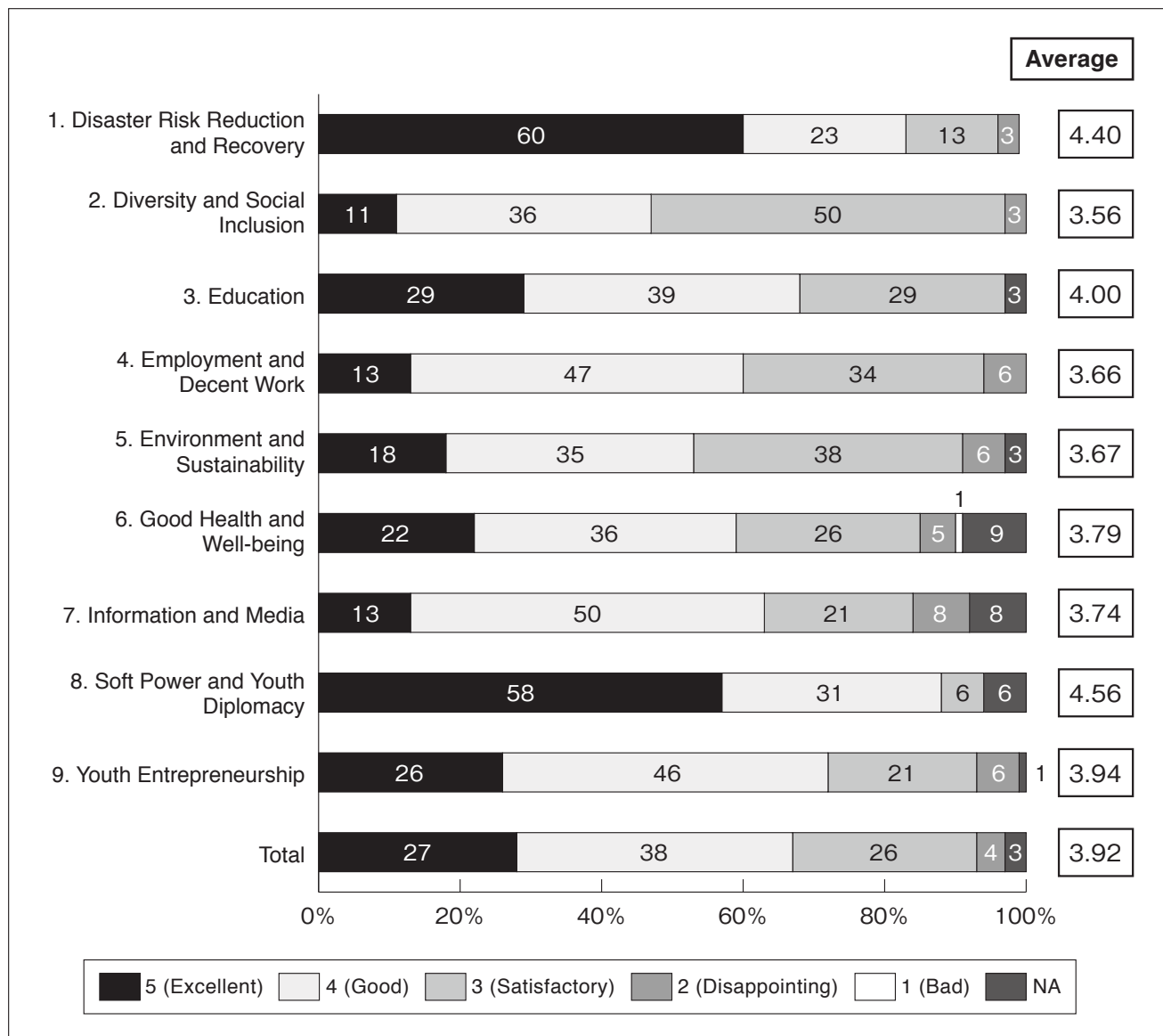


[Discussion Program]



[Field Study in Japan and Viet Nam]**Q. How do you evaluate the Field Study in Japan in terms of its relevance to the group discussion theme?**

65% of participants rate the Field Study in Japan 4 or above (good, excellent) in terms of its relevance to the discussion group theme.



DG1: Mitsui Fudosan Co., Ltd.

DG2: Borderless Japan Corporation

DG3: Shinagawa Joshi Gakuin

DG4: Decent Work Co., Ltd.

DG5: Kokusai Kogyo Co., Ltd.

DG6: b-lab, Certified NPO Corporation Katariba / Certified NPO Corporation PIECES

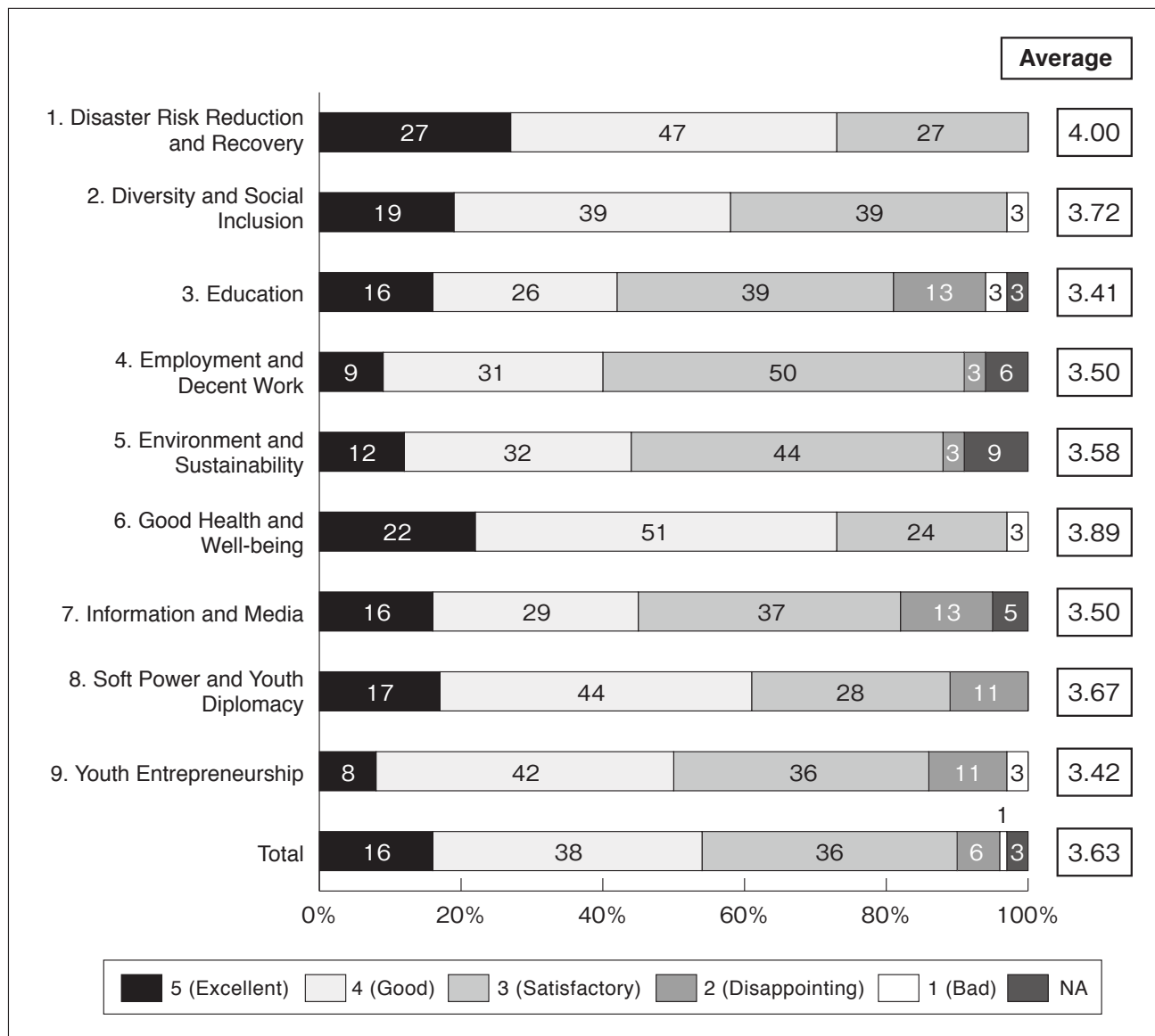
DG7: Hakuhodo DY Holdings Inc.

DG8: GiFT (Global Incubation x Fostering Talents)

DG9: LORANS. Co., Ltd. / BOUNDLESS Inc.

Q. How do you evaluate the Field Study in Viet Nam in terms of its relevance to the group discussion theme?

54% of participant rate the Field Study in Viet Nam 4 or above (good, excellent) in terms of its relevance to the discussion group theme.

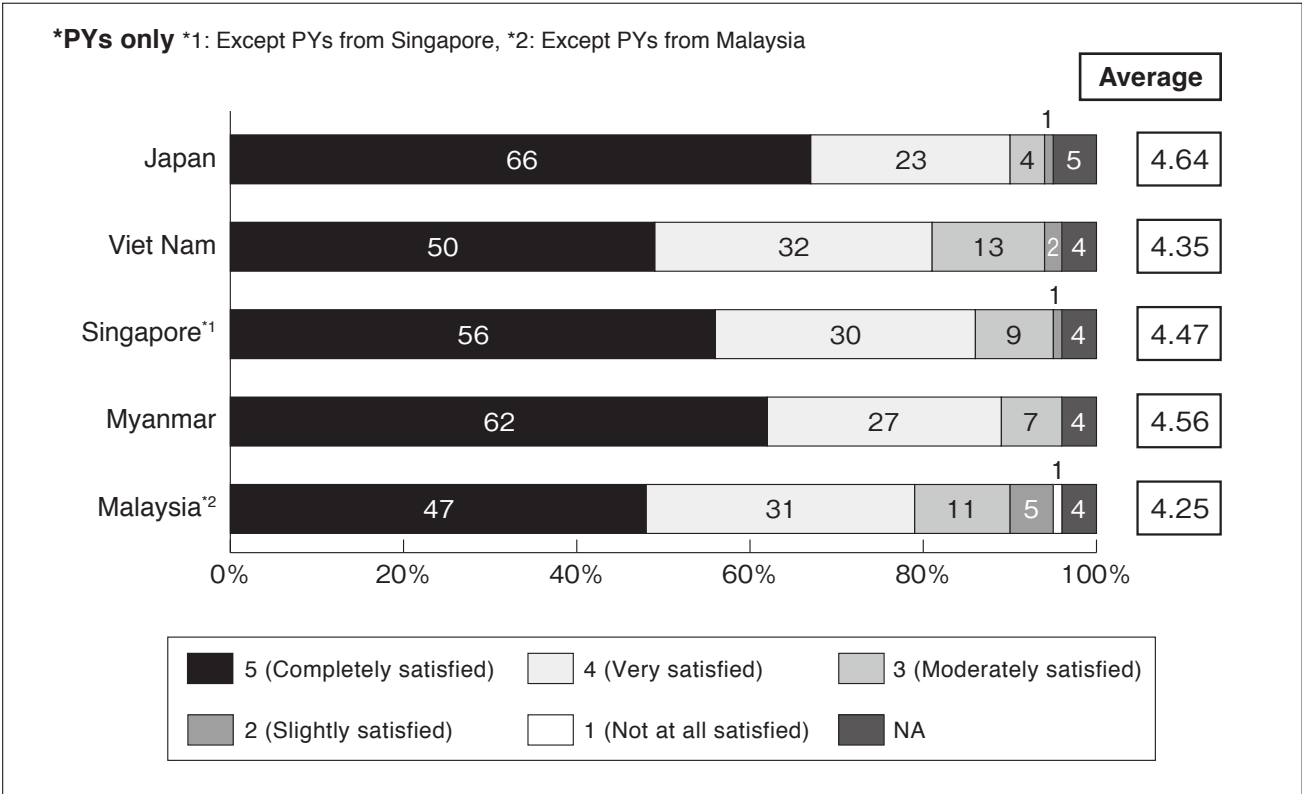


- DG1: Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology – Viet Nam National University of Ho Chi Minh City
- DG2: Ho Chi Minh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH) – Viet Nam National University of Ho Chi Minh City
- DG3: Ho Chi Minh City Pedagogical University
- DG4: Youth Employment Service Center (YES Center)
- DG5: University of Science – Viet Nam National University of Ho Chi Minh City
- DG6: University of Medicine Pham Ngoc Thach
- DG7: Ho Chi Minh City Newspaper Center
- DG8: University of Economics and Finance
- DG9: Sai Gon Innovation HUB

[Homestay]

Q. How was your homestay experience?

In all visited countries, 78 - 89% of participants rate the homestay 4 or above (very satisfied, completely satisfied).



3 Message from the Captain

Senda Shoichi **Captain of Nippon Maru**

I am Senda Shoichi, Captain of Nippon Maru for the 46th Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP). I had worked on bulk carriers, LNG carriers, tankers, and other cargo ships so far, and it was my first experience to work on the cruise ship and for SSEAYP, so all the events were new to me. The voyage this time can be roughly divided into the following four parts. Overall, the voyage began and ended with a typhoon. During the voyage, the nature of the ocean and the sky showed various expressions. By reflecting on them, the Nippon Maru bounced, and PYs, Administrative staff members and the ship crew also showed various expressions.



1. Escape from Typhoon Nakri – navigation from Hainan Island to Vietnamese coast
2. Ho Chi Minh City – Singapore – Yangon - Port Klang
3. Escape from Typhoon Kammuri – navigation from the Sulu Sea to the Pacific Ocean
4. From the Pacific Ocean to Tokyo

The following is an outline of the above-mentioned voyage based on my notes.

1. Escape from Typhoon Nakri – navigation from Hainan Island to Vietnamese coast

On November 3, 2019, Nippon Maru set sail from Osanbashi Yokohama International Passenger Terminal.

We had information before departure that Typhoon Nakri was approaching the South China Sea, and Nippon Maru might encounter Typhoon Nakri near Bashi Channel, in between Taiwan and Luzon Island, the Philippines. We called for caution shortly after departure for the possible rolling.

On November 6, at Bashi Channel, we changed the sailing route from the initial shortest course to Ho Chi Minh City to the course sailing from Hainan Island on the north side along the Vietnamese coast. With this course change, the ship had waves from the stern and the rolling was diminished. It made it possible for Japanese

PYs to perform energetic National Presentation (NP) from that evening. The NP was impressive by using the latest visual technology, from the introduction of Japanese recent culture with manga and animation to the traditional one with Kimono, Koto, calligraphy, Kendo, etc., which utilized the talents of PYs.

On November 7, the speed of Typhoon Nakri slowed down, and Nippon Maru increased the speed of the vessel so that it could sail at a distance of more than 300 miles from Typhoon Nakri. The ship continued to receive the waves from the stern and the rolling was further diminished.

On November 7-9, we had NPs of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia and Viet Nam. The gorgeous costumes, and united songs and dances of each country captivated everyone.

On November 9, the ship arrived offshore of Ho Chi Minh City one day earlier so we adjusted the time by drifting. It was due to speeding up to avoid the effects of Typhoon Nakri. On that day, I was relieved to hear Administrative staff members said, “we did not feel any big shake and there was no sea sickness.” The troubled Nakri is named by Cambodia, and I heard it means Night Jasmine. It may have tempting scent. I would like to appreciate it.

2. Ho Chi Minh City – Singapore – Yangon - Port Klang

On November 10, we arrived at Ho Chi Minh City. At Welcome Ceremony, PYs of each contingent lined up on the gangway of Nippon Maru with their national flags according to the introduction announcement by MC, and they performed flag cheers with shouting and singing. Each contingent showed outstanding cohesive performance with flowing and rhythmic movements. All the attendees, including myself, had a round of applause for them. After that, PYs went for homestay. PYs had homestay in each port of call country and they seemed to receive a hearty welcome every time.

On November 13, PYs returned to the ship from homestay and had Send-off Ceremony. They sang Nippon Maru Song together with singers from Ho Chi Minh City and the piano played by Administrator Yamamoto. We departed the port with great excitement.

After departure from Ho Chi Minh City, we had NPs of Indonesia and Singapore on November 14-15. NP of

Indonesia introduced the depth of culture deriving from its geographical size. Although the culture is so diverse, the unity of all PYs was wonderful. I was amazed at NP of Singapore for its entertaining performance with humorous jokes that everyone enjoyed.

After arriving in Singapore on November 16, we were busy for shifting the berth on November 17-18. The sunlight was so strong and hot so there were a few PYs who got sick at Send-off Ceremony on November 19.

After departure from Singapore, we had NPs of Lao P.D.R. and Myanmar on November 20-21. I learned that national flower of Lao P.D.R. is Plumeria, which made me feel familiar because Plumeria is a pretty flower that blooms in the garden of my house.

On November 22, we arrived in Yangon port. We were forced to maneuver slalom to keep away from a row of fishing boats since more than six hours before pilot boarding. Then the pilot got onboard and the ship went up the river. There were places where the ship couldn't sail due to the drastic change of water depth, and there were no light buoys or structural objects in front of the quay. I truly realized that Yangon is the port, which cannot be entered without a pilot.

After departure from Yangon, NPs of the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia on November 26-28. Everyone was impressed with the performance of the Philippines from the very beginning by a cappella song. Personally, the singing skill and direction of this a cappella song was the best of NPs. NP of Thailand showed the richness of all the PYs' characteristics, and NP of Malaysia attracted everyone with beautiful consumes, lively dances and songs.

On November 29, we called at Port Klang port. Reunion Onboard (ROB) were held every port of call, and like any other ports, ROB was held at Port Klang on December 1. The theme of ROB in Malaysia was "football" and ex-PYs of all ages and genders praised the theme costumes one another. They shared laughter and enjoyed chatting about old days, and ROB got really lively. When it comes to ROB, there was an impressive speech by ex-PYs in Yangon, which explained three sickness of SSEAYP. They are "seasick (sickness from the rolling ship), shipsick (sadness for leaving the ship) and lovesick (sadness for parting from beloved PYs)." I was made to realize the real meaning of this speech later.

3. Escape from Typhoon Kammuri – navigation from the Sulu Sea to the Pacific Ocean

Typhoon Kammuri had formed before entering Port Klang, and we received information that it has been

moving from the Pacific Ocean across the Luzon Island, the Philippines, and heading to Bashi Channel. The entire sea area of the planned course in the South China Sea where Nippon Maru was planning to sail had a wave height of 3 to 6 meters and a wind speed of 20 meters per second or faster. Therefore, based on all the meteorological information, we decided to sail the Sulu Sea, the eastern area of Palawan Island of the Philippines, and go through to the Pacific Ocean side. This area is dotted with many coral reefs, and it was necessary to sail in a narrow water area of many islands, which I have never sailed before and made me feel uneasy.

We departed from Port Klang on December 2, and passed through Singapore on December 3. When we headed to the south of Palawan, the Philippines, after passing through Eastern Bank, the ship was affected by two-meter waves and 15-meter-per-second wind from the left side of the bow. Pitching, which is shaking up and down, and punching, which the bow hitting the waves, started. On December 4, pitching and punching became smaller as we approached Palawan.

Then, we entered the Sulu Sea on December 5. The sun shined in the fine weather, and the waves and wind became calm in a flash. Surface of the ocean was like a mirror and it showed various colors and expressions such as blue, green and yellow. I'm sure that everyone was fascinated by the beauty of that sea. There was a big cheer from the deck.

On the next day, December 6, we kept sailing the Sulu Sea. We arranged the time for threading our way through islands in a narrow area before it got dark. In addition, because the waves and wind were still calm and the weather was clear, it was relatively easy to steer the ship. PYs must have enjoyed the beautiful ocean, sky and green islands. The cheer from the deck was even louder.

As a result, Typhoon Kammuri led us to a good sailing route. "Kammuri" is named by Japan after a constellation of The Northern Crown, which is pronounced as "Kammuri" in Japanese. There is a Japanese proverb says "Those who washed his hair, he always clear away the dirt of crown (Kammuri) before wearing." It means anyone who tries to keep himself innocent is afraid of being polluted from the outside.

After 16:00 on December 6, we passed through the Sulu Sea and entered to the Pacific Ocean. Pitching and Punching started soon after.

4. From the Pacific Ocean to Tokyo

On December 7, pitching and punching continued

with waves of two-meter height. As it was the last free day onboard for PYs, the ship sailed at reduced speed to suppress the shaking. According to the weather forecast, the hydrographical and meteorological conditions would be worse as the frontal cyclone would move eastward with Nippon Maru and the wave height would be three meters or higher.

On December 8, the wave height was more than three meters, however, the wind was still moderate and pitching and punching were tolerable. By the morning of December 9, the wave height was more than three meters and the wind became stronger than 30 meters per second. Pitching and punching were hard and splashes came up on the bridge. Booming sound of punching was resounded. We had the worst weather and shake of this voyage on December 8 and 9 and many of the ship crew could not sleep. Perhaps PYs also had a hard time.

On December 10, pitching and punching were getting smaller. We got to expect the ample time for arrival at Tokyo port on December 12, and we found out that it would be a fair weather on December 11. Everyone was exhausted due to the stormy weather until the day before, so we made a plan to sail to "Mt. Fuji" off Tagonoura to blow away everyone's fatigue.

Around 6 am on December 11, cheers went up from many places. Along the morning sun, a huge Mt. Fuji wearing a white hat with the clear blue sky in the background was standing in front of our eyes as if to say, "Welcome home." All the Administrative staff members and PYs enjoyed taking photos at the deck on that day till the ship set sail again in the evening. It was a beautiful moment that I witnessed the PY singing "Nippon Maru, Sailing the Blue Blue Ocean..." the Nippon Maru Song, in a loud and clear voice toward Mt. Fuji, and it stuck to my eyes. I was grateful to Mt. Fuji.

From around 5:00 on December 12, the ship sailed

along the familiar Tokyo bay, from Uruga Channel, Nakanose Sea Route to Tokyo West Passage, and arrived at Harumi pier at 8:00.

There was Farewell Party in the evening where I had the last interaction with Administrative staff members and PYs. Everyone said, "Thank you for the safe voyage without any big shaking. I was impressed by Mt. Fuji." There were actually tough days with a big shake, but Mr. Fuji seemed to have a positive effect. I had to thank again to Mt. Fuji.

On December 13, it was the day of disembarkation. There were some people suffered from the flu, but it didn't get serious and everyone was able to disembark. PYs, Administrative staff members and everyone hugged and cried one another beyond contingent. Various memories might have flashed back. 42 days of life on Nippon Maru might have been fulfilling. Everyone must have become brothers, sisters, and one big family. I myself hold back my tears and smiled at all the memories. I recalled the story of three sicknesses of PYs and I was convinced that PYs would grow and develop as a person through overcoming those sicknesses.

Nippon Maru finished her task for the 46th SSEAYP when everyone safely disembarked. On the other hand, the bond of PYs has been developed, and it will expand widely and deeply not only in Southeast Asia but also to all over the world. Furthermore, I hope the Program will continue so that this bond will create the peaceful society. It is our great pleasure if Nippon Maru will be of some help for the future program as well.

Last but not least, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Administrator Yamamoto, Administrative staff members, people who have supported the Program on land, and all the people involved in this Program. Thank you very much.