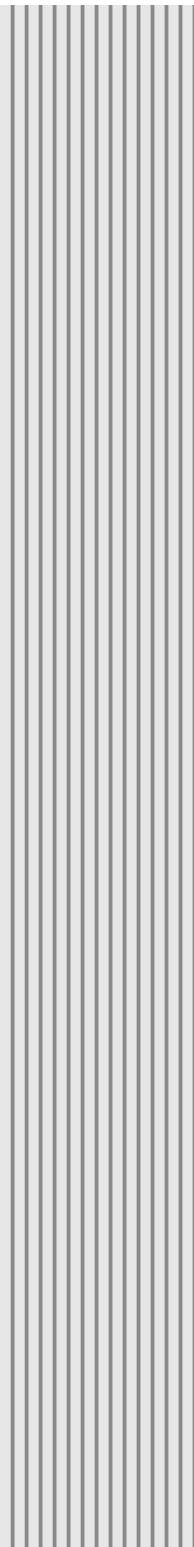


Chapter

4

Evaluations



1 Evaluation by National Leaders

(1) Australia

National Leader

On behalf of the Australian delegation, I would like to thank the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan for allowing Australia to participate in Ship for World Youth FY2022 (SWY Hybrid). The program has offered a unique opportunity for young Australians from different backgrounds to learn about Japan and form deep connections with young people from Japan and other participating countries. As we emerge from the COVID-19 crisis and continue to face increasingly complex global challenges, these relationships will be increasingly important. This is not only true of Australia's relationship with Japan, but also Australia's engagement with the other countries that represented at SWY, and we are grateful for the role that Japan has played in facilitating this engagement.

The structure of the program - split into the online discussions and in-person Japan program - presented both opportunities and challenges for our delegation. Weekly Zoom sessions and the oVice platform allowed us to start sharing our experiences and perspectives, meet new friends and consider solutions to shared problems. At times, the lack of in-person interaction hindered our ability to communicate across cultural divides especially when talking about complex subjects from sustainable cities to peace and youth. However, this helped us in making the most of our time together in Japan. It also helped to ensure that online communication methods post-SWY are better solidified between PYs in different countries. I believe that this online component will also support the creation of more cross-border Post-Program Activities that harness virtual platforms like Zoom. For future hybrid formats, I would suggest a shorter gap between online and in-person interaction, to allow for a more cohesive program. I would also suggest using simpler technology and more consolidated communication platforms to ensure accessibility and user-friendliness for all.

Our experiences of the in-person program were transformative for our delegation. The National Presentations, Course Discussions (CDs), Voluntary Activities and informal interactions helped us to understand the cultures and histories of other delegations. Importantly, they also helped us in identifying not only the differences but also the similarities between each of our countries. This will not only make us better global citizens, but also more

effective in communicating and engaging across cultures to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). More common gathering spaces could further enhance the experience by encouraging more informal interactions. This is important given the different age and language levels of the participants and can help in creating a space for them to share more about their culture and ideas – all in the service of fostering a more inclusive global community.

This year there was a major focus and time allocation for CD groups. I think this focus was a smart choice considering the short nature of this year's in-person exchange. It provided a platform for every OPY to stand on their own two feet as the only representative of their country and facilitated group bonding between all eleven countries. I think that being the only country representative of each CD group was a daunting task for some OPYs, but crucial in driving them to step out of their comfort zones to create trusting relationships with delegates from other countries.

The Field Studies and Local Programs were highlights as we were given a window into Japanese culture and the way in which Japanese youth see and experience the world. We were fortunate to visit important Japanese landmarks, but also institutions from prefecture offices to local high schools. A member from our delegation visited critical infrastructure in Kanagawa Prefecture and was given the opportunity to see how urban infrastructure in Japan intersects with social infrastructure - from schools to NPOs set up to address social issues. Similarly, another member from our delegation benefited greatly from their visit to Hakodate City, where they discussed barrier-free infrastructure and inclusive community initiatives. A highpoint for many Australian PYs was attending and meeting local high school students. We were impressed by their knowledge, enthusiasm, and openness about sometimes contentious topics. Ultimately, these experiences have made SWY stand out as a global leadership and cultural exchange program, as we have left Japan with more awareness of what it's like to be Japanese in the 21st century and how Japan is addressing modern challenges.

The hybrid nature of the program allowed different Australian PYs to participate compared with the regular

SWY program – including people with more professional experience with our delegation featuring teachers, lawyers, medical practitioners and public servants. This has meant that the Australian delegation has been able to reflect on and share their professional experiences and insights to date working on issues that feature across the SDGs. This was important not only in the CDs but also in the Field Studies and Local Programs, and hopefully contributed to a richer and more informed experience for all participants. Having said this, most of the delegation wishes that the program had been a little bit longer. I take this sentiment of wishing there was more time as a testament to the success of SWY34 in creating something truly special that we are all sad to have completed. We

are truly grateful to the Cabinet Office for providing this opportunity for our Australian delegation to participate in SWY 34. In speaking to Australian PYs at the conclusion of this program, they are amazed at how much they have gained and individually developed. While this year’s SWY program was short, the transformations I’ve seen in many participants have been profound. I’m sure I speak on behalf of all the Australian delegation that the knowledge, experiences, and connections made through this program will stay with us and influence the work we do well into the future. We embrace the enduring relationship between Japan and Australia and are optimistic that participation in this year’s program further strengthens these ties.

(2) Kingdom of Bahrain

National Leader

On behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain Delegation, SWY Bahrain Alumni Association, and the Ministry of Youth Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, we would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan and all the devoted prefectures for their kind invitation and hospitality to invite the Kingdom of Bahrain to SWY34. It is no secret that Bahrain and Japan’s bilateral relationship since 1972 has - and continues to - stand the test of time. Both of the nations’ cooperation have had numerous and great positive influences - one of which is the SWY program itself.

The SWY program as a whole has always aimed to cultivate young people who are able to undertake leadership responsibilities in a variety of fields in order to improve and contribute to the growth of society. The SWYAA community and the hundreds of SWYers around the world are a testament to the great impact and success of the program.

The delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain in SWY34 would like to thank the Government of Japan for its efforts to develop our youth leaders all around the world from the prospective of youth empowerment. Bahrain Delegation in SWY34 and SWYAA Bahrain promise to give back to SWY community by proposing series of post activities with 100 day after getting back from Japan. These activities will focus on sharing our SWY experience to our ex-PYs as well as our youth who hadn’t have the chance to join SWY, because we believe that SWY is not only a program, its more than that. These activities will consists of social responsibility activities, networking sessions, as well as learning and development interactive tools.

Additionally, in terms of comparing SWY34 with the other SWY batches and editions, we will highlight few points to do this comparisons. As the first hybrid version of SWY, we can say it’s a very successful version that achieved SWY ultimate objectives to empower our youth and allowed the participants to study and discuss common issues from a global perspective and participate in various activities that involve multi-cultural and multi-national exchange opportunities to cultivate international awareness and leadership.

The hybrid version of SWY allowed the participants to get engaged with the program and build up their relationship and networking through the virtual platform (from November to December 2022) just before arriving to Japan that made all the PYs to get to know each other just prior to the face-to-face program. Even though the time zone different was a challenge, it was manageable by the delegation.

In my past SWY experience, we were divided into different Course Discussions (CDs) that allowed the youth to discuss and have an open international dialogue with the global youth, that was done this year too, but what makes this version more that it tackled the Sustainable Development Goals and enriched these CDs with practical type of learning that is aligned with the best learning and development prospective. Aligning the CDs with practical field trips, reflective learning and discussions with activity based tools, and the most added value this year was the local programs that was a great investment this year. We had the chance to have several field trips with our CDs team that helps us to reflect what we learned from the in

class learning to the real life practice as well as the these trips enabled us to expand our network and communication with the SWYers as in the past the trips where mainly with the delegation and once with the home group.

Having the home group practice every morning assembly led by the NLs was a great experience for me as a NL and form my delegation as well, it enabled all of us to have more SWYers in our network and gain from there experience, which I call “SWY spirit.”

We would like to extent our gratitude and our sincere thanks for the well organised local prefecture visit that showed all the PYs to get to know the other side of Japan. It was identified as a key highlight of the entire program and truly enabled the participants to get to know Japan, its culture and its people. We noticed how professional the local youths are in organizing different programs as well as the supporting the Administration and local government,

(3) Federative Republic of Brazil

National Leader

It may be difficult to explain to an outsider what Ship for World Youth (SWY) is all about. It is perhaps hard to put into words how geographic boundaries are reduced in the face of cross-cultural and mutual understanding, of the integrity of another being who has their own culture, thoughts, traditions and language.

Brazil was honored to be invited for this year’s SWY34, being our 12th participation in this life-changing experience. Personally, I feel honored and proud to have been able to participate in SWY for my second time. The first time nine years ago, at SWY26 (GLDP: Global Leaders Development Program) and it was a turning point in my life.

On behalf of the entire Brazilian delegation, we extend our gratitude to everyone involved in the program, from the people who took care of cleaning the spaces used, our transportation to activities, our meals, to the organization of the SWY program.

In particular, we thank the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, for providing an environment that nurtures the development of the next generation of world leaders, to the Center for International Youth Exchange (CENTERYE) for promoting international youth exchange to play an integral role in an increasingly global society, to the International Youth Exchange Organization of Japan (IYEO) which cultivates SWY principles through former participants, spreading the culture learned during the program and keeping the SWY Spirit alive for generations.

which had its great impact on us as international visitors and participants.

As per developing young leaders, I think it’s very important to link the program with the World Bank top ranked skills that our youth needed it and make sure that they are in the right path toward them. Moreover, it’s very important to establish “SWY leadership competencies” and to identify the main competencies that we need our participants to have based on the current situation and trends, SWYAA Bahrain is looking forward to help in establishing this model. So if there is a unified model and competencies, then we can align it with the courses.

Lastly, the Kingdom of Bahrain would like to once again thank the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan for their efforts in organizing the program. SWYAA Bahrain will continue to be committed to SWY and looking forward to further collaboration in the support of the program.

Aiming to maintain the cultivation of international exchange among young people after the pandemic, SWY displayed a different set up of a hybrid format. Echoing the voice of SWY Community, we wish that the next generations of PYs may have the opportunity to live the complete experience onshore and onboard.

Online Exchange

Due to the significant time zone differences, a number of tree videoconferences were organized in two different groups to minimize challenges.

For PYs, the online exchange experience provided the first contact between delegations, the possibility of starting to build friendship bonds, recognizing faces and voices despite the intermediation through the use of computers and cameras.

Writing a personal profile and sharing social networks and contacts even before face-to-face was something innovative in the history of SWY. The SWY community did not share resumes, but their personal stories and identities, which generated a first connection.

The online period could offer an even richer experience with extra spaces for joint interactive activities, exchange between different delegations and some possibility of mixing the two groups divided by the time zones, even if for short periods.

For NLs, however, face-to-face preparation is both a differential and a necessity. Each NL represents a country

with distinct cultural aspects, languages and time zones. The face-to-face synchronous exchange stands as an essential tool for each NL to be able to express the characteristics of their delegations, work to organize program activities and think together without the barriers of asynchronous communication interfering. It is also important to highlight that, in general, NLs are people already in the job market. Therefore, a short-term immersion in Japan can provide an exclusive dedication to the Program, helping the organizers in the activities and in the preparation of the delegation.

Exchange in a Virtual Space

Experiencing a highly human exchange through a computer screen is a major challenge. The exchange in the virtual space ideally has to balance elements such as time zones, technology in rural areas, periods of rain, working and studying agendas and other particular characteristics that each country faces.

We have noticed people who participated truly enjoyed the virtual space. However, the exchange in virtual space could benefit from simpler tools, which could provide access democratization for a wider range of participants.

Program in Japan (face-to-face)

Human exchange is one of SWY's most precious values; it occurs not only through dialogue, but also through gestures, empathetic looks and long hugs that welcome moments of joy and hardships.

The first SWY Hybrid took place under different circumstances than what we usually know (only onshore). Although we were accommodated in world-class hotels in Japan, with stunning views, including the possibility of seeing Mount Fuji from our windows, the feeling of connection and closer human ties generated by being on a ship was difficult to replicate.

Still, the SWY Community was able to fulfill many of the program's goals. They developed their communication and critical thinking skills in the Course Discussions (CDs), played an active role in leading seminars, created moments of cultural exchange and spaces for fun and safety in the Voluntary Activities, in addition to having had the possibility of getting to know the Japanese people and culture through Field Studies and Local Programs.

In order for SWY's objectives to be achieved with their most precious value, which is developing the human dimension through cross-cultural understanding, it is essential to provide open and safe spaces for exchange between participants during and after the official agenda.

The Program would also benefit from: (i) the official

return of the Letter Groups, which are truly fertile for strong connection moments, a statement highly recognized by the community of former participants, (ii) lectures or workshops connected to the purposes of the program (leadership, design thinking, project management, cross-cultural understanding) and (iii) more sessions dedicated to Post-Program Activities (PPA), with the aim of generating spaces for exchange not only between the members of a delegation, but the dialogue between delegations for the construction of PPA at an international level, which will continue the purpose of SWY.

The Letter Groups, as traditionally known in SWY, are spaces for expressing and welcoming the diversity of a group that is randomly formed. In other words, through the Letter Groups, we challenge young people to actually experience cross-cultural understanding because they were placed in a space without having been chosen for interest in the field of study (as in the CD) or for the skills they already have (as in Committees). In SWY34, since the Letter Groups had not been officially recognized in the Program's agenda, NLs, with the support of the organizers, decided to form the "Home Groups" instead. Although the time allocated to the "Home Groups" was very short due to the amount of agendas in the Morning Assembly, we had great achievements including: (1) the opportunity to deepen relationships and cultural understanding in a safe space in view of the diversity and randomness of the PYs that formed the Group; (2) the development of a collective space of belonging and fun inside the activities of the Program; and (3) a welcoming space. Perhaps one of the most important points that I confirmed during SWY34 is how is increasingly necessary to have attention to the mental health of participants, especially in a period after the pandemic. I had three reports from PYs in my home group who told me the significance of the Home Group during the SWY. According to these reports, the Home Group was the first space in which they felt comfortable and welcomed for who they were, with that, they were able to better develop the activities during CD and Committee meetings, also they were more open to start dialogues with other PYs who weren't in the same groups as them. Despite the short time to strengthen the "Home Groups," the potential of these spaces to increase self-confidence and team building was noted.

Bringing SWY Spirit to life

In a small global community such as SWY, where cultural and geographical boundaries disappear, even if momentarily, strong connections are born. They transcend

western individuality and bring us closer to collectivism, a landmark of eastern culture. The feeling of community gives birth to a family, a SWY Family.

In SWY34, the journey was not aboard a ship in the

(4) Canada

National Leader

In my capacity as NL of the Canadian delegation to the 34th edition of the Ship for World Youth (SWY), I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan for including Canada in this wonderful program.

SWY34 comes at a time of increasing partnership between Canada and Japan. Canada's new Indo-Pacific Strategy gives prominence to Japan, including through efforts to improve people-to-people exchanges. While SWY is sponsored by the Cabinet Office of Japan, it serves as a fantastic model for cultural diplomacy and global exchange.

This program undoubtedly succeeds in cultivating the next generation of global leaders. It does this by recruiting a diverse range of active youth in each country, pairing them with knowledgeable facilitators, and preparing a thorough program of activities and visits related to high-level themes.

At a time of global health and environmental crisis, increasing geopolitical tensions, pressures on liberal democratic by authoritarian populism, and retreating globalization due to supply chain issues and economic security, programs such as SWY play a critically important role in fostering international cooperation and reinforcing alliances between likeminded partners.

Hybrid Format

This was the first year that SWY program used a hybrid format, with programming and discussion conducted online before in-person meetings in Japan. Unfortunately this year there was no ship, but the spirit of SWY was able to be maintained through hybrid activities while avoiding increased risk of spreading COVID-19.

Due to the shorter duration of the program's activities, and the comparative ease of scheduling virtual activities compared to a typical year aboard the ship, a different range of participants was able to join. Many members of the Canadian delegation lead busy professional careers and / or actively volunteer, and may have found it a significant challenge to join SWY for several weeks in-person. However, the hybrid format allowed these excellent representatives to join, much to the benefit of the overall

middle of the ocean. However, we found deep waters when we delved into dialogues that shared our stories, our ancestry and our humanities. Keep SWYing!

program.

Programming conducted via Zoom and oVice means that for the first time SWY participants were able to connect with one another prior to in-person programming, thus allowing deeper friendships during and after the program. In addition to official programming through SWY, supplementary platforms such as oVice, WhatsApp, Slack, and email through Course Discussion (CD) groups, committees, home groups, and delegations, allowed for meaningful relationships to coalesce. There are certainly challenges with time zones, technical expertise, and not all countries using the same communication platforms, but having multiple options over a long period of time allows participants to engage in one way or another.

Moreover, the temporally spread-out nature of virtual activities and in-person activities meant participants could more fully engage in the CD topics, reflecting on the discussion during the course of their normal lives, and better preparing for in-person programming.

Local Program / Field Study

This year's SWY program included two Field Studies in the Tokyo area, as well as a Local Program for four days and three nights. The former included day excursions to interesting institutions or locations related to the CD themes. During the latter, participants were divided by CD groups to travel to eight different prefectures throughout Japan.

The SWY experience is unlike any other program, due in large part to the thoughtfulness of the programming. The Field Studies and Local Program are phenomenal opportunities for participants to learn about their CD topics in a truly engaging and meaningful way. Unlike standard education through a textbook, SWY provides a means for participants to meet in-person and at length with those engaged in a range of interesting projects which would normally be inaccessible to tourists, students, business people, etc. There is no better way to learn than on-site, with your own eyes, accompanied by experienced and knowledgeable facilitators, and with a small number of new friends from 10 other countries who can all share their

unique perspective on issues of global importance.

The Local Program was by all accounts a huge success among participants, and one of the highlights of the overall SWY experience. Engaging in discussion in a conference room with all SWY participants can at times be overwhelming, but the Local Program compensates by providing more quality time among a small group of friends, most from different countries, for a significant amount of time. Moreover, getting off the beaten track to visit prefectures and cities typically not visited by many tourists allows for an authentic and unforgettable experience of Japan. My CD visited Aomori Prefecture, and multiple participants became emotional upon seeing snow for the first time, including to the point of crying. Others were moved by local students who prepared a welcome reception involving playing “Sakura” on the koto. These memories will last a lifetime.

(5) Japan

National Leader

Overall Comment

The SWY34 experience was a totally new experience for me. I felt all of us experienced different things and none of them were the same. Of course, we have several common experiences, but Course Discussions (CDs) were in the center. This setting made us know CD members well and the bond of each CD was strong and deep, since we spent a lot of time together. Also, this enabled us to focus on the academic side of the SWY program. The negative aspect of this CD-focus was that it did not allow us much time to get to know other PYs who belonged to other CDs or delegations. Since many PYs could not fully join the exchange in a virtual space for technical reasons, many of us have expressed that we wish we had more weeks for face-to-face exchange rather than online sessions. Then, we had more time to develop greater relationships, and might have brought a greater sense of fairness.

NL Meetings

As NLs, we were mostly united in our thoughts and decisions, which I attribute to shared experiences through past participation in the SWY program as well as understanding Japanese culture and values. However, since the SWY Hybrid program was very new to us, there were many challenges to make this program fruitful. First of all, it was not easy to have even one Zoom meeting among NLs since we live in different time zones. We also used text-based messages, but it was hard to reach consensus due

General Conclusion

SWY Hybrid must be considered a great success in that it combines the best of both virtual and in-person platforms. PYs were able to meet and discuss the program via Zoom, laying the foundation of knowledge and friendships for the in-person program in Japan. The thoughtful itinerary, including the local program, field studies, CDs, Peer-Learning Seminars and Voluntary Activities all complemented each other, reinforcing personal connections and the themes of the program.

It is impossible to put into words the impact that a program such as SWY has on participants. Countless memories and friendships were made that will last a lifetime, forwarding the goals of international cooperation towards a better world. The Canadian delegation is extremely proud to play a small part of this amazing program.

to time difference, especially when decisions were urgent. Text-based messaging also meant that we could not depend on non-verbal cues, meaning it was often difficult to make out tone and intention behind different messages, especially considering different cultural norms and English levels.

Therefore, we realized it is very important to have face-to-face meetings to decide rules and for team building of NLs at the beginning. With those difficult conditions, we did our best to have online meetings together, but often at the expense of either sleep or full attendance. Lastly, I felt that there is an unmet need to support NLs particularly who join the SWY program for the first time. If they could have a buddy for preparation from an ex-NL in each country, it would be very helpful for them and reduce their burden.

Local Program

The Local Program was a program only prepared for OPYs in the past programs, we were so lucky to enjoy traveling and staying together with OPYs in smaller groups. We enjoyed most of the content and were amazed at local people’s passion for hosting us and having prepared wonderful local programs. Their great hospitality impressed us and we were eager to learn from them. For future improvement I believe the schedule should not be as densely packed. It was unfortunate that we were very tired due to an intense schedule and sometimes difficult to focus on lectures especially in the late afternoon, but we truly felt that the local people wanted us to experience the best of the

best and we wanted to respond to their passion. Positively, this common experience made the bond between OPYs, JPYs and Local Youth stronger and PYs became like family in each CD. Having a lot of free time in a local program is also nice to explore the city, but I felt that it is nicer if we could enjoy the official program being more relaxed and focus on the important lectures and be more familiar with the local area, even if this requires reducing the free time.

Room Sharing and Common Space

We succeeded in keeping shared rooms and the NLs were very glad to see that PYs were having a good time with their roommates, but on the other hand, it forced them to pack their luggage and move several times throughout the program. We really thanked PYs for their understanding. Also, it was very difficult for PYs not to have a larger common spaces to interact outside of official program. If we had even one big common room, we could have achieved more accidental encounters during the program and made friends with those who are not in our CD and we may have expanded our circle of friends.

Peer-Learning Seminars (PL Seminars) and Voluntary Activities (VAs)

PYs made a lot of effort to make creative and meaningful PL Seminars / VAs and their passion gave positive energy to participants. However, since the schedule of the program was very tight, some PYs were absent without knowing that the PL Seminar was mandatory. For this reason, I believe that PYs should choose which seminars to attend in

advance and be responsible for them. Needless to say, the quality of the seminars was high and I thought it necessary to continue in the next SWY program. We also had so many interesting VAs and it was hard to choose the one to attend. We wish there were more slots for VAs since many of them were happening at the same time.

CDs

The content of the CD was very rich. The Facilitators worked hard for the course members and produced great results from the Summary Forum. The forums indicated many important factors in SDGs and what to do to make this world a better place for everyone. Personally, I think it is appropriate to continue to carry out online CDs before face-to-face program, assuming all PYs can participate without technical problems.

Ending Comments

Finally, I would like to thank all the people who supported this program and all the hard work they made in the shadows. I appreciate your consistent support. This program is unique and difficult to quantify the dramatic and immediate outcomes, but this program helps PYs to eliminate bias against people from different backgrounds. I am convinced that this is the best way to nurture global leaders and nurture world peace. If we could keep the academic standards of CDs from this year while keeping important elements from previous SWY programs, especially secure more slots for learning leadership itself, I believe SWY would be a more beneficial and transformational program.

Sub-National Leader

Introduction

As a person who usually works for youth development between the Philippines and Japan, I feel that it is one of the great achievements of this program that about 150 youth were able to return home safely as scheduled.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Cabinet Office, the Center for International Youth Exchange, and everyone involved for their efforts in taking thorough health and corona control measures beforehand.

Online Exchange

Regarding the Online Exchange, which is one of the features of the SWY Hybrid, we have found that (1) it is difficult for all countries to participate due to the time difference as participants come from all over the world, (2)

some countries do not have sufficient Internet environment for video calls, and (3) online meetings are basically face-to-face meetings. In addition, some countries have a culture of participating in online meetings by voice only, without showing their faces.

Even under such circumstances, the young people who used the online exchange platform oVice to plan the oVice opening ceremony and make smiles of the participants before the start of the official program, as well as the digital natives, were able to overcome the challenges with ease.

I also felt that one of the advantages of starting online was that we were able to start with the joy of meeting each other in Narita because we had met online in advance.

Personally, I learned a lot from the online preparation with NLs from different countries and was amazed at the

level of commitment to the program and the ideas that came from the diverse backgrounds of the NLs, who were also past PYs, through the preparation for the online exchange and the rule-making time during the face-to-face meeting. This experience is an asset that I will be able to use in my future life.

Even now that the program has come to an end, we are still able to share information about the local situation on the WhatsApp and have a strong sense of continuing connection with each other, which is a unique result of the hybrid that began with the online exchange.

The Ultimate Global Leadership Development Program

Before starting SWY, I had several opportunities to speak with past NLs. Through my participation in this program, I came to understand the meaning of the phrase and felt that it was based on a number of factors.

1. The many roles of leaders: When we were divided into teams for committees, forums, etc., the role of leader was established in this program. Needless to say, this led to opportunities for leadership challenges.
2. Opportunities to use their strengths: The opportunity to showcase what they have developed over the years at national presentations, seminars, etc. also led to opportunities for the youth to be in the spotlight and play an active role.
3. Seeing youth shine leads to other youth shining: By seeing other youths express their strengths in a serious way, the youth were reminded of their desire to try their hand at leadership and became ready to express it when the opportunity arose.

(6) United Mexican States

National Leader

We feel very honored to be invited to the first SWY program after COVID-19. It is for sure the beginning of a new era where hybrid takes an important role, where technology is mixed with in-person activities to increase cooperation. The hybrid program allows us to meet each other before the program and create relationships even before the program in person.

The Local Program was very enriching with a new dynamic where each person in the delegation traveled to a different prefecture from north to south of Japan, having

Servant Leadership of the Japanese Youth

Among the various types of leadership, I would like to introduce the leadership that the Japanese youth showed everywhere.

I saw many Japanese youths who took the initiative to do what someone else needed to do, even though they had no set role to play, and were willing to do it. I often saw a number of JPYs who have not yet defined their roles but are willing to take the initiative to do what someone has to do.

I was also moved by the way they held meetings to deepen the quality of their team relationships, listened to each other, empathized with each other, had the courage to tell each other things that were sometimes hard to say, and engaged in heart-to-heart dialogue.

Through this program, I learned once again that this is a new form of leadership. I believe that leadership based on the “spirit of service” demonstrated by young people will be very important in the future.

I hope that the participants will keep on challenging themselves. They will look at how they made people smile, were thanked and contributed to the whole group. I hope that you will continue to take on new challenges in your future activities, such as involving more people in your next project.

In conclusion

I will continue to contribute to society by using the valuable experience, knowledge, and connections I have gained through this program to support the dreams and self-establish of children and youth facing adversity around the world.

I sincerely hope that in the near future, I will be able to co-create projects with the participating youth and work with them with WAKUWAKU.

the opportunity not only to see and experience different weathers and sightseeing but also to understand and listen to different points of view. Local youth and organizers not only shared their joy and kindness but demonstrated an incredible organization and interesting activities.

The Course Discussion was a key role activity where participants forged the strongest relationships in the program.

During the amazing trip to Japan through the flavors, places, people, way of thinking, and discipline, we learned

not only from Japan but from the different delegations' new points of view and perspectives.

The program was not on the ship this time, but the spirit of the program remains as it always has been the SWY spirit: resilient, united, and diverse. A new SWY Family joined the extended SWYAA Family with strong values

(7) Sultanate of Oman

National Leader

Overview:

SWY34 (SWY Hybrid) is a unique experience. It is an intensive and compressed programme. The combination of the online and the face-to-face is crucial gave the programme one step forward before joining the programme in Japan. The set of activities were carefully selected to serve the purpose as well as the SDGs Course Discussions (CDs). This report gives the feedback about four main areas, the online programme, face-to-face programme, all activities and youth global leadership orientation.

Online:

The experience that the participant went through online was strong and effective experience. Although the time zone didn't ease the communication; the participants tried their best to make it successful. One clear challenge was that the participants were divided into two groups. This minimized the opportunities for more opinions to be part during the online exchange. During the online programme, I felt more activities could have been done such as small groups assignments and extra activities to give the programme more weight and focus. The oVice experience was splendid. The participants enjoyed the way that they communicate online in this platform. I recommend that this part to be always in SWY whether it is hybrid or on the ship. The bonding and connection between PYs eased the programme face to face.

Face-to-Face:

The face-to-face programme was very strong experience to PYs and NLs. Although it was very short, I could notice how it was intensive and tight. The number of participants also was effective to have enough space to interact. The variety of activities were good, yet the sports

that will shape the newest generations and who will create new projects through international cooperation either in their own community or even overseas.

We want to thank the Government of Japan, the Administration of the program and everyone that makes this program so unique and special.

and competition were missing. The National Presentations (NPs) were strongly organized and the timing given was enough. The aspects of the face-to-face part was not that different from the programme on the ship. Starting from the Morning Assembly to the Voluntary Activities, all aspects were effective. The timing of the face-to-face could have been better if the length is 25 days at least. The participants needed more time to mingle.

Activities:

The activities chosen for the face-to-face were splendid and strong. The Field Studies were well organized and served the purpose of the CDs. Moreover, the Local Programme were organized properly. This is new to the programme. It is used to be a prefecture visit by delegation. The focus on the CD to visit the prefecture was a smart thing. Every member in the delegation got a different experience. This could be used in the upcoming SWYs. The sports activities were missing and this effected the quality of the programme as youths needed some time to spend on their sport hobbies. The recreation day on the ship is an amazing experience and I felt this is missing strongly. In SWY Hybrid, recreation day could have been organized, yet this can be a recommendation for next time.

Youth Exchange Opportunity:

Although the programme period is not that long, the youth exchange opportunity was there all the time. The cultural exchange was effective and crucial. Every participants got the chance to present his or her identity. The NPs were a chance to show case the cultures. The Arabian Night and the Latin Night were enjoyable moments to mingle and learn about other cultures.

(8) Republic of Peru

National Leader

I really appreciate all the efforts the organizers have made to have a successful program, however, there are some things that, I believe, may be changed for the benefit of the program.

1. The NL Meetings held online were too short to prepare everything we had to address, some people could not be there because of time zones, and, even though the online tools may help to build new relationships, in this case, was not enough to ensure an equitable work or to create the necessary connections to get to know each other to improve our understanding of cultural differences among us.
2. On the other hand, the online part for the PYs, gives the opportunity to start valuable friendships that will reinforce when the face-to-face program start. I believe, they needed more spaces where they get to know each other by playing different games. We tried to achieve this during the NL's sessions, but with just a couple of hours more, I believe, it would have had a better impact.
3. During our first week in Narita, I think, the PY's were able to have meaningful conversations and start creating valuable connections for life, sadly, their chances to meet people were limited. Too many activities were happening at the same time, including Peer-Learning Seminars and Voluntary Activities. This leaves the organizers less likely to join someone else's activity, but also limiting to a very low number of attendees per session.
4. During this first week the major complaint was about the food. For some cultures, food is really important, it should be warm, high in proteins, or high in vegetables, etc. On this occasion, I noticed we did not have options, which may be frustrating for some people. A good diet can improve readiness for learning.
5. The Field Studies were very well planned, the activities or lectures the participants had during those visits were meaningful and fun to learn. The places they visited are highly relevant to the field of their studies.
6. The Local Program, from my perspective, was the most relevant activity of SWY Hybrid. Intellectually and emotionally speaking, it was a success. During these days, the PY's were able to connect deeply among them and they had the chance to have powerful and honest conversations, apart from learning very valuable examples of the conservation of natural resources and good community work.
7. Thankfully, it is not the ship that makes this program special, it is the people and bonding they can create. In order to achieve that, it is necessary to have physical spaces to mingle without worrying about the time or the noise that a group of people can make. Hopefully, in the future, if another program has to be held in a hotel, it can have all the comfort that the ship has.
8. About Course Discussions, I believe, that was very well handled, the participants not only learn but had fun and had the opportunity to learn about other participants' actions in relevant themes.
9. Part of the SWY legacy it's the emotional impact that has on its participants, not only during the program but especially after the program. In this sense, I believe, the Closing Ceremony plays an important role in the successful closure of an experience. Besides the formal part, this ceremony should give a chance for everyone to say goodbye to everyone and to express emotions without being rushed out of the venue due to limited time of use. It is also essential that this ceremony takes part on the same day as the actual departure of delegations, because giving the participants an extra day, gives the illusion that the program is not finished, that they still have some extra time to say goodbye, when in reality, it is almost impossible to gather all together again to farewell, and many of them will go back to their countries without having been able to say goodbye to all the people with whom they created meaningful relationships.
10. Finally, I consider that two weeks is too short for a unique program like SWY. This version has been really different from previous versions, but still, it has been meaningful in its own way. I believe that every PY will remember it with a warm heart.

(9) Republic of Poland

National Leader

SWY is a program that changes lives. For some, it is an eye-opener on their own perspectives and opportunities or point of appreciation to what they already have. For some it was an introduction to global awareness, a compass to translating complexity and a guidance frame for more fruitful intercultural interactions. For others, it might be a gateway to better understanding of their own strengths or anchor in comprehension of weaker points. With many participants, there were many stories and reasons, many new friendships and even more magnificent memories for the rest of our lives.

Ideas for future SWY Hybrid

Hybrid format, combining online sessions taking place before arrival and in-person interactions in Japan proved to be a valuable addition to the overall perception and understanding of the SWY program. With three virtual sessions, we were able to gather together, cover general introduction, and mostly concentrate on kick-starting and ultimately investigating our Course Discussion (CD) themes. Since the sessions were divided into two groups depending on the appropriate time zones, half of the participants did not have a chance to see the other half. NLS put effort to assure both sessions were having same contents, yet one of ideas for hybrid format could be to actually rotate the country groups. Another idea to even better utilise the power of the hybrid version, would evolve around having an additional set of virtual meet-ups after the program ends in Japan (both start and close with virtual sessions). On the other hand, it was voiced that some online exchanges were having challenges in terms of engaging people, hence proposed solution was the time limitation, not extension. In the majority of cases, face-to-face meetings were named as the most efficient opportunities for spreading knowledge and getting to know the people.

Majority of participants would confirm that the general onsite program was very schedule intensive and packed with various events or activities. We got the feeling that almost all of the elements from the Ship were included in this shorter edition, yet due to time scarcity it was sometimes impossible to fully immerse in them all. One of examples would include Home Groups. With only three very short sessions, participants voiced how fast time flew and that they were really looking forward to more sessions - it felt as if it finished before it started. Another result of tight plan was very visible during

scheduling of and then attending the Voluntary Activities, where during just a few days (and therefore few allotted hours) everyone tried to share and show, hence limiting their own participating experience. SWY creates an amazing inclusive environment to openly meet, have more meaningful conversations and hence bond with others on various levels. It was voiced that an extended time period would allow participants to make more relationships, meet those still unmet and engage with those that one simply did not have more time to interact with. Designated rooms or shared spaces where participants could freely meet outside scheduled time, organise as subgroups or merely chat would be of great advantage too. Lastly, it was voiced that the plan intensity and people's eagerness to benefit from this global experience to the fullest impacted spare and rest time, hence the proposals evolve around bit longer breaks and general extension of plan tightness.

Suggestions for programs and activities

Participants were positively impacted by the knowledge and preparedness of topics and CD Facilitators, with even some of them voicing interest in more in-depth sessions, or second level voluntary sessions. Given time opportunity, that advanced idea could be even extended to otherwise assigned CD members, giving a chance to learn or participate in more than one CD. While most sessions evolved around general SDGs, some of participants proposed utilising the global youth experiences and knowledge in discovering similarities or uncovering differences around more pointed topics, like media, international relations, influence of technology, human rights. One of activities done by the end of virtual sessions was 'culture map' and that could have been a nice introduction to the physical sessions with swift elaboration on topics like perspective on punctuality or levels of implicit communication.

Youth Leaders

The program combined youth from all over the world with the common goal of developing young global leaders. Their lessons learned from cultural interactions, exchange of perspectives and via opportunities created during the SWY program would flourish for years to come. Provided more time allotted and apart from discussion or exchange activities, it might be beneficial to add more skill or knowledge based sessions designed to cultivate leaders of the future. Those could be theory with practice, rotation

based, where participants could choose a selected few from a range of topics. Those topics could be around time, organisational or conflict management to themes around leadership skills in action i.e. critical thinking or decision making, negotiation, motivation, adaptability or team building. Introduction of some of those, complemented with cultural differences and benefitted from views of global participants could really impact the way we interact during the program, or in future to come.

Learning experiences

The program is definitely one of a kind magnificent opportunity for intercultural experiences, global exchanges and acts as a kick-starter to global perspective and ways of looking. With constant occasions to interact and learn from the prepared curriculum as well as each other, participants gained not only a wider outlook, but also confidence.

(10) Republic of South Africa

National Leader

From the online sessions that took place in November 2022 to the face-to-face exchange program in Narita, Field Studies and Local Program was not an easy journey but as a collective, we made it with the spirit of diplomacy and uniting for common goals and raising our countries' flags high with pride and made a mark. It was not an easy 2-day journey to get to Japan, however we made it and with so much excitement of looking forward to meeting the great team behind making this programme a success through planning and endless communications.

The online exchange was a bit difficult to adjust to at first as some did not know what to expect, however the Administration team made it a point that they assist in each and every step and made it possible for everyone to interact and be free to ask questions and report where there was a need for such.

The program has really taught us diplomacy, strong leadership skills and understanding on another differences. The Administration instilled discipline of punctuality and following rules set for the program and this will be some of the take always back home.

The two weeks went by quickly when we were all still learning a lot from each other and Japan, it afforded us a chance to form friendships that will go beyond the borders and it is entirely up to us how best we nurture those relations and preserve them for the future generations.

Suggestion and one common thing we were all not happy about was the food we were eating as we felt that it

It was very visible that interactions at the beginning, compared to those by the end, were totally different, and I am sure the ease of initiating conversations plus openness to having conversations on global topics would spring benefits in their future lives. With multiple chances to prepare sessions, deliver public speeches during prefecture visits, through informal interactions with met people or via trying things in the safe and friendly environment, yet for the first time in their lives, participants gained great confidence in their own skills and abilities. Not a day went by, when one would not feel the curiosity and interest from other participants, and that was truly inspirational. By asking questions, by being open minded and primarily, curious, we all were constantly learning and inspiring each other too. I believe that SWY Hybrid was a tremendous life learning experience and crucial moment in the lives of many.

did not cater for all the present countries and that affected our interactions and performance in the programme. The organizing team should at least try and check the popular dishes from different countries and make provisions from the findings.

The activities that were suggested and played during the online sessions were amazing, I would suggest that they remain kept and that maybe add some few to the already existing ones, they were great ice breakers as the PYs and were still in a shell and not comfortable with each other yet, however those ice breakers played a crucial role. For instance, there was one where each of us had to find someone they might be sharing a birthday with or with the same number of siblings.

The National Presentations played a huge role in trying to get people from different cultures and backgrounds get to know and understand each other's culture better, although it was not in depth. SWY can also organize a platform where in one session we can be taught Japanese basic words, even if it's two words each morning in the assembly it will make a very huge difference and people are more interested in something if it's done in a group than individually as naturally, we like to compete and prove that we are better. The following day or two days after the teaching of certain words, there can be a competition (randomly and not communicated prior) that whoever still remembers all the words get to win something.

My suggestion would be to maybe request NL from

these countries to prepare the restrictions of each country (of cultures) and have them displayed throughout the whole programme, where everyone can familiarize themselves with and make it a lifestyle to respect them and adhere to them. Can we also have Facilitators from our African countries to make it more homely as well for us in the near future, and or have at least have more than one African country present.

(11) Kingdom of Sweden

National Leader

On behalf of the delegation of the Kingdom of Sweden as well as the SWY Alumni Association Sweden, I would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan and all the devoted prefectures for their kind invitation and hospitality to invite the Kingdom of Sweden to SWY34. The delegation of Sweden is honored to have taken part of, and contributing to, yet another successful programme, which has further strengthened the collaboration between Japan and Sweden as well as strengthen SWYAA Sweden presence and commitments.

The Swedish delegation would especially like to thank the Government of Japan for its dedication and commitment to the Ship for World Youth and the development of the leaders of the future. Sweden is proud to be part of the SWY community and honoured to have been invited to SWY34. It has been a pleasure to once again work in collaboration with Japan for this programme and the delegation of Sweden is impressed and immensely grateful for the resilience and commitment the Cabinet Office has demonstrated to keep the programme going under such difficult and ever-changing circumstances.

Furthermore, the Swedish delegation would like to recognize that it is problematic to compare SWY34 to previous SWY programmes as the format, outline and timeline is entirely different. However, this evaluation will highlight comparisons where possible.

As the first ever hybrid SWY programme the Swedish delegation has identified several strengths with the outline and format that would be beneficial to take into consideration into future programmes, regardless of future format or outlines.

Given the challenging and fast changing context of world events in 2022 and 2023 when the programme was being developed and conducted (the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and natural disasters in participating countries areas, the flu season etc.), it was a pleasure to work with

There was not enough free time the programme was very busy and there was no rest, hence most South African delegates got really tired, it was merely fatigue and adjusting to new time zone, the weather and the environment.

To the organizing and Administration team, we are grateful for your endless efforts, you never got tired of our questions, requests, you were always up early and off late to make it easier for us.

the Cabinet Office in developing the programme from start to end. There was a greater extent of collaboration from the start (i.e. in developing the schedule for example) compared to previous programmes, especially for the NLs. This was welcomed by the Swedish delegation as it enabled a resilient approach to the programme.

An advantage of the online format (prior to arriving in Japan) was the interaction between delegations across the world. PYs had the opportunity to connect, get to know each other and socialize before arrival. This also meant that the connections were already in place before meeting each other, which no doubt will enable a long-lasting Post-Program Activity (PPA) community, as everyone is already connected on social media and other forum. This is a huge advantage compared to previous programs which did not involve any online activities.

However, it is worth noting that during the online programme the different time zones proved to be a challenge, as it was difficult to organise meetings that would be in a reasonable time and format for everyone. The Swedish delegation would like to recognise that this was adjusted by dividing the delegations into two “time zone groups” during the online program, which worked well but would be challenging during a longer period of time. It also meant that each delegation only interacted closely with one half of the participants. Hence, it is recommended to consider a shorter version of the online program in the future, and prioritise the interaction in Japan, when everyone is in the same place.

When in Japan, the greater availability of common gathering spaces could further enhance the interaction between delegations and participants (encouraging more informal interactions). The majority of the SWY34 programme took place in a hotel, which had other guests (external to SWY). This meant that there were a lot of restrictions for when, how and where to interact with other participants outside of the schedule. These informal

interactions are a key part of the SWY programme, and was to an extent limited this year by the lack of spaces to encourage this communication and meetings.

Additionally, even though the online part of the programme was mostly positive and valuable for the program, the Swedish delegation would like to recognise that not all participants in the programme are equally technology savvy. This meant that some participants were excluded from some online activity, due to no stable access to internet or limited understanding of how to use the software for example.

Furthermore, the online programme was beneficial for the Swedish delegation from the perspective of getting to know each other and get closer as a delegation earlier on. Participants were interacting for a longer time and could plan key activities in advance. This was essential for SWY34 as there was limited time and space to prepare things when in Japan.

From a recruiting perspective this programme enabled a different target group to participate. Since the programme in Japan lasted two weeks, and not ca. six weeks as previous

programmes, individuals who were full time workers could also apply, which would probably not have been the case if the programme was longer.

The Swedish delegation would also like to highlight the very well organised and generous Local Programs. It was identified as a key highlight of the program and truly enabled the participants to get to know Japan, its culture and its people on a deeper level. The local youths that organised the different programs as well as the supporting staff and local government made all participants feel very well welcomed to Japan and created connections and a network that will last a lifetime for everyone involved. At several occasions, local youths and participants made connections that would not have been possible without this program.

Lastly, Sweden would like to once again thank the Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan for their hospitality and organisation of the program. SWYAA Sweden continues to stay committed to the programme and look forward to further collaboration and support. Think globally, act locally and keep SWYing!

2 Evaluation by Participating Youths

The followings are the results of the Evaluation Sheets answered by the Participating Youths (PYs) at the end of the Online Exchange and Exchange in a Virtual Space (December 28, 2022) and the end of the Program in Japan (February 20, 2023).

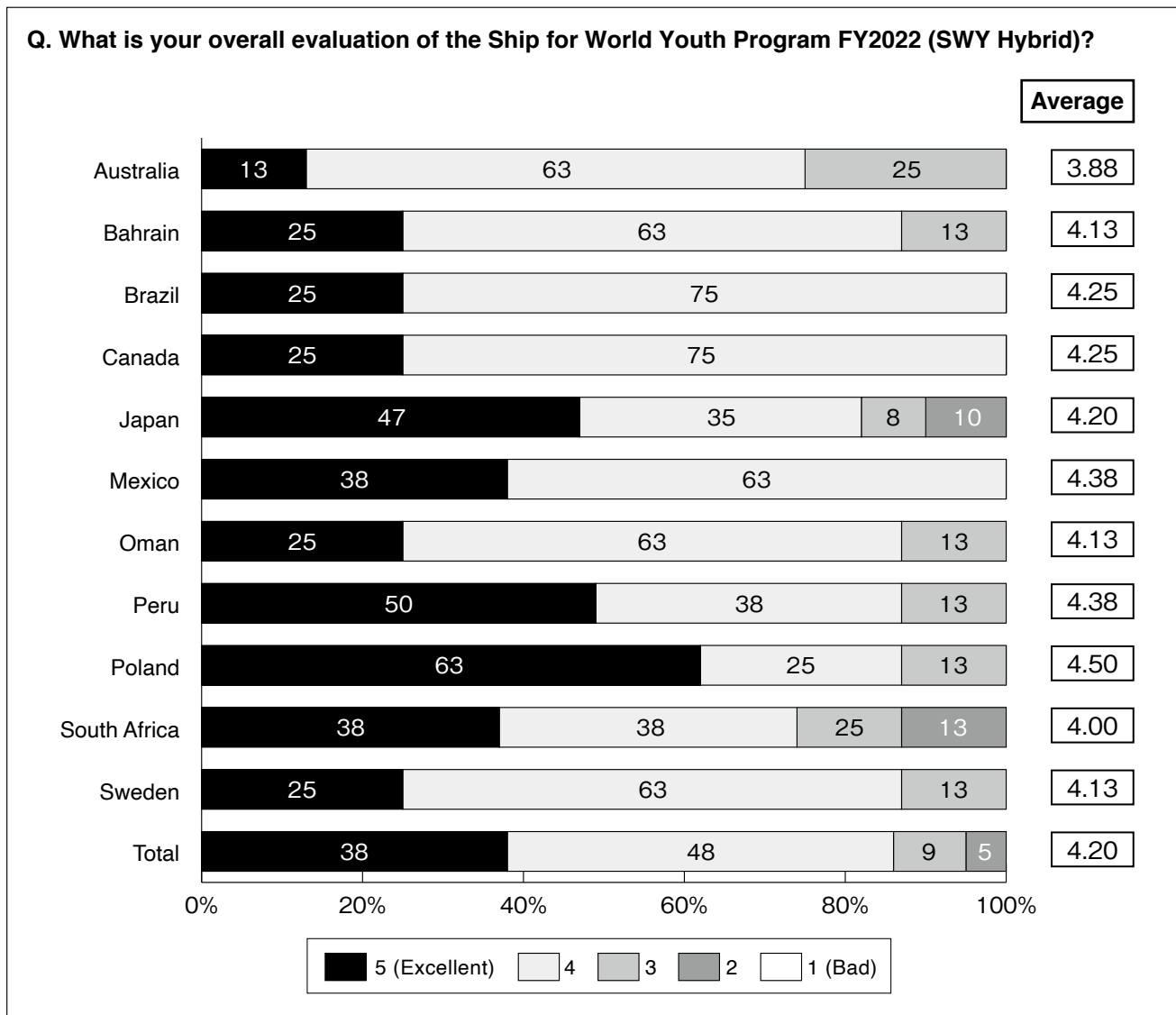
Note: Answered by 135 PYs (at the end of the Online Exchange and Exchange in a Virtual Space), 131 PYs (at the end of the Program in Japan).

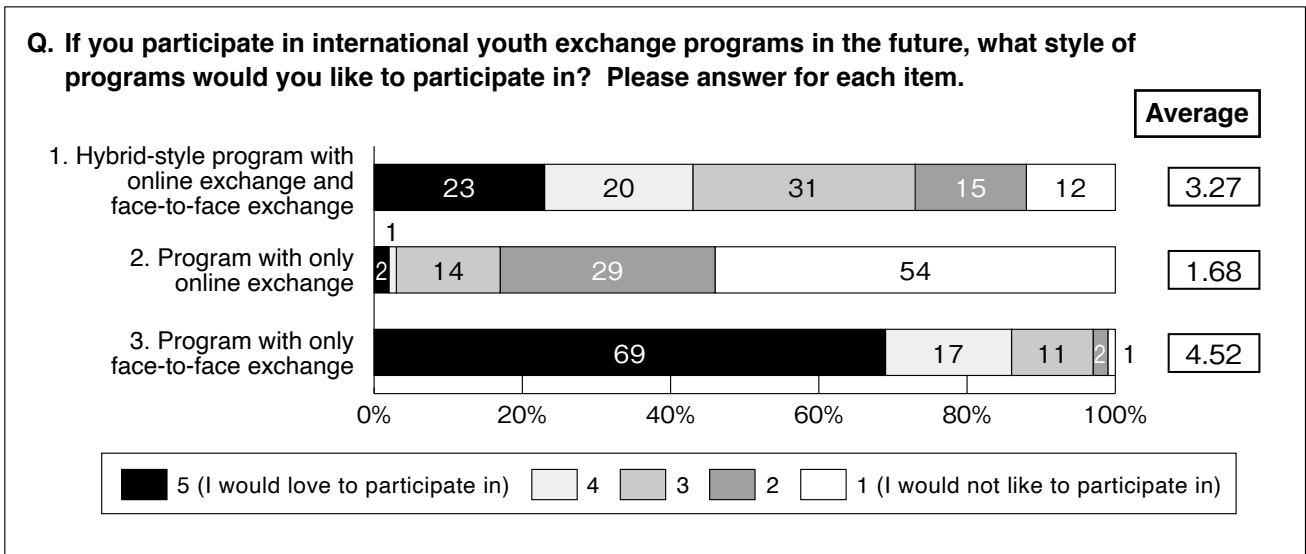
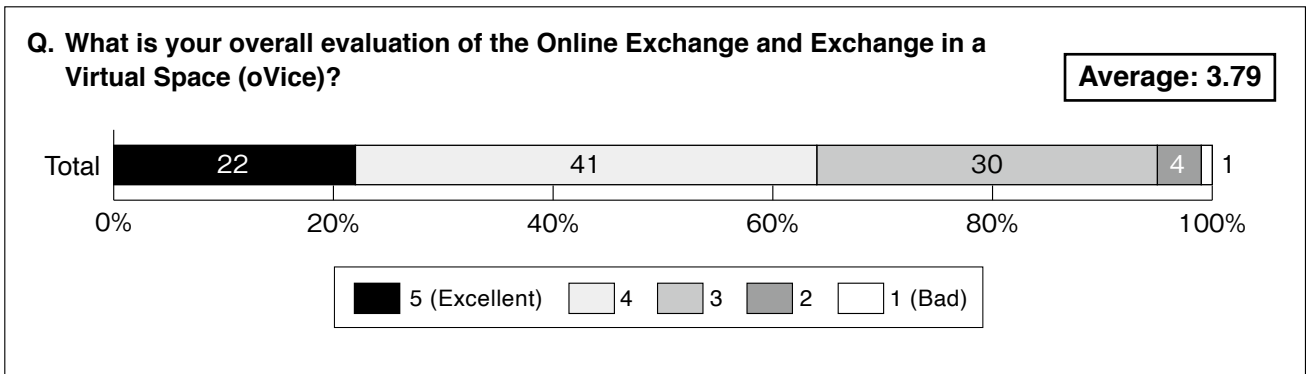
Numbers are rounded off to the whole number.

Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding.

The mean average of overall evaluation is 4.20 having 86% of participants rated 4 or above (excellent).

To the question “If you participate in international youth exchange programs in the future, what style of programs would you like to participate in?” 43% answered 4 or above (I would love to participate in) and 27% answered 2 or below (I would not like to participate in) for “1. Hybrid-style program with online exchange and face-to-face exchange,” 83% answered 2 or below (I would not like to participate in) for “2. Program with only online exchange,” and 86% answered 4 or above (I would love to participate in) for “3. Program with only face-to-face exchange.”





Q. What do you think are the pros and cons of a hybrid-style exchange program?

[The pros or benefits of a hybrid-style exchange program]

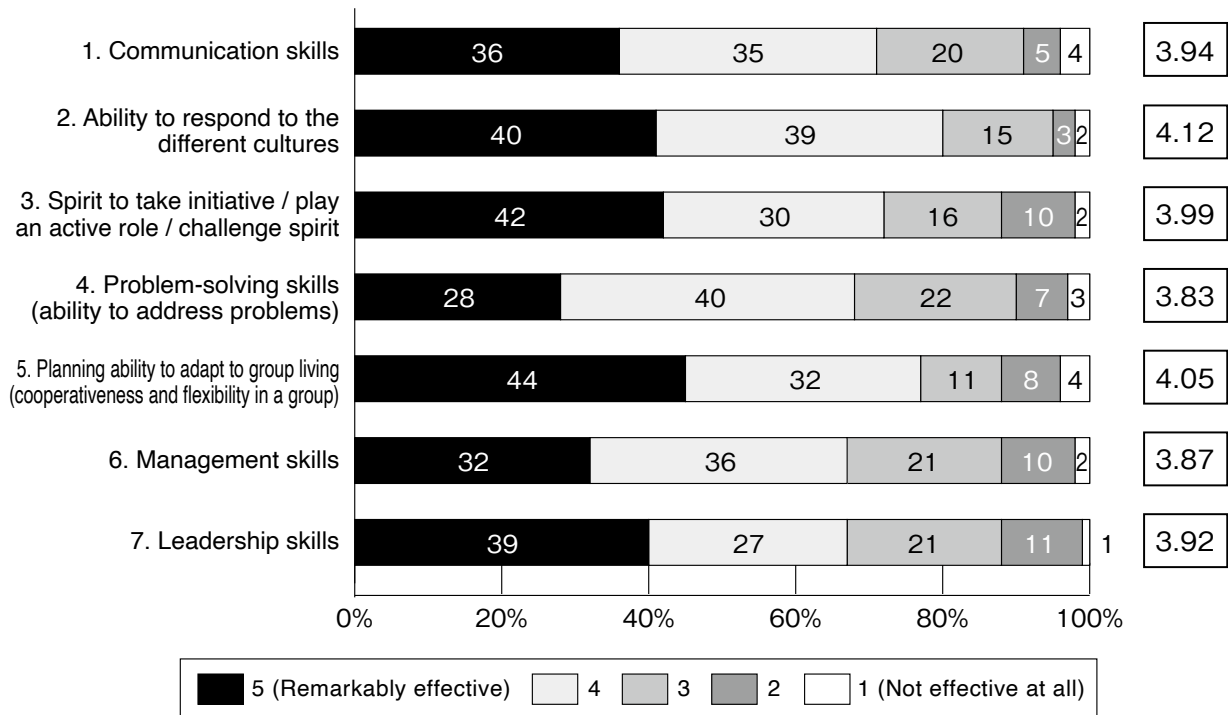
- I believe the expectations of the program became bigger with the hybrid program, I couldn't wait to meet everyone face-to-face because of the online sessions.
- Allows sparking relationships prior to in-person exchange and can dive into in-person program without spending much time doing relationship building.
- Hybrid-style exchange is perfect to know participants before face-to-face meetings.
- Considering our 15-day exchange, our time was very optimized because of the remote preparation.
- Easy access at anywhere of the world, a shorter in-person program means more young professionals would be available to participate in the program without leaving their professional careers behind.

[The cons or disadvantages of a hybrid-style exchange program]

- I think that the activities were too many during the face-to-face part. It wasn't balanced according to the online exchanges.
- Online, people are able to be very accommodating, since it only lasts for a few hours and is quite impersonal. Cultural differences become more apparent when meeting face-to-face and spending more time together. Experiencing things first hand is very different from simply learning about them from afar. I am sure that going on the boat for a longer time would result in even deeper connections, and a more powerful impact on the participants.
- Online, infrequent connections may have created information asymmetries and differences in the amount of heat between members. It's difficult to keep motivation and know others deeply.
- Internet connection issues, different time zones and you don't experience the same connection with people.

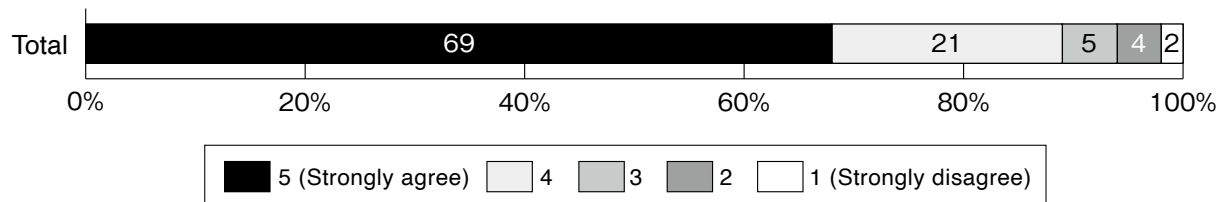
**Q. How do you evaluate the contribution of the program to your self-development?
Please answer for each attribute.**

Average



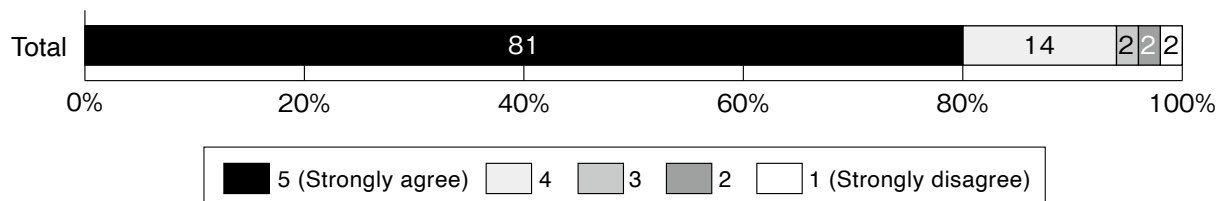
Q. Do you agree that the program contributes to promoting mutual understanding between you and people from other countries?

Average: 4.53



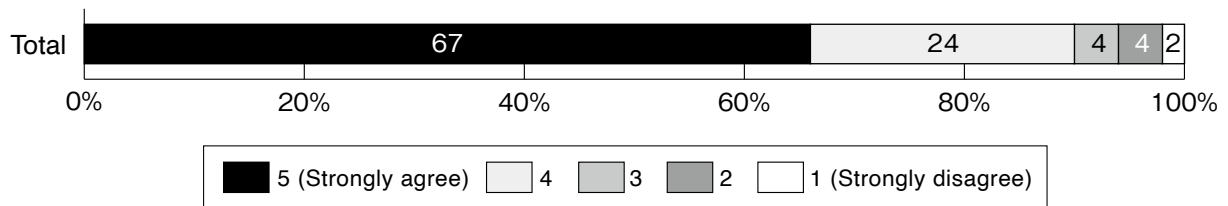
Q. Do you agree that the program contributes to establishing friendships between you and people from other countries?

Average: 4.71



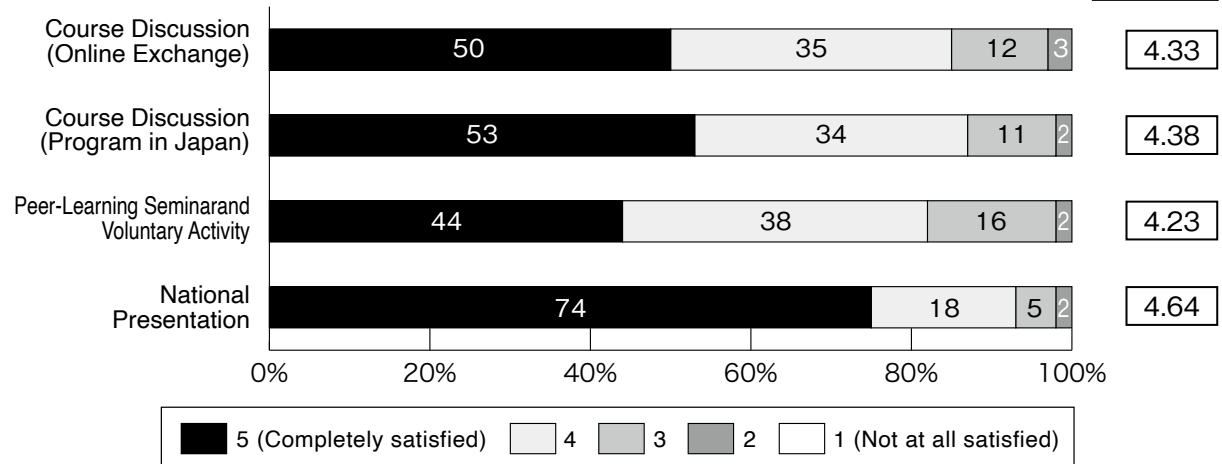
Q. Do you agree that the program encourages your willingness to participate in social contribution activities?

Average: 4.51



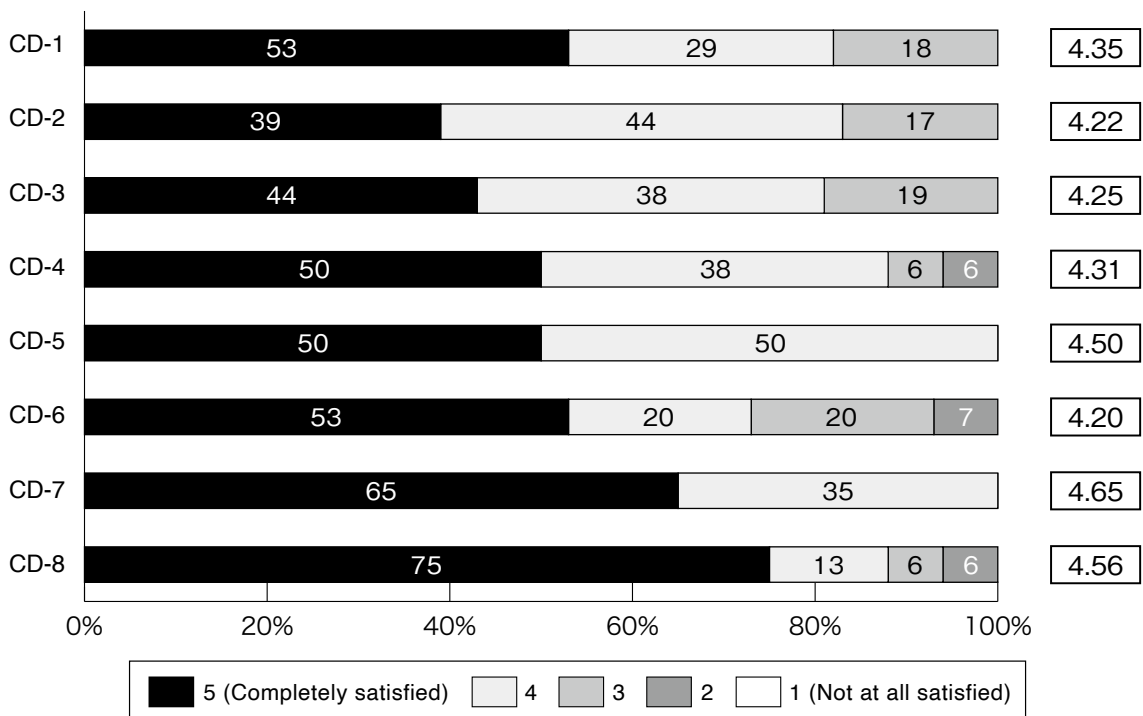
Q. Are you satisfied with the contents of each activity?

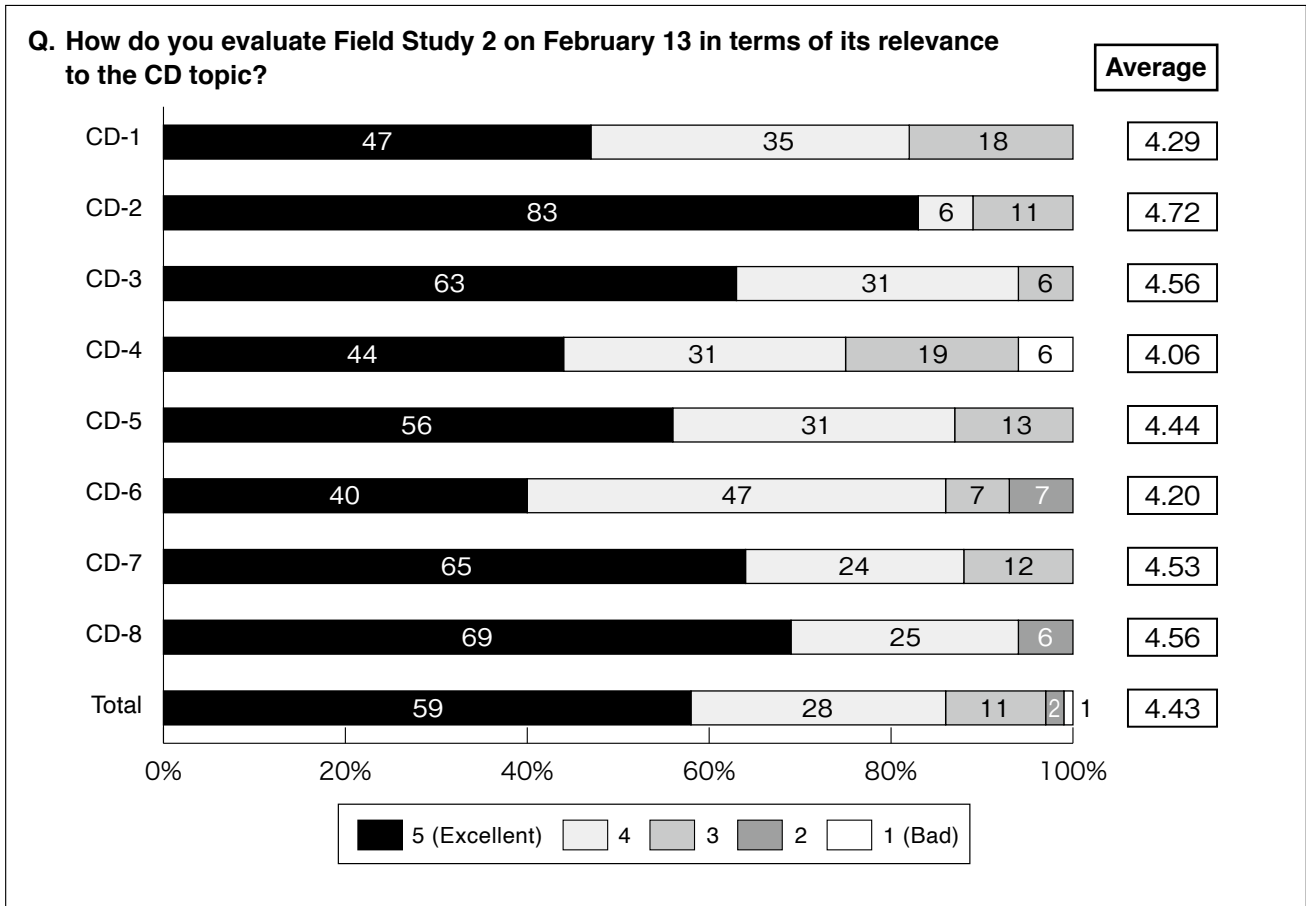
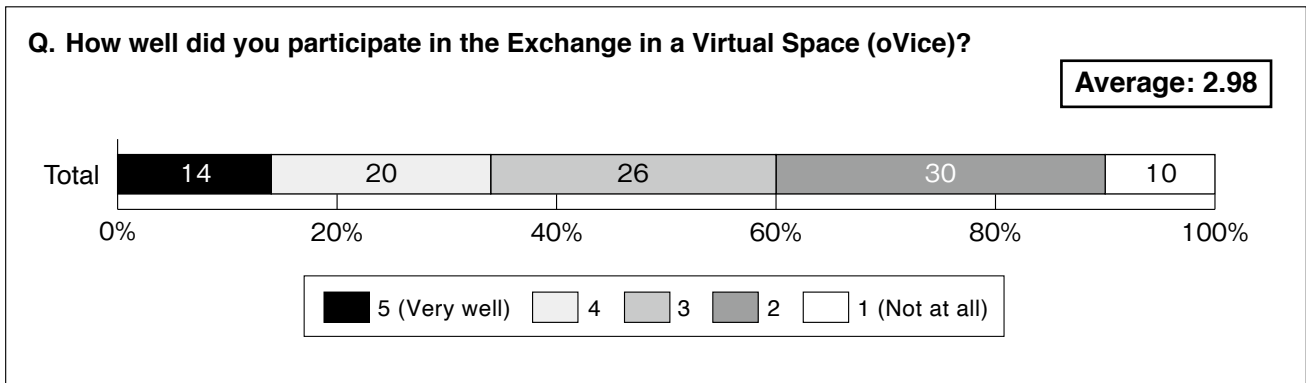
Average



Q. Are you satisfied with the contents of the Course Discussion?

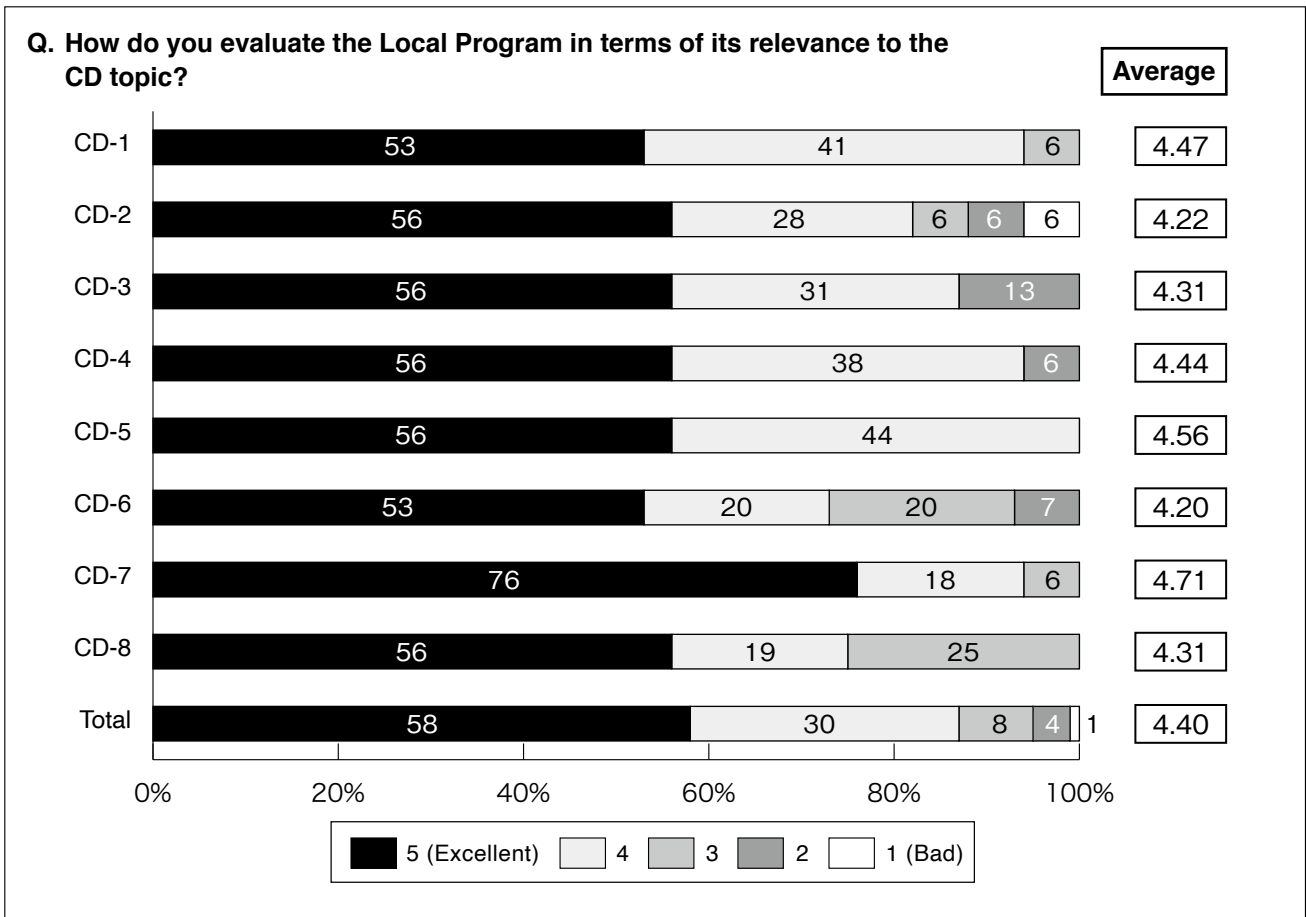
Average





<Institution>

- CD-1: b-lab, Certified NPO Corporation Katariba
- CD-2: Certified NPO Corporation Florence
- CD-3: Social Welfare Corporation “Kotoen” / Edogawa City
- CD-4: Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel
- CD-5: Certified NPO Corporation Mirai no Mori
- CD-6: Mitsui Fudosan Co., Ltd.
- CD-7: The International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI)
- CD-8: People Port Corporation



<Prefectures / City>

- CD-1: Oita Prefecture
- CD-2: Kochi Prefecture
- CD-3: Hakodate City
- CD-4: Tottori Prefecture
- CD-5: Kanagawa Prefecture
- CD-6: Aomori Prefecture
- CD-7: Miyagi Prefecture
- CD-8: Okayama Prefecture