

Report on World Youth Meeting 2011

Nihon Fukushi University

Rina Yada

WYM 2011

This year was my third time participating World Youth Meeting and I was a presenter again. I also did presenter two years ago, but last time, I did not collaborate with any other foreign student. This year, I experienced collaborating with a student from the Philippines.

Preparation period

Our preparation for the presentation started from May. There were three NFU members including me, from freshman to junior. At first, I was not sure how I should get involved with the group members because originally, WYM was hosted by freshman and sophomore students. I asked other junior students who were also participating WYM as a presenter, but each junior students' position differed from group to group. Some junior students took the leadership of the group, but on the other hand, some groups were taken control by sophomore students. When our group members gathered, I thought I didn't need to worry about this issue anymore. Sophomore student in my group naturally took the leadership and I thought that is how WYM should be; sophomore students take the leadership.

We never had any trouble building a good relationship, but we could not promote the discussion since we often got off the track. This led our presentation to complete three days before presenting. Meeting with the Philippines student, we faced another trouble which made the already complicated situation more complicated.

Our remaining presentation member from the Philippines arrived six days before our presentation. When we had discussion about our presentation for the first time, we realized that there was difference in understanding the presentation theme between NFU students and the Philippines student. We tried to put those different concepts together into one presentation, but we couldn't come up with any good idea so we asked the professor for help as soon as possible. The professor gave us some advice and we liked it. So I told the Philippines student the idea the professor have told us. She agreed as well so we started working with that idea. I realized that it is very important to ask for other people's advice when thinking about the presentation theme.

Seminar for the presentation

This year, we had three days and two nights seminar for the presenters so we can concentrate on preparing our



presentation. I liked this idea very much because we had a lot of time to communicate with foreign students and with also the presentation members. We were able to build good relationships here. And of course, we were able to concentrate more on making presentation than at school. Our members were able to spend a lot more time together comparing with the past WYM.

During this seminar, I saw many other presentation groups working hard to make great presentations. This made me feel from the bottom of my heart that all the presentation groups will succeed.

The Day of Presentation

As I know other presentation groups which included NFU students working hard from the seminar, I felt very anxious while watching presentations even though it was not my turn. Many other students said the same thing. At this point, I found another advantage of having seminar for the presenters. We can understand more about how hard other presentation groups worked for. When each presentation ended we praised each other.



Our presentation was on the second day. We finished making our script two days before that day. Since we didn't have so much time left, I translated most of the Japanese script into English. I think this made other members hard to memorize the script. This may have led them to more nervousness, but it turned out to be good presentation. We did our best although we were running out of time.

Conclusion

From my experience and feedback, I thought when making up things together, we need to talk over and over to make sure that we really have the same concept and when you get stuck, you should ask other people for some advice or idea. In the process of making the presentation, we can brush up our ability to communicate both in English and Japanese. In my opinion, we succeeded in building good relationship through the seminar this year and that led the entire presentation groups to perform well.

World Youth Meeting 2011 Review

Nihon Fukushi University

Rui Wakita

--- What are 21st century skills? ---

In this World Youth Meeting, I made a presentation with my two juniors. This year was my third time participating in the W.Y.M. and it was my second time to make a presentation. The theme of the W.Y.M. 2011 was “What are 21st century skills?”



So, we started the discussion on this theme from the spring. We gathered

together many times. At first, we could not get any good ideas about the theme. So, I worried whether we could finish making the presentation by August. We interviewed some people to get valuable information to make the presentation. Through the interviews with a student who went to the Tohoku area as a volunteer, we were able to decide our presentation's theme.

He went to the disaster struck areas that suffered a lot of damage in the Tohoku earthquake. We thought about what are some 21st century skills that we need. We decided that taking action was an important skill.

We got this idea by interviewing and doing research on the Internet. Through this experience of referring to the opinions and experiences from various people we realized its importance for making a presentation.

---Practice in the Seminar for the presentation ---

From this year, a seminar for presentation preparation was started at the seminar house. This seminar was good for us presenters to finish making our presentations and to practice them. We spend three days with all the presentation section members. We had a lot of time to prepare our presentation. In my group, our presentation was almost finished during the seminar. So, we practiced hard for three days. In my position, I was both a presenter and also I had a responsibility to teach my juniors. So I thought about how to pass along important skills for making presentations to my juniors. In the seminar we practiced together almost all the time. I told important points about when I make a

presentation in front of an audience to the juniors directly. They practiced very hard and very earnestly. From their sincere attitude, I was given the power to make a good presentation at the W.Y.M. Through this experience; I realized that the most important thing to make a good presentation as a team is building a good relationship with all the other members. It's good for us to exchange our own ideas and opinions without any anxiety.

--- Conclusion ---

This W.Y.M. 2011 was the last time for me to participate as an undergraduate student.

I had experienced this event three times. But I had never tired of that because I realized and learned many new things every year, every time while taking part in the W.Y.M.

I met many people from all over Japan and other Asian countries. They gave me a strong inspiration for studying English. I am very pleased to have built a good relationship with them. I really appreciate having had such a good experience as this nice event. I will try hard to make a bright future for myself by using my experiences in the W.Y.M. to my advantage.

I would like to say thank you to all the people I met at the W.Y.M. over the past three years.



Communication skills

Kansai university

Goda Haruka

Summary: This year's theme is "21st century skills ~How can we make use of social connectivity~" All of the students learned four outcomes. These are Cross-Cultural Understanding, Usage of ICT (Information Communication Technology), English Language Education, Planning and Implementation of International Exchanges.



Collaborative Presentation

In fact, we had some trouble making presentation. I was a little confused because of the dilemma we encountered. At that time, an idea suddenly occurred to me. This idea was that if I listened to my friend's concerns, this would help to solve the problem. However, I found that nothing necessarily came about from our attempts to compromise. I suggested to her that she should tell our leader. As a result, our presentation did not change a great deal but I thought her face looked satisfied after expressing her own opinion. I believe that this kind of expression is vital to the creation of a strong team and by extension, necessary for communication in globalization practices.

Mihama Seminar for Presentation

The theme of our presentation was how to tackle the problem of creating a good presentation in a short amount of time. I was sure that this issue was one of the most important things for our team to consider. I learned about how to do this from Dr. Igarashi and Dr. Yoshida's seminar. As a result, I now know that I must keep three things in mind when I make a presentation. First of all, according to Dr. Yoshida and Dr. Igarashi, there are three purposes presentation, which are to inform, to persuade and to entertain. These are important for us to capture the listener's attention. Next, one must bear in mind the concept of the six Cs, that is, to be concise, clear, concrete considers,

consistent, to speak with conviction and to establish a connection. In doing so, the speaker is therefore able to fully comprehend the listener's viewpoint. Finally, Dr. Igarashi and Dr. Yoshida also mentioned the win-win relationship. Presentations are not designed to decide on priority to speak. Rather, making a presentation is about cooperating with each other and therefore, showing our concern for others. Also, if we avoid each other a presentation, or in other words, fail to establish mutual collaboration in a group, we will not have to face to conflict. Disagreements are sometimes necessary and especially healthy to the creation of a strong and persuasive presentation to collaborate. This therefore leads to a relationship of win-win. After listening to Dr. Igarashi and Dr. Yoshida's seminar on presentations, overall, that making a good, earned presentation is essentially to start to understand one another and to share with others.

Taiwan Students and Our Sightseeing Excursion

On the 9th and 10th of August, Joanna and Jenny, who came from Taiwan, and I went to Kyoto. At first, we went toward Kinkaku temple and Kiyomizu temple. After we arrived, we took many pictures, ate some food walked around. I was surprised that Joanna knew more about Japanese history than me. I thought I should study about Japan more. When we talked, sometimes we could not understand each other because of a lack of English vocabulary. However, we did not give up communicating. Whenever I was aware, we spoke three languages which were Japanese, Taiwanese and English in our conversation. We spoke not only about cultural differences, Taiwanese can change their name whenever they like, but also about more personal things. It was nice that we were able to always talk about differences topics other than ours. We do not have to always represent our country. That because it was simply a conversation between the three of us: Joanna, Jenny and myself.

Review of WYM

Communication skills are a little ambiguity and big words. I thought they were big that I did not know what I could do. But I finally found it was a very personal experience, which lies between people. In other words, true communication skills are to understand a person. This deep consideration gives me broad views.

Feedback of the WYM 2011

Nihon Fukushi University

Yuka Suzuki

Let me write about my feedback on the W.Y.M. 2011 according to the questions that lead us to clarify what we had achieved.

What I did in the WYM 2011.

I played the role of presenter and made a presentation in the W.Y.M. 2011.

The theme of our presentation was “21 century skills are based on your mind: What skills are needed for becoming what you want to be“.

I believe that this title resonated strongly with the audience.

The most impressive thing

I had some special experiences in the W.Y.M. 2011.

But the most impressive thing for me was to have made a presentation with a Cambodian student. It was a precious experience for me. We communicated with each other to complete our presentation up to the designated day.

Conflict

We could decide our theme early, comparatively, but we were really confused about the contents. We especially found it difficult to clarify what the main message of our presentation was.

Overcome the conflict

We overcame this conflict by discussing it many times doing dry runs.

After the consultation, we could find a good way and made a better presentation.

The hard work

The hard work I faced was to manage our presentation's group.

My presentation's members were a freshman, a sophomore and a Cambodian student.

Before contacting the Cambodian student, we had to have a consultation.

Then I thought that the W.Y.M. 2011 was organized by sophomore and freshmen mainly so I didn't know how much I should manage.

I noticed that we made a presentation together so I didn't have to hold back.

We were thinking about the same things which was that we'd like to make a better presentation .So

we overcame any problems by talking together without holding back.

The point of cooperation

The point of cooperation was with our friends within the framework of the steering committee. We cooperated with the steering committee by sharing information using an ICT system and holding meetings. That encouraged us a lot.

The most impressive conversation

The most impressive conversation I had with my overseas friend was about the cultural differences between Japan and Cambodia with the student from Cambodia.

I came to understand more about Cambodian culture after having many conversations with her. I mostly talked with her at inn where we stayed about three days to prepare our own presentation.

Regarding the W.Y.M. preparation, I learned that sharing ideas with friends was important to succeed in our role.

Suggestions for the next W.Y.M.

Please describe your activity during the following phases.

The preparation activity : We discussed the theme of the W.Y.M. "What's happiness ~ We are connected now.~" and we decided the theme of the presentation of each group. Just before the designated opening day: Practice, practice and more practice!!

Just after the W.Y.M: I reflected on our group's presentation by watching our movie. I have to put this meaningful experience of the W.Y.M. 2010 to good account.

We should keep trying to proceed with our progress in making English presentations.

We are confident to talk about what we accomplished. We can see the anxiety in the first stage turned into confidence in the last stage. To always keep the goal to complete the presentation in our minds is also needed.

Outcomes from 3 years of experiences at the World Youth Meeting

Nihon Fukushi University

Yuto Hikita

Various viewpoints

I could learn several things from my experiences at WYM over two years

This year, I played the role of supervisor and in the presentation section. I discovered structures the inner working of WYM organization that I've never known.

This time, I will clarify these experiences.

The facilitation skills of a supervisor

I was a supervisor for managing the project.

By utilizing a process map and the Nihon Fukushi University SNS site, named FUXI, we grasped the progress situation and could share the problems.

From this experience, I would like to clarify what is needed to manage a team.

To observe from the local point of view

When you instruct team members about the ways of working, most supervisors tend to think only from their own point of view. To do proper instruct, it requires an objective idea. By observing the local point of view, the team motivation will rise.



Management of the collaborative presentation preparation

In the WYM, there are many opportunities to do presentations with overseas students.

It requires English communication. However, a lot of students might feel their poor English is a wall preventing clear communication. As a result, the contents of the discussions might be shallow.

But I think the problem was not the English communication. Then, how can people communicate well? And how can they make an effective presentation?

Basic communication

- to know each other

Even if counterparts are not overseas students, communication will not start without understanding each other. Having a positive attitude towards friends more and more is significant.

- To give ones opinion

When we talked about the theme, there were many students who hardly expressed any opinion. Most of the students were trying to avoid conflict.

First of all, it is important to talk. It is important to ask questions even about small problems. By discussing the problems, some conflict may arise. But this may help make good changes. We could easily predict the process including the conflicts that makes the contents nicer one.

Presentation preparation

- Problem discovery

In order to make an effective presentation for an audience, we need to be able to observe from a variety of viewpoints about the theme, the questionnaire, and the literature. Thereby, new subjects and ideas are discovered.

- Theoretical

To get an audience's satisfaction, we need to be able to improve our theory. For this purpose, we have to analyze and investigate the subject carefully. It makes the original idea better.

From these experiences, we came to believe strongly that basic skills are more important while learning ICT, International collaboration and presentation.

I came to understand that these skills are based on fundamental competencies.

Reflective comments from Waseda Honjo 2011 participants

Comments from the 6 new participants (the 1st- and 2nd- year students)

There were three reasons I decided to take part in the WYM. First, I wanted to see how well I could use English and to gain experience of speaking with people from abroad. Second, I wanted to give a serious, genuine presentation. Third, I wanted to improve my ability to use the ICT. The seniors of my team were good at using the ICT, and I wanted to be a good user like them.

Waseda team started preparation by brainstorming sessions on the theme -- the 21st century skills and how to use the connectivity. We also wanted to make our presentation relevant to the Free Paper Project, and that became one of the discussion topics. The intensive preparation started after the final exam of the 1st term. We met afterschool on Wednesdays and Saturdays. When the summer vacation started, we came to school 5 times a week, and had on-line chat sessions in the midnight. It was difficult to decide the topic and approach of our presentation, collaborating with our Indonesian partners. Until we came up with our definition of “the 21st century skills” and “the bonds,” we talked and talked and talked. Thanks to our seniors’ advice, we finally reached to the topic of our presentation. By the time we went to Aichi, we had started making the PowerPoint slides in English.

To prepare for our presentation, we started to Aichi on August 3, six days before the WYM. On the first day in Aichi, we met Tiwi and Linda, our Indonesian partners for the first time. We felt like we had met them before, because we had corresponded with each other using Facebook. We worked all day and night, even after dinner at the hotel. It was tough.

On the first day of the WYM, we listened to presentations given by other high school and college students. We were surprised at the levels of them -- they were very high! We were anxious about our presentation we were going to give the next day. When all the presentations of Day One were over, we distributed our FP to the audience.

When our turn came on the next day, we were very nervous. It was our first time to give a presentation in front of that many people. But we did it! Our effort “fruited” and we felt a sense of accomplishment. Also, we realized that learning different cultures is important, and now we want to improve our English more.

What is more, we learned a lot from our seniors. Seeing them working very hard even when they were tired, we felt we had to work harder. We learned that the important thing is not only English

skills but also an ability to use the ICT and an ability to bring the team mates together. Through this experience, we learned A LOT of things. We want to make full use of this experience to improve ourselves.

Comments from the 2 repeaters (the 3rd-year students)

It was my second chance to take part in WYM. Last year, I was one of presenter. And it was so hard for me that I couldn't do except doing presentation. This year, I took part in as a manager and clicker. And because of the 2nd experience, I was able to look at the surroundings as well as target jobs. I felt there were more groups which made good moods than last year.

After this contest, I wanted to do presentation one more time in this stage so as to know my progress through this two years.

Thank you for giving me precious time.

The presentation we made for the WYM 2011 is much worth to me because we could find some solutions to the problems we had had for a long time. The problem was “how to keep in touch with others through the Internet.” We had many bitter experiences in online interaction during preparations for the WYM 2010 and the Free Paper Project (creating a free magazine through Yogya-Waseda collaboration). Learning from the past failures, we tried using different ICT tools time to time, depending on the purposes of interaction. This new practices worked better, and Waseda members could work much closer with our Indonesian partners. I am sure that this experience will help me in the future, when I need to work closely with people using the ICT.

World Youth Meeting Students Steering Committee

Tatsuhiko Asai

The Chief of the Student Steering Committee of W.Y.M.2011

First of all, I would like to say thank you very much for your cooperation at the W.Y.M.this year. Your cooperation made the W.Y.M.2011 a successful event.Now you must be proud to have been a member of W.Y.M.2011.

I have written some items here to tell you about the work involved in the W.Y.M. from my perspective as Chief of S.S.C.

- 1, The Class for Proceeding to Prepare for the WYM.
- 2, Using English and Intercultural Understanding
- 3, Student Steering Committee
- 4, Information and Communication Technology
- 5, My Impressions
- 6, Expectations for W.Y.M. 2012
- 7, My Suggestion

- 1, The Class for Proceeding to Prepare for the W.Y.M.

We have a special class for W.Y.M. once a week. It is called the International Facility Seminar. This class is very interesting. Because a few students prepare it and stand in front of other students. It is a little like Student Teachers. And that was me. How did I know about teaching? I followed our professor's example, particularly Dr.Kageto's. He and I have talked so much about how to work, study, satisfy and improve the WYM. This class also taught us how to make presentations better.

It is nothing new to say that Dr.Kageto made great contributions in the field of presentations. We made many presentations and practiced by using good role models.

In this way, we the students can learn how to deliver the message well.

This class is rare in Japanese University's. We are proud of taking this class.

I appreciate that I could do this kind of study.

- 2, Using English and Intercultural Understanding

W.Y.M. is an international event. So we should be able to use English well at this time. We sometimes had difficulties because of misunderstandings. For example bathes and showers. If a visitor from overseas could not use a public big bath, the S.S.C would like to prepare a private shower. In this way, we always watched and asked about their conditions. I think that this is one way to approach each other. Freshmen were shy. So they couldn't talk to them at the first meeting. But they tried to greet first. This meeting was the first time to meet foreigners for some freshmen. I feel

happy that they could overcome their shyness or nervousness feeling about using English.

They also noticed that the most important attitude for using English is to try hard.

3, Student Steering Committee(S.S.C.)

There are 12 groups. These are the Chief group, Presentation group, Opening Act group, Music Session group, Work Shop group, Meals & Nameplates group, Lodging group, Overseas Correspondence group, MC group, Hall Keeper group, Pamphlet group, and Public Relations group. There are leaders in each group.

4, Information and Communication Technology

We were taught how to improve our preparations by using PCs in the classes. For example, how to share information. We have joint folders and a SNS called "Fuxi" on the University's intranet. So we can read and share the newly arrived information.

5, My Impression

World Youth Meeting is a great international event. Students must get something new.

In my case, I found excellent friends from other schools. In lodging, some students taught me how to make my greeting better. And when I practice it until midnight, they were together with me. The behavior made me feel encouraged. So I found that sometimes one behavior goes beyond language. This must be our general idea, if I could not use English very well.

Of course, we could enjoy the main program. Many special teachers did presentations for students. Those were so interesting so I will not forget them. And student's presentations were also great. I saw their effort in their presentations. So the presentations touched me.

6, Expectation of WYM 2012

As I wrote that WYM is great, I hope that NFU's freshmen will have confidence.

They did their best. When they have difficulties, I believe that they can overcome. So I want them not to give up. If they do that so they are sure to succeed. Therefore, WYM will be also getting more and more great International event.

7, My Suggestion

From my position as Chief of the S.S.C. I came to realize the importance of effort. I want the freshmen and all students, who take part in the W.Y.M., to try harder. I mean they should try to use their English to show our hospitality to the visitors.

We should make the feel welcome.

I got many things from WYM

Akatsuki Junior And Senior High School

Senoto Shimizu

Last year, I attended WYM for the first time, though I was just a visitor.

All presenters made excellent presentations in English, it was very cool and fresh for me. So I thought “ I’ll attend as a presenter next time.”

It is lucky for me that my father is a member of a steering committee, so my wish could come true in this year. And I formed a team with my two friends.

We considered two points when we made our presentations.

One is “ To speak with intonation.” Because listeners can’t find the point presenters want to tell really. We started practice to read a manuscript with intonation. Miho who was a member of our team was the manager of this practice, because she is also a member of English speech club and an influential person.

But, this was very hard practice. I thought I spoke with intonation, but Miho said “No!”

I listened recording my voice. That seemed tedious and monotonous to me.

After that, I paid attention to parts which I wanted to tell to listeners really.

The other is “ To speak with a smile.” Because I think presentation is a place where presenters send their thinking to listeners and that is a kind of communication many presenters took up as 21st century skill. The communication without a smile has only a short life, and a presenter with a smile can take listener’s interest out to his presentation.

We went to Nihon Fukushi University by my father’s car. I remember that we were very nervous and murmured each manuscript. But, after entering to the meeting place, we felt no tensions. Because all staff were kind, and opening ceremony programs were very interesting!

Then our presentation, we finished with no accidents. I only remember the stage was hot.

I got many things from this meeting, experience to attend international meeting, connections to new people, and so on.

It was a pity that no schools from Mie which attended WYM except for Akatsuki.

But, Akatsuki accomplished participation in this great meeting for the first time.

So, I’d like to tell this experience to our teachers and ask them to attend next meeting as a club with our lowerclassmen.

Thank you for your supporting!

Akatsuki Junior and Senior High School

Akifumi Matsuhisa

Through this WYM 2011, I found that I grew up about my ability to speak English.

And also I am deeply grateful to staffs of Nihon Hukushi University to their cooperation.

I'd never experienced speech in English in front of a large crowd. But we tried a practice of speech over and over. I have had gradually confidence in my pronunciation and intonation.

I owe this confidence to my member, Senoto and Miho.

Before the WYM, I'd never seen that many other school students speak in English.

Because I had a few friends of other school, who make speech in English.

So, the WYM is a good place to get to know many people. I think other school students as well as us got new friends.

And also Nihon Fukushi University, the site of this meeting, was a good place.

I heard about college life from student of the college—he is my school's graduate.

He said that his college life was so delightful and it was a good place to learn what he wanted to.

In the WYM, I met some presentations by foreign college students.

They came from the Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, China ,, etc.

Any way, they came from many countries.

From the international view, I think we should have meetings like the WYM.

Because, today it's becoming ordinary that we can speak English. At school, teacher teaches English as a foreign language to teach first.

In society, there are many Speaking English Schools.

And international students are increasing.

In some enterprises, employees should speak in English at their office.

So, I realized importance of English all over again.

At the end, I'd like to say staffs.

“Thank you for your supporting!”

I'll come back soon!

Akatsuki Junior and Senior High School

Miho Watanabe

For me it was the first time to attend WYM. But it was not my first making a speech in English.

I lived in America for four years. So, I love speaking English. But it doesn't mean I'm good at reading and writing. My grammar is terrible. Though I entered English speech club to make use of my experience.

So I had a little confidence in my ability of speaking English, and when my friend asked me to enter WYM with him, I agreed his offer willingly.

But presenting in English was not as easy as I thought. The most different point from speech was "Not only me." microphone, and where we stand, so on.

We had to do it as a team, so we had to care about when who talk, how we use the

For the Pre Meeting, we decided to present about our school. I told my friends to speak with a pronounced intonation and a rich voice— "Imagine! Speaking from your stomach!" Because, it is common that listeners feel a just loud voice to be noisy to speech.

After "Pre Meeting", many people said to us "It was very good!"

I was so happy. But, when we watched our recording video, we were dumbfounded.

Exclude me, presenter's voices were small and weak, posture of each us was bad, and we took many mistakes.

The subject of performance is "21st century skills—How can we make use of social connectivity."

About this, first, all of us thought about SNS, Skype, facebook, and so on.

Then, a problem happened. We thought almost other schools would present about it.

So we decided to present about "energy." Because we need energy to use PC.

From then, it was very hard. We didn't attend as a club, so we could not get enough time to practice.

When we finished making the manuscript, only three or four days were left. Until the day before WYM, we went to our school and practiced.

The hardest work was to memorize the manuscript.

Our team had only three members, so each of us had to speak a lot and mine was the longest.

And what was even worth, our turn was the first on the first day. I was very nervous.

After our turn, we couldn't say anything about our presentation. And I tried to enjoy WYM.

I was the only girl in our team, so I was worried that if I can get along with members of the same hotel room.

But it was unnecessary worry. They were so spirited and cheerful, and I had very good time. I thought the Kansai University & I-Shou University's presentation was the best. Until their presentation, I felt presentation to be a little rigid. Because, I had only watched slides and heard speech. But their one was different. They presented "Free hug" with some movies. And they said to us "First, stand up. Next, open your arms,, and open your hart. And hug!" And all people in the hall did "Free hug." It was so exciting. I hugged many people. I learned that listeners can not only listen and watch presentation but attend and enjoy it from their presentation. After all, we've got Platinum Prize. I was so happy. And I thought next presentation such as listeners can feel togetherness. But we have to study for entrance examinations to universities. So, it may be difficult that all of us attend WYM. I intend to entry to WYM as a university student next time. Then we may meet again with each new members. I'll come back soon!

Two Abilities

Fukui Prefectural Wakasa High School

Karin Nagai

I found two abilities improved by comparing WYM 2010 and 2011. One of them is the ability to communicate. Though we often write or read English in classes, we don't talk with others in English a lot. So our abilities to communicate are not so improved. I couldn't talk with Taiwanese students a lot and couldn't make friends with them so much in WYM 2010. This year, I was worried about whether I could make friends with them or not at first. However, I could open my heart to them while we made a presentation together. Finally, we could enjoy WYM 2011 very much! I thought my ability to communicate improved in WYM 2011.

The other is the ability to think. The theme of WYM 2011, "21st century skill," was much more difficult than that of last year. Therefore, we could think about the theme further. Also, we could share each idea and could think together. Though concluding was difficult, I think trying to think seriously is important. Last year, I could get a lot of pleasure in WYM 2010. This year, I could get not only it but also the ability to think. I could get many things from WYM 2011.

Thank you.

The First English Presentation

Fukui Prefectural Wakasa High School

Wakaba Nagata

I had a great experience in this WYM. We were worried about associating with students from Taiwan and making a presentation because it was our first time. When I heard that the number of lines had increased before WYM, I was beginning to feel more pressure. To be honest, I felt depressed then. But, when we finished WYM, I was happy to have had this experience. Our presentation was very good and it was a lot of fun. Deciding the theme of our presentation was difficult because the opinions varied from person to person. It was hard for us to express our opinions. But we were able to decide on the course of our presentation by getting teacher's opinions and a lot of advice. We examined the details and used many results of questionnaires and teacher's opinions especially teachers of the ESA club. We were able to talk with many students. The theme of our presentation was about nuclear power. It is talked about by many people. This theme was very difficult, but I thought it was good. Many people were interested in the theme, so we examined many things about nuclear power. We were able to discover many things through talking with students and the teacher from Taiwan. They spoke English very well. So I want to speak English well like them. I was surprised by them because they had many interesting ideas, ways of expressing and so on. The theme was difficult, but we owe the success of the WYM to all involved. Each part was difficult and complicated too. However, I was able to persist to the very end. And we were able to get a big prize because we chose the theme in cooperation with students and the teacher from Taiwan. I want to make use of things that I learned at this WYM.

Thank you.

From Regret to Confidence

Fukui Prefectural Wakasa High School

Mao Kishino

At first, we couldn't decide what to do because the subject was difficult topic. I found it difficult to guide my teammates as the leader. I felt anxiety.

Last year, we tended to depend on Taiwanese friends. So I wanted us to exchange views with each other this year. Although I really wanted to do so, it didn't go the way I wanted it to. I felt myself incompetent. But we were given a new way of thinking by Taiwanese students fresh views and we could exchange a lot of ideas with them gradually.

When Taiwanese friends came to our high school, I felt nervous. Everyone was kind and friendly. I could talk with them pleasantly. Last year, because I was worried about whether I could speak English well or not, I didn't talk to them positively. I regretted that I didn't talk to them. When I could make myself understood in English, I was very happy. Then the happiness changed my view and built my confidence and I began to not think that speaking English is my weak point. This is my best result of WYM in 2011. I could make many foreign friends as a result.

I felt nervous during our performance. I was very proud of my teammates because they did a good job. We were able to collect the fruit of our labor. I had confidence in getting the prize. When our team name was called, I was really happy.

The six days that I spent with Taiwanese friends passed in an instant. I miss them now. I had a great experiment. I'll keep in touch with them forever.

It's a pity that this year is my last time to join WYM. I'll never forget this experiment. Thank you very much.

Thanks for Encounter with Great Members!

Ritsumeikan H1 Marino NAGASAWA

I participated in WYM for the first time this year. So I learnt so many things although it is still difficult for me to write about all the things what I've done...

Firstly, I felt it interesting to think earnestly about a subject for discussion. The main subject of WYM2011 was "Skills for 21st century". I felt the subject familiar to me although I've never thought about that before. So it was so significant to discuss ideas, to think, to improve our conclusion and to look for specific examples which support our basis. Through the work, I could find my own opinion about "Skills for 21st century". And I felt a fantastic sense of accomplishment when our final conclusion was completed.

Secondly, I was impressed with the kindness of Taiwanese students. I enjoyed WYM very much and had such a precious time because all of Taiwanese students were so kind and friendly. Moreover their warm consideration for us was wonderful. I still remember the impression and feel gratitude for them. I've heard that Japanese people are polite in general, however, their behavior was much better than ours.



Japan is a foreign country for Taiwanese students, but they always had kind hospitality. So I respect all of them from the bottom of my heart, I also reflect on my immaturity. I should emulate their behavior.

Finally, I thought I want to speak English more fluently. I think English is not strictly necessary for communication because, though my English ability was not enough, I could still communicate with

Taiwanese students. And so I think it is much more important to have consideration for each other. However, I also think it would be possible to talk with them more naturally if I improve my English ability. So I'll make an effort to improve that from now.

I learnt so many things through this experience, so I'll cherish this memory. And I'll make use of this chance to improve my English, my sense of humanity and so on. Therefore I want to be a real cosmopolitan!

Thanks to my teammates and teachers

Mizuki NAKABAYASHI

Ritsumeikan Senior High School

This WYM is my third WYM. I am in grade 12 and the leader of this WYM. Usually seniors lead teams, so I guessed seniors should do hard work until last year. Actually I did the job and it was more difficult than I thought. Especially to make presentation by team is so hard, because we should have many discussions. First, we decided our topic by brain storming. After, we decided the format of our presentation. Next, we told to Taiwanese students about the kind of presentation that we wanted to do, but they had different opinions. So we exchanged opinions via e-mail, skype, and facebook in English. It was so frustrating, because my English ability is poor, so I couldn't tell them my opinion in English well.



Also the leader has other jobs: to help juniors. Until now seniors teach many things to juniors in WYM, so I should pass on many things that I got from my seniors to juniors. However I didn't know how to explain things to juniors, so I worried. My conclusion is not to tell it them directly but to say "Learn by followings the seniors" to juniors. If they keep learning by following the seniors, they can get many things. And seniors should be good role models, because juniors are watching them.

In this WYM we enjoyed our presentation, so we got the platinum prize. I think our team work was very good, so we could learn a great deal.

Last, I was not the most reliable leader, so I guess I troubled my teammate and my teacher. However I enjoyed making a presentation with them, and I made great memories. I had a good experience. Thank you so much.



Ritsumeikan and KGHS and KSHS students can present very well!

Ritsumeikan High School, 9th grade

Ayana KITAMURA

This is my second time to take part in WYM. I took part in WYM last year, but I had an even more fulfilling WYM this year than last year. The total of twenty four students in junior and senior high school were working hard.

The theme of WYM2011 is “21st century skill ~How can we make use of social convertibility~”. We went into high gear after semester tests finished. Every year, Ritsumeikan School makes a



presentation with Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Senior High School (KSHS) and Kaohsiung Municipal Girls' Senior High School (KGHS) of Taiwan. We argued any number of times on facebook and completed a great presentation this year. In summer vacation, we exchanged information through skype. I couldn't listen and speak English very well, so it made me realize that I should study English harder. Also, it is too hard to have discussions if

there the opinions and explanations are not easy for others to understand. We should divide each part like secretary and speaker and listener so that both junior and senior high school students can take part in consultations. The general data like questionnaires for classmate can be done quickly. I think the preparation beforehand is very important.

This time, I took in a high school student from Taiwan for the first time. I was at a loss whether to take on a foreign guest because I had never talked with foreign students and felt uneasiness. But the result was very good for me to take in her. Though talking English was so hard every day, I have many unforgettable experiences. I still exchange e-mail with her.

I had a good time since Taiwanese students came to Japan. We could make a presentation and decide a manuscript quickly among the three schools' leaders. As a result, there was a lot of time to practice and exchange with Taiwanese students. I was so nervous that I went blank last year, so I remembered desperately not to do so this year. In the end, we get the platinum and finished in the best possible way. Also, the comment, “Ritsumeikan and KGHS and KSHS students can present very well”, made me happy. I think best team members made the best presentation. But this is not satisfactory; I want to find a way to make greater use of this experience. Though this WYM was the last time for me, this experience is one of the greatest memories in my life.

What I learned through World Youth Meeting

Ritsumeikan Uji H.S Haruka Munakata

I was very lucky to be chosen as one of the representatives of Ritsumeikan Uji. I experienced a lot of things which is not able to be experienced as a normal junior high school student. By this project my English level went up, made a lot of friends, and was able to cooperate with people around the world. We had problems and sometimes, it made me feel irritated by now, I am very proud of myself that I got over it and was able to grow up myself.

1. What I felt about this project
2. Difficulties that we faced through the project
3. Time I spent at Nihon Fukushi University
4. Conclusion and my feelings about WYM

I have never attended such a big meeting involving different countries around the world. It became a great opportunity to learn and listen to different opinions from different views. The topic gave us a big question mark when we first heard it. However, day by day we were able to find out our answer. While I was working on the project, I was thinking why do they give such a hard topic? It is so hard to find out the answer. However, as we were working through it, I noticed that the harder the project is, more the friend ship and teamwork will improve. Working through the project, I was able to earn many skills and was able to make myself more open-minded. I think I also became an inquirer wondering and being curious too. At first I was nervous and afraid that if I will work well with the high school students and 2nd graders. But as days past, we were able to be good friends and it worked out well. It wasn't the first time for me working with people who were from different country since I used to go to international school in Singapore. But it was my first time to be the host family for 3 days. I wasn't sure what I was supposed to do and what shall I talk with them. But gradually we were able to talk to each other.

We had a lot of difficulties trying to work together on the project while at our own countries. We faced many problems. We had to take contact using "Facebook" and it was hard to explain things through computers using words. However to get over to this we had to learn how to express ourselves using different words. We thought each other and got over this.

When I got to Nihon Fukushi University, I was surprised by the number of people who were participating to it. I saw different uniforms and people from different age. I was curious about what other people thought about the topic and what the 3 skills were. Some group had same opinions but

the point which they narrow it down was different. It was interesting to participate. The seating plan that we had was great because I was able to make friends from different schools too. I was able to have them write a message for me so it became one of my memories too. By this, I was able to get closer to a Taiwanese student who I was working with during the project. The room that I stayed was with a student from Malaysia and Philippines. We talked a lot and enjoyed the night.

In conclusion, I'd like to state that this is a great meeting to have because of the reasons written above. If possible, I'd like to come back again and make the project much better and interesting so that we can get more attention from the crowds. This made me have a strong feeling about learning abroad since I learned that it is fun learning and working together as a group with people from different countries.



World Youth Meeting

Ritsumeikan Uji H.S Ryusuke Ishida

I experienced world youth meeting in this summer. I had never joined like this plan. We made efforts of preparing for world youth meeting. It's difficult because we made power point with Taiwanese students but, we could enjoy expressing our opinion.

Outline

1 A reason I joined this plan

2 School life

3 World youth meeting

1 A reason I joined this plan

I thought I wanted to improve my English but, I had no idea. One day, I was recognized to participate in this plan by my English teacher. I tried to refuse this but I thought this is the best plan to improve English. I finished all tournaments so I had enough time to prepare for this meeting. I wanted to interact with foreign students so I decided to take part in this plan.

2 School life

We had five students in my school, two senior students and three junior students and three Taiwanese students. I thought we had to lead them. We were thinking about the theme of this meeting. We made power point at first but, when my English teacher checked our opinion, he thought this is wrong. Thus, we remade power point. It's too hard for us but, I had great time with Taiwanese students. Everybody worked very hard. We always discussed about 21st century but, I thought it's too difficult for me. We practiced speech and hand action in my school. Out of school, we had to take care of Taiwanese student but it's not hard because I enjoyed spend time with him.

I explained about Kyoto and old temple so I had great time out of school.



3 World youth meeting.

August 7 and 8, World youth meeting was held. There were many kinds of people. I was very nervous. The stage was too big and many people did very good presentations. We did our best on the stage. When our presentation finished, I was relieved. I had really great time during this time. If I didn't take part in this meeting, I couldn't experience like this. World youth meeting made me change.