

Students' reports of WYM2025

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From Memorized Speeches to Real Dialogue: My Reflections as a Moderator at the World Youth Meeting

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暗記の発表から本当の対話へ — WYM リーダーとしての振り返り

1. A Hot Summer and My Role as Leader

This summer felt much hotter than usual, and the heat made every task more exhausting. As the leader of the student executive committee, I constantly moved around the venue to check the schedule, support the presenters, and solve unexpected problems. I often found myself running from one corner of the hall to another, coordinating with both staff and participants. Although it was physically demanding and sometimes stressful, it gave me a strong sense of responsibility and pride. Being trusted with this role was both a challenge and a valuable learning experience.

1. 暑い夏とリーダーとしての役割

今年の夏は例年よりもずっと暑く、その暑さがあらゆる仕事をより大変なものにしました。私は学生実行委員会のリーダーとして、常に会場を動き回り、スケジュールを確認したり、発表者を支援したり、思いがけない問題を解決したりしました。会場の端から端へ走り、スタッフや参加者と調整を行うことも多くありました。体力的にきつく、時にはストレスも感じましたが、その経験は大きな責任感と誇りを私に与えてくれました。この役割を任されたことは挑戦であると同時に、とても価値ある学びの機会でもありました。

2. A New Kind of Presentation

In previous years, many presentations seemed to focus on memorizing and delivering difficult words. Students sometimes spoke in a way that felt like reciting a textbook, showing knowledge but not truly expressing themselves. This year, however, I noticed a clear change. Presenters tried to address real issues in the world and express their personal opinions in their own words. They connected their ideas with their feelings, and this made their presentations more authentic and meaningful. I was truly glad to see this shift, because I have often heard in class that 'a presentation is essentially a conversation,' and this year I finally understood what that means.

2. 新しいプレゼンテーションのかたち

これまでの年は、多くの発表が「難しい単語を覚えて話す」ことに重点を置いているように見えました。学生たちはまるで教科書を暗唱するように話し、知識は示せても自分自身を表現できていないように感じられることもありました。しかし今年は明らかな変化がありました。発表者たちは世界の現実的な問題に向き合い、自分の意見を自分の言葉で語ろうとしていました。考えと気持ちを結びつけて表現することで、発表はより本物らしく、意味のあるものになっていました。授業で「プレゼンは会話である」と何度も聞いてきましたが、今年初めてその意味を心から理解することができました。

3. Conversation and Responsibility

A conversation is not just the exchange of words. It requires responsibility. When you speak, you are responsible for what you say, and you use your whole personality to communicate your ideas. In that sense, speaking in front of others becomes a form of inquiry, or what we might call 'exploration.' This exploration is not only about gathering facts but also about reflecting deeply on one's own views and sharing them with others. I realized that presentations are powerful because they are not about repeating information but about engaging in a dialogue that carries personal weight and authenticity.

3. 会話と責任

会話とは単に言葉を交わすことではありません。そこには責任が伴います。人前で話すとき、発言の内容に責任を持ち、自分の人格全体を通して考えを伝える必要があります。その意味で、人前で話すことは一種の「探求」であり、深く自分の意見を見つめ直し、それを他者と共有する営みです。プレゼンテーションの力は、情報を繰り返すことなく、重みのある対話に参加し、誠実に自分の考えを伝えるところにあるのだと気づきました。

4. From Reading to Real Speaking

When students only try to recite what they have memorized, the delivery often turns into reading aloud. Such presentations sound flat and lack emotion. The speaker's feelings and individuality are hidden, and the audience cannot connect with the message. In contrast, when a presentation becomes a real act of speaking, the voice carries rhythm, emotion, and personality. This year, I felt that many students consciously tried to avoid the 'reading style' and instead aimed for more natural and interactive speaking. This gave their presentations life and made them much more effective and inspiring.

4. 朗読から本当のスピーチへ

学生が暗記したことをただ繰り返そうとすると、発表は「朗読」になりがちです。そのようなプレゼンは平板で、感情もこもらず、聞き手が共感できません。一方、本当のスピーチは声にリズムや感情、そして個性が表れます。今年は、多くの学生が意識的に「朗読型」を避け、より自然で双方向的なスピーチを目指していたように感じました。その努力が発表に命を吹き込み、より効果的で心を動かすものになっていました。

5. My Experience as a Moderator

One of my main responsibilities this year was serving as the moderator of a panel discussion. At first, I felt nervous, because I had to balance different roles—encouraging the Japanese high school students to participate, translating when necessary, and keeping the discussion on track. Through this experience, I realized that although Japanese students are not very confident in speaking English, they do have strong listening skills. They are curious, attentive, and eager to ask questions when they have the chance. As a moderator, I sometimes gave short explanations in Japanese to help them understand the context. Then, I asked the international



representatives questions in English on their behalf. For example, I asked a Chinese student whether there were strict rules controlling young people in China. The student replied that although some rules exist, young people are generally free to think and speak for themselves. I also asked a Malaysian student about the government's policy of supporting Palestine. I wanted to know whether it was difficult for Malaysia, as a multi-ethnic society, to maintain such a clear position. The student explained that Malaysians practice harmony and coexistence in their daily lives, and that this natural sense of harmony extends to supporting peace and democracy, including the issue of Palestine. These answers left a strong impression on me because they showed how different cultures and societies find their own ways of balancing freedom, harmony, and responsibility.

5. 司会者としての経験

今年、私の大きな役割のひとつはパネルディスカッションの司会でした。最初はとても緊張しました。なぜなら、日本の高校生の参加を促し、必要に応じて通訳し、議論を進行させるという複数の役割を同時に担わなければならなかったからです。しかしこの経験を通じて、日本の高校生は英語を話す自信はあまりないけれど、聞く力は強いのだと気づきました。彼らは好奇心が強く、集中して聞き、質問をしたいという気持ちを持っています。私は時々、日本語で短く説明を加え、そのうえで代表者に英語で質問をしました。たとえば、中国の学生には「若者を規制する厳しいルールはありますか」と尋ねました。その答えは「多少のルールはあるが、基本的に自由に考え、自由に発言できる」というものでした。また、マレーシアの学生には政府のパレスチナ支援について尋ねました。多民族国家であるマレーシアにとって、そのような明確な立場を保つのは難しくないのかと聞いたのです。すると学生は「マレーシアでは日常的に調和と共生を実践しており、その自然な延長として平和や民主主義、そしてパレスチナ支援がある」と答えてくれました。これらの答えは強い印象を残し、異なる文化や社会がそれぞれのやり方で自由・調和・責任をバランスさせていることを示していました。

6. The Difference in English Learning

During the discussion, I was struck by the clear difference in English ability between countries. Students from Malaysia and the Philippines were very fluent in English. This is because they learn many school subjects—such as science, history, and social studies—in English from a young age. It is said that by the time they finish high school, they have studied about 5,000 hours in English. In contrast, Japanese students only study English for around 800 hours during junior and senior high school. This huge gap naturally leads to different levels of confidence and fluency in speaking. Understanding this difference helped me realize that Japanese students should not compare themselves directly, but instead focus on using the opportunities they have to practice English meaningfully.

6. 英語学習の違い

議論を通して、国ごとの英語力の違いを強く感じました。マレーシアやフィリピンの学生は非常に流暢に英語を話します。その理由は、幼いころから理科や歴史、社会などの多くの教科を英語で学んでいるからです。高校を卒業するまでに、およそ 5,000 時間を英語で学ぶと言われています。一方、日本の学生が中学・高校で英語を学ぶ時間はわずか 800 時間ほどです。この大きな差が、自信や流暢さの違いにつながっています。この違いを理解することで、日本の学生は他国と単純に比べるのではなく、限られた機会をいかに有効に使うかに目を向けるべきだと学びました。

7. The Value of the Symposium

For me, the World Youth Meeting is not simply a stage for presentations. It is more than memorized speeches and prepared slides. It is a symposium—a place for dialogue, exchange, and understanding. Here, we can learn about real situations in the world, directly from the people who live in them. Meeting face-to-face with students from other countries transforms global issues into personal experiences. Even if the Japanese high school students only understood half of what was said, that partial understanding was still powerful. It motivated them to keep studying and to try harder to use English in real communication. The symposium created an atmosphere where students could feel the value of English as a living tool for connecting with the world, not just as a subject in school.



7. シンポジウムの価値

私にとってワールドユースミーティングは、単なる発表の場ではありません。それは暗記したスピーチや準備されたスライド以上のものです。それは「シンポジウム」であり、対話と交流、そして理解の場です。ここでは、世界の現実を実際にその国に住む人から直接学ぶことができます。外国の学生と直接顔を合わせることで、世界の課題が個人的な経験として迫ってきます。日本の高校生が理解できたのは半分程度だったかもしれません。しかし、その「半分」でさえ大きな力を持っていました。それは学び続ける意欲を与え、英語を実際のコミュニケーションで使おうとする動機になりました。シンポジウムは、英語を「学校の科目」ではなく「世界とつながる生きた道具」として実感できる場を作っていたのです。

8. Final Reflections

Looking back, I feel deeply honored to have been part of the World Youth Meeting as a moderator and organizer. The experience taught me about leadership, responsibility, and the importance of dialogue. It also reminded me that learning is not just about knowledge but about connection. I believe that next year, more students should join not only as presenters but also as active participants in the dialogue. Making comments, asking questions, and sharing thoughts are just as important as giving speeches. The real strength of this event lies in the opportunity to meet others, exchange ideas, and grow together. For me, being able to help create such a space was a meaningful and unforgettable experience. I am proud to have taken part in it, and I hope that more young people will discover the same joy of dialogue in the years to come.

8. 最後の振り返り

振り返ると、司会者や運営者としてワールドユースミーティングに参加できたことは、大きな誇りです。この経験から、リーダーシップ、責任、そして対話の重要性を学びました。また、学びとは知識を得ることだけでなく、人とつながることなのだと強く感じました。来年は、もっと多くの学生が発表者としてだけでなく、対話に積極的に参加してくれることを願っています。コメントをすること、質問をすること、考えを共有することは、スピーチと同じくらい大切です。このイベントの真の力は、出会い、意見を交換し、ともに成長できる機会にあります。私にとって、このような場づくりに関わることができたのは忘れられない貴重な経験でした。この場に参加できたことを誇りに思い、これからも多くの若者が「対話の喜び」を見つけてくれることを願っています。

From Memorized Speeches to Real Dialogue: My Reflections at the World Youth Meeting

Chanthlar Le

Provincial Teacher Training College

1. Cambodia and the Perception of Poverty

Many people may hold a negative image of Cambodia because it is often described as a poor country. From an economic standpoint, it is true that Cambodia's GDP is about one-twentieth of Japan's. However, to see Cambodia only as "poor" or "inferior to Japan" is a serious misunderstanding. The reasons for this are more complex and worth exploring.

2. Our Ongoing Challenge: Educational Reform

Cambodia is now facing the major challenge of reforming its education system. This effort is not only about improving schools but also about shaping the future of the nation by giving young people better opportunities to learn and grow.

3. Joint Practices with Professor Sato and Students of Nihon Fukushi University

Together with Professor Sato and his students from Nihon Fukushi University in Japan, we have engaged in practical activities. These efforts, which I have already shared in my presentation, demonstrate how collaborative learning can create meaningful impact.

4. The Meaning of Learning and Moving Forward Together

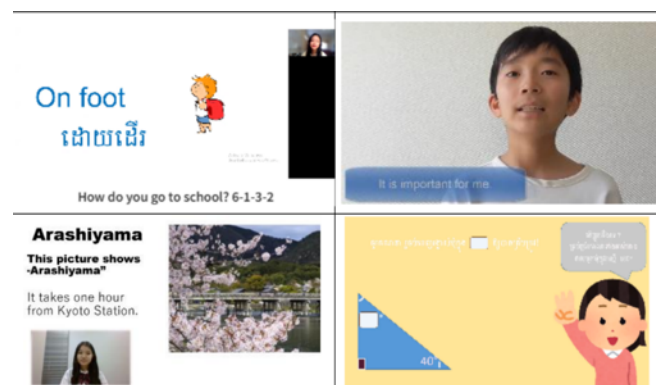
Through connections across borders, we are able to learn from one another and move forward together. This mutual exchange allows both Cambodian and Japanese students to discover new perspectives and strengths.

5. The Cambodia Project with Nihon Fukushi University This Year

Again this year, students and faculty from Nihon Fukushi University will visit Cambodia to continue our collaborative project. This ongoing partnership provides valuable opportunities for growth, both academically and personally.

6. Japan's Strengths Seen from the Outside

Finally, I would like to share my reflections on Japan's strengths as observed from outside the country. Looking at Japan from Cambodia reveals qualities that may not be immediately visible to those living in Japan itself.



STUDENT PARTICIPATION REPORT

Ritsumeikan University, Telcome university, Gadjamadha University

1. Thoughts after onsite exchange and presentation

I got two opportunities to present: WYM presentation and presentation at panel discussion section. First, I was amazed at myself because I was really relaxed on the stage. It was thanks to my team members because I trusted they would do well. I also had confidence to speak in public through experience of studying abroad. When other teams presented, I was also amazed at their creative ideas, especially high school team. I enjoyed listening to their presentation and also looking for good models of speaking. At the second day, I presented about education in Indonesia. Because the Indonesian members cannot join timely, I recorded the video and showed it. At the class, I took role in MC, speakers, and facilitator, it was not easy to manage time and promote students' discussion. The second day was a chance to share Indonesian culture too, so, I put food part in the slide and brought some snacks from Indonesia because eating is most familiar to us. I think this strategy succeeded.

2. Learning outcomes and challenges for future

I found challenges when I answered the question and summarized the opinion. It is needed to get experience to discuss with foreign people more to get skills of summarizing. Time management was also difficult for me if unexpected things had happened. But as Kanda-sensei said before, everything has social lesson. I have learned a lot of things from World Youth Meeting. For example, to control my feelings in public, manage schedule, and understand that not everyone does not behave nicely toward us. Adjusting flexibly does not mean I am easily swayed by others, but it is the way to control more easily people who are opposed to me. Living cleverly and smartly is not easy, but important for the future. The roles of leader gave me many lessons and confidence. Confidence for managing schedule well, leading people nicely, and executing events flexibly. These confidence and life lessons, I will remember and make use of to future jobs after graduation.

I-Shou University

1. Onsite exchange

After the presentation, I felt truly happy and grateful because many of the attendees genuinely empathized with the story I shared. Several were surprised to learn that the Garifuna people dance even in the presence of death. For me, this was a powerful and defining moment—not only for myself, but I believe also for them. They discovered a completely different way of saying farewell to those who are no longer with us, and they witnessed how art and culture can be used as a voice to protest against injustice while, at the same time, serving as a way to honor and remember.

The discussion that followed each presentation was incredibly rich and inspiring. I enjoyed listening to the reflections of others and seeing how open-minded the students were. They showed a genuine willingness to understand perspectives and traditions different from their own, which made the

exchange even more meaningful.

This experience reinforced my belief that cultural expression is a powerful tool for creating empathy and bridging differences. It was deeply rewarding to see my presentation spark curiosity, reflection, and meaningful dialogue among the audience, and I left the event feeling inspired and more connected to the purpose of sharing my heritage.

2. Learning outcomes

From this experience, I learned the value of adaptability and creative thinking when facing challenges. Preparing without a team pushed me to work more independently and to collaborate closely with Kanda-sensei, which strengthened both my confidence and my ability to make decisions. I also realized that a presentation can be more impactful when it offers a balanced perspective—acknowledging the reality of violence while also highlighting the resilience, beauty, and strength found in cultural traditions. Sharing the story of the four Garifuna leaders taught me the power of personal narratives to connect with people on an emotional level, while the audience's reactions reminded me that art can transcend language and cultural barriers, becoming both a voice of protest and a vessel of remembrance. Seeing how open and willing the students were to understand different perspectives reinforced my belief that cultural expression is a bridge that can bring people closer together. This event not only deepened my appreciation for my own heritage but also strengthened my commitment to use art and culture as tools for empathy, awareness, and change.

I-Shou University

1. Challenges during the online meetings

Finally, the long-awaited onsite meeting day arrived. I was truly excited to visit Japan and meet my teammates in person. They turned out to be even more friendly and warm face-to-face. Before the presentation day, teacher Kanda gave us some valuable advice, which led us to make last-minute changes. Fortunately, everything went smoothly and we were ready to present.

However, when we downloaded our slides from Canva and converted them into PowerPoint, the formatting changed completely, making the slides look messy. We quickly worked together, fixed all the issues, and submitted the final version just in time.

On presentation day, our team was scheduled almost at the very end, so we couldn't help feeling a bit nervous. Right before we went on stage, Suzu lightened the mood by saying something funny: *"Imagine everybody is a potato."* It made me laugh and instantly feel more relaxed. With teamwork and confidence, we delivered our presentation smoothly, overcoming a few technical glitches along the way.

2. Learning outcomes

This was the most memorable summer of my life. WYM not only gave me precious experiences, but also made me more mature and confident, as it was the biggest stage I have ever spoken on. Through

this journey, I learned that teamwork is truly essential — each person has their own strengths and weaknesses, but by understanding and supporting one another, we can achieve great results.

One of the most valuable lessons I gained from this program is that listening is a powerful communication tool. By keeping an open mind and embracing new ideas, I was able to experience things that I will never forget.

In the future, if I have the chance, I would love to join WYM again — to make more friends, broaden my horizons, and continue to improve myself.

Ritsumeikan University

1. Challenges during online exchange

I had to many worries during this meeting. The first was that I had to be the MC in English, and the second was whether I could remember and present my part well. For the first worry, I felt very nervous because I did not understand exactly what I had to do. I was also the only first-year student, which made me feel even more anxious. I was worried about communicating in English. However, MC members listened carefully to my poor English, and I taught them some Japanese, so we had meaningful communication. Thanks to talking with them the day before, I could MC smoothly and create a good atmosphere. My second worry was because, in the practice the day before, I could not speak smoothly and often stopped. On the actual day, there was an accident when the computer did not work well, but I stayed calm and could read my part without stopping until the end. In the end, I was happy because everything went better than I expected, and I learned that presentation and teamwork are very important.

2. Learning outcomes

Before this project, I felt a strong resistance to using English because, as I have mentioned before, I was not confident in my English skills. I often worried that I would make mistakes or that others would not understand me. However, through this project, I learned the joy of communicating in English. I realized that even if my English is not perfect, I can still share my ideas and connect with other people. This gave me more confidence and motivation to keep learning. I do not have any plans to study abroad, but I want to speak more actively and use English consciously in future English classes and other activities. Also, even though the topic was very difficult, I was deeply impressed by the wonderful presentations given by the high school students. Their ideas and expressions were inspiring. I think I will have many opportunities to give presentations at the university, so I want to remember what I learned from them and try to use those techniques in my own work. This experience taught me that making an effort to communicate and learning from others are both very important for my growth.

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

1. Thoughts after onsite exchange and presentation

I felt grateful to take part in this program because it allowed me to share and learn about ethnic

harmony on an international stage. The presentation gave us a chance to express our thoughts and show the importance of peace, equality, and cooperation. I realized how essential teamwork, preparation, and communication are for success in such events. Listening to others' ideas gave me new perspectives, and I strongly believe that harmony among different communities is the foundation for long-lasting peace. This was a very valuable and inspiring experience.

2. Learning outcomes and challenges for future

From this program, I learned that promoting ethnic harmony and social justice is challenging but necessary for a peaceful society. Politics, discrimination, and misunderstandings can slow down reconciliation. However, as youth, we must take responsibility to build bridges, spread awareness, and encourage dialogue. In the future, I want to contribute to initiatives that create unity and mutual respect among people in Sri Lanka. I hope that through education and cultural exchange, we can inspire future generations to value peace and justice above all.

Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka

1. Thoughts After Onsite Exchange and Presentation

The onsite exchange allowed us to connect more personally with the participants. I felt grateful to be part of a program that focused on such an important and sensitive issue.

It also taught me the importance of preparation, time management, and confidence in presenting ideas in a cross-cultural setting. Sharing ideas face-to-face made the learning more impactful and emotional.

2. Learning Outcomes and Challenges for the Future

This program helped me realize that promoting ethnic harmony and social justice requires sustained effort, patience, and education. Political, historical, and social challenges often slow down progress, but it is essential to keep working toward peace.

As young people, we have a role to play:

- Raising Awareness
- Promoting Dialogue
- Practicing Inclusion and Respect

In the future, I hope to organize similar discussions in my local community and support initiatives that build bridges between divided groups. We must not wait for change; we should become the change-makers.

National Sun Yat-sen University

1. Thoughts after onsite exchange and presentation

The onsite exchange in Japan was the highlight of the entire experience. Meeting my Japanese teammates in person felt surreal at first—we had spent so much time online that I felt like I already knew them, but seeing their smiles in real life brought a new depth to our bond.

We practiced intensely for the final presentation, and it was not always easy. Sometimes we had differences in ideas or misunderstandings, but everyone remained supportive and solution-oriented. I was especially touched by the way Kei-san, our moderator, led the team with grace and calmness.

On presentation day, I was nervous, but also proud. When I saw the audience react positively—especially when they smiled during our website demo—I realized how powerful our collaboration had been. Afterward, many teachers and students gave us encouraging feedback.

Beyond the presentation, the cultural activities, meals, and late-night discussions with my new friends made the experience unforgettable. I felt welcomed in Japan, and grateful for every moment we shared. This was not just a student project—it was a celebration of empathy, cooperation, and hope. I left the venue with not just memories, but also a renewed sense of purpose.

2. Learning outcomes and challenges for the future

Participating in WYM 2025 has expanded my worldview and taught me invaluable lessons. First, I realized that social problems like youth mental health require interdisciplinary collaboration—not just from psychologists or educators, but also from data analysts, designers, and policy makers.

I also learned how to work with people from different cultural backgrounds, with different communication styles. This experience sharpened my teamwork skills and gave me the confidence to join future international projects.

One of the biggest takeaways was the importance of *small, real actions*. Whether it's making a website, starting a support group, or just listening to a friend—these actions matter. I plan to share what I've learned with my peers in Taiwan and continue building solutions that address local needs using global insight.

In the future, I hope to return to Japan as an exchange student, possibly at Ritsumeikan University. I want to deepen my understanding of Japanese society, enhance my Japanese skills, and contribute to even more collaborative projects.

WYM 2025 was the beginning of my journey as a globally-minded problem solver. I'm determined to carry this spirit forward—not just in words, but in action.

Amrita vishwavidhyapattam

1. Thoughts after onsite exchange and presentation

Meeting everyone in person during the onsite exchange was the highlight of WYM2025. Compared to online, face-to-face conversations felt much more personal and inspiring. We shared meals, talked about school life, and even exchanged small cultural things like songs and greetings. On the day of the presentation, I was nervous standing in front of the audience, but when our ideas were accepted and appreciated, I felt both relief and pride. The comments from judges and peers helped me see how our work could be improved. What touched me the most was the strong sense of unity. Even with different languages and cultures, we connected through teamwork and respect. It made me believe

that international cooperation is not just a theory, but something we can really practice.

2. Learning outcomes and challenges for future

Looking back, WYM2025 taught me lessons that go beyond school. I learned the importance of preparation, but also the ability to adapt when things don't go as planned. I also realized how valuable it is to listen deeply to others' perspectives, not only to speak my own. For the future, I want to improve my English fluency so that I can express myself more smoothly in global discussions. I also want to stay connected with the friends I made during WYM and maybe work on joint projects. Most of all, I feel motivated to take what I learned here and use it in my studies, in my community, and in future opportunities. My dream is to continue being part of initiatives that bring young people together to solve global challenges and to play a role in building a fair and peaceful society.

Amrita University

1. Thoughts after onsite exchange and presentation

The 4th of August, 2025, 5:35 PM JST, the commencement of the presentation. For the next 10 minutes, it was the moment we'd all been waiting for, countless hours in preparation, refining our vocal image, working on our body language, it all came down to this moment. Was it nerve wracking sure, a little. Presenting in front of countless students and faculty members is definitely not a piece of cake, however, we managed to accomplish this feat. Our teamwork, our practice, it all paid off in the end. Of course it wasn't perfect, but that's not the point, the key goal here, was not to win Gold or Platinum or anything else of that sort, but to perform to the best of our abilities and most importantly, learn. We're all students, no matter how old we get, there's always something to learn out there, a whole new world waiting to be discovered, and this meeting was a part of that. The experience was refreshingly dynamic and more engaging than the online mode of teaching I had encountered prior to arriving in Japan. The stage isn't the only thing that taught me something, my peers played a vital role in expanding my knowledge of how their culture is and they always made me feel at home. Understanding how people from a different part of the world operate is vital to developing a strong and diverse team, and this program provided me with that opportunity.

2. Learning outcomes and challenges for future

This program gave me much more than presentation experience — it taught me the importance of teamwork, cultural understanding, and adaptability. I learned to manage deadlines, coordinate with teammates across different backgrounds, and communicate ideas effectively. Speaking with native Japanese speakers boosted my confidence in language learning and inspired me to study further. Beyond academics, being in Japan allowed me to experience its culture, values, landmarks, and cuisine, which broadened my worldview. A few more valuable lessons learned include better planning of overall presentation rehearsals, keeping teammates briefed of any content changes along every step of

the process, and to avoid making any last-minute changes. For the future, I aim to continue improving my Japanese language skills and clear the JLPT as well as apply the newfound lessons of better planning, team coordination and openness to both my academic and professional journey. I would also like to pursue more international studies and learning programs to further my knowledge.

立命館大学

1. オンサイト交流と発表後の感想 (Thoughts after onsite exchange and presentation)

実際にオンサイトで顔を合わせると、オンラインで感じていた言語の壁は思った以上に小さくなり、予想以上にスムーズにコミュニケーションが取れた。発表に関しては、数日前からオンラインでリハーサルを重ね、さらに前日には実際のステージで繰り返し練習していたこともあり、本番は落ち着いて進めることができた。発表後には達成感を強く感じるとともに、台湾のメンバーとお土産交換を通して授業外での文化交流もできたことが印象に残っている。お互いの国についてより深く知るきっかけになり、単なる学術的な交流にとどまらない広がりを持つ経験になった。

2. 今後への抱負 (Learning outcomes and challenges for future)

今回のイベントに参加してプレゼンテーションを行ったこと、さらに MC として運営に携わった経験は、自分にとって大きな財産になった。特に MC の役割を担ったことで、イベント運営における臨機応変な対応や、人前で話すことに対する実践的な経験を積むことができた。これらの経験を通して、今後も同様のイベントや国際交流の機会があれば積極的に関わっていきたいという思いが強くなった。今回得た学びを次の挑戦に活かし、さらに成長していきたいと考えている。

初めての World Youth Meeting

日本福祉大学附属高等学校

安藤 実希

1. 参加前と参加後で変わったこと

参加する前は、このイベントは英語を流暢に話せる人たちが、地球上のさまざまな問題について難しい単語を用いて議論するものだと思っており、自分が参加しても理解できずに戸惑ってしまうのではないかと感じていた。ところが、実際に参加してみると、自分の意見を発表したり、他のグループの発表を聞きながら自分なりに疑問点を考えたりすることができた。さらに、多様な国の人々が集まる中で、自分の発言が相手に理解されるか不安もあったが、身振り手振りを交えながらコミュニケーションをとることで意思を伝えることができ、その経験がとても嬉しかった。

2. 印象に残った出来事とそこから得た学び

自分たちの発表が終わったときに、他の高校の人から「すごい！」と声をかけてもらえたことがとても印象に残っている。短い準備期間ではあったけれど、その一言で努力が認められたように感じ、本当に嬉しかった。そして、このイベントが大きな達成感を与えてくれる場であることを実感し、心から楽しい時間を過ごすことができた。

3. 今後の自分への影響や活かし方

私は将来、外国で仕事に就きたいと考えているので、今回のように様々な国の人々に向けて英語で意見を伝える経験は、「消極的な日本人」にならないための大切な機会になったと感じている。また、他の人の発表を聞いて疑問を抱くことはできたけれど、実際に英語で質問することはできなかった。だからこそ、次の機会には勇気を出して質問に挑戦し、自分の学びをさらに深めていきたいと思う。



緊張と発見の2日間

日本福祉大学附属高等学校

早川 雅也

1. 参加前と参加後で変わったこと

WWFに参加する前の私は、英語で発表することに大きな不安を抱えていました。「本当に自分の英語で相手に伝わるのだろうか」「間違えたら恥ずかしい」という思いが強く、常に完璧な英語を話さなければならないと意識していました。そのため、参加前は緊張感が募り、本番を迎えるのがとても怖く感じられました。ところが実際に参加してみると、重要なのは正確で流暢な英語を話すことではなく、「伝えようとする気持ち」と「相手を理解しようとする心」であることに気づかされました。多少言葉が足りなくても、ジェスチャーや表情を交えて意思を届けようとするれば相手に伝わるのだという実感があり、英語に対する考え方が大きく変わりました。完璧さを求めるのではなく、相手とつながろうとする姿勢こそが大切なのだと強く感じました。

2. 印象に残った出来事とそこから得た学び

特に印象に残っているのは、初日の発表の場面です。本番直前に「マブハイ、グッドモーニング」という挨拶を「マブハイ、グッドアフタヌーン」に変更するように指示があり、その切り替えに集中していたのですが、結果として盛大に言い間違えてしまい、会場に気まずい雰囲気が流れてしまいました。その瞬間は顔から火が出るほど恥ずかしかったのですが、発表をやり切った後に感じた達成感は想像以上に大きく、たとえ失敗があっても挑戦した経験そのものが大きな価値を持つことを学びました。

3. 今後の自分への影響や活かし方

この2日間を通じて、私は「失敗を恐れず挑戦する姿勢」を今後の自分にとって大切にしたいと考えるようになりました。英語や異文化との関わりでは、完璧さよりもまず相手に伝えようとする気持ちが何より重要です。今回の経験を糧に、これからは挑戦を避けるのではなく、一歩踏み出す勇気を持ち続けたいと思います。そして、将来の学びや進路においても、この姿勢を活かしながら、自分自身をさらに成長させていきたいです。



WYM2025 参加感想/Student' s impressions

Audrey Shatheia A. Tayhon,
Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai International School, Philippines

① 交流前の準備状況/Preparations before exchange

Our preparations before the exchange were great, but also somewhat busy because we had to balance this event with our school activities. My team and I made sure to enjoy every moment. We shared our ideas about the SDGs and met many amazing people. Overall, the preparations were unforgettable and great.

② 交流中の出来事/Notes during online and onsite meetings

During the event, even if it was an online meeting, we still gave our best and made sure to also have fun in order for us to have a smooth presentation. It was also a chance to share our own thoughts with people from different places. Overall, the meeting helped us learn and connect with new friends.

③ 大会終了後の振り返り/Impression after the event

After the event, we felt very happy and proud of our work. We learned many new things from the presentations and ideas of other participants. It was exciting to meet people from different places and share our thoughts with them. Overall, the event was unforgettable, and it helped us grow and become more confident in expressing our ideas.

④ 学びと今後への課題/Achievements and challenges

During the event, we learned how important it is to support and encourage each other. We saw that teamwork and good communication help make the experience successful and enjoyable. One challenge we faced was managing our time well because we had many activities to join and prepare for. Overall, this experience taught us a lot about working as a team and learning from others.



WYM2025 参加感想/Student' s impressions

Alexis Laurynn A. Latada

Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai International School, Philippines

① 交流前の準備状況/Preparations before exchange

Before the program, I prepared by studying the theme of the meeting and discussing ideas with my group. We practiced our presentation and learned how to express our thoughts clearly in English even with limited time. I also tried to learn more about Japanese culture so that I could better understand the meaning of the exchange. At first, I felt nervous, but through preparation, I gained confidence.

② 交流中の出来事/Notes during online and onsite meetings

During the exchange, I was able to meet students from different countries and cultures. We shared ideas, asked questions, and sometimes faced challenges in communication, but it was always exciting and meaningful. I learned to listen carefully and respect different opinions. The onsite meetings were especially memorable because we could talk face to face, make new friends, and experience cultural exchange beyond the presentations.

③ 大会終了後の振り返り/Impression after the event

After the event, I felt very inspired and motivated. I realized how important it is for young people to connect and work together for peace and a better future. I was proud that I could represent my school and country on an international stage. This experience gave me more confidence, not only in using English but also in expressing my ideas and working with others.

④ 学びと今後への課題/Achievements and challenges

As a student, I learned that real education is not only in the classroom but also in experiences like WYM, where we learn by sharing and cooperating with others. I discovered the value of teamwork, leadership, and intercultural understanding. My challenge now is how to continue practicing what I learned in my daily life, by being open-minded, by encouraging dialogue among my peers, and by taking small actions that promote peace and cooperation.



WYM2025 参加感想/Student Impressions

Silay Institute, Inc., Philippines

Shan Godwin B. Donesa

① 交流前の準備/Preparations before exchange

準備はプレゼンテーション、そして一つ一つの単語をいかに発音するかに重点を置きましたが、私の心はそこで止まりませんでした。もっと深いもの、つまり障壁を越えて繋がる何かへと心を解き放ったのです。これは国際大会だということを思い出すたびに、プレッシャーが重くのしかかっていたが、準備期間を素晴らしい仲間たちと過ごしていたので、そのプレッシャーはすべて吹き飛んだ。着陸する前に、私は自分が別の国にいて、したがって私たちの故郷とは文化が違うということを自分に言い聞かせ、適応することを学びました。必要な書類が遅れていたため、諦めかけたのですが、最後までやり遂げました。そして、今日まで、その決断をしたことを自分自身に感謝しています。(Our preparations focused more on the presentation, and how we enunciate every word, but my mind did not stop there. I let my heart wander to something more deep: a connection despite the barriers. There was this pressure weighing down on me every time I remembered that this is an international competition, but all of it washed away as I was spending the preparation agenda with such wonderful souls. I prepared not just mentally but also emotionally. Before we landed, I ought to remind myself that I'm in a different country, therefore implicating that culture was different from our hometown, so I learned to adjust. I almost backed out since I was running behind with all of the needed documents but I pushed through, and up until this date, I'm thankful to myself that I did.)

② 文化交流についての考え/Thoughts about the cultural exchange

短い期間ではありましたが、本当にやりがいのある経験でした。コンテストに惹かれて参加しましたが、心と心に愛と希望の糸が刻まれて帰路につきました。このコンテストは、私と同じ興味、同じ趣味、あるいは同じ雰囲気を共有する新しい人々と出会う架け橋となりました。それはもはや競争ではなく、文化だけでなくお互いの愛を交換することでした。日本は、革新的なアプローチから、明らかに手入れが行き届いていて活気のある環境まで、行ってみたい国の一つです。日本を離れたとき、私の心にはぽっかりと穴があいてしまいました。私は本当にそこに属しているように感じました。その国の一部であると。文化交流は私の期待を超えて、生活水準を高めてくれました。そして今日まで私は日本で身につけた癖や習慣を無意識のうちに身につけています。それは私に永続的な影響を与え、私はそれを永遠に維持するつもりです。(All I could say is that it was really worthwhile despite being short. I joined because of the

competition but I went home with a thread of love and hope etched in my mind and heart. The competition served as a bridge of meeting new people who share the same interest as me, the same hobbies as me, or even the same vibe as me. It was not about the competition anymore, it was about exchanging not just culture but love for each other. Japan is one of the countries you'd want to go to, from the innovative approaches, to its surroundings that is evidently cared for and taken off. I had this hole in my heart when I left Japan, I really felt like I belonged there—that I was a part of that country. The cultural exchange was beyond my expectations, it even heightened my standards in the way of living, and up until today, I subconsciously commit the mannerisms and habits I had in Japan as it had a lasting impact on me—with I, planning to keep it forever.)

③ 大会終了後の振り返り/Impression after the event

誰かに言われない限り、日本を離れるつもりだとは一度も感じたことはありませんでした。短い間に、楽しい思い出も、不器用な場面も、たくさんを経験しました。たとえ世界がひっくり返ったとしても、私は日本を離れなくなかったし、日本を手放したくもなかった。真剣で遊び心のある練習、築かれた友情、イベントそのもの、そしてホストファミリーから受けた愛は言葉では言い表せないほどでした。それは愛、愛情以上のものでした。それは説明できないものでした。世界青年会議は非常に組織化された構造を持ち、最初から最後まですべてがよく計画されており、矛盾や異常が生じることはなく、非常によく計画されていました。私は、前に立って発表したさまざまな学校とその発表方法にとっても驚きました。誰もが真剣に世界が抱える問題を解決しようとしていると感じ、それが私の日々の生活に深く刻み込まれ、毎日最善を尽くすよう思い出させてくれました。(I've never felt that I'm about to leave Japan unless someone stated it, in a short moment of time, I had undergone so many things—both blissful memories, and clumsy scenarios. I never wanted to leave Japan, never wanted to let go of it, even if the world becomes upside down. The serious and playful practices, friendships made, the event itself, and the love I got from my host family was more than what words could describe—it was more than love, more than affection, it was something unexplainable. The World Youth Meeting had a very organized structure and everything was well-planned from the beginning up until the end, it never caused discrepancies nor anomalies, it was planned pretty well. I was so amazed at the different schools that presented in front, and their way of presentation. I felt that everyone was genuine and trying to solve the issues we have globally, and that imprinted a mark on my everyday life—serving as a reminder to do my best every single

day.)

④ 今後への課題/Achievements and challenges

賞そのものは別として、心から優しい人々と毎分を過ごしたとき、私は世界一になったような気分でした。その時、たとえ何かを勝ち取ったとしても、最初から日本の人々や学生たちと一緒にいられたという勝利には決して代わるものではないことに気づきました。賞は賞ですが、私が築いてきたつながり、培った友情、そして私たちが共有した瞬間は単なる紙切れ以上のものであり、それは私の心の奥深くにある青写真でした。一人で日本に行き、新しい



親切な人々に出会ったことは、最初から達成感がありました。日本を忘れることは私にとって大きな挑戦でした。今でも日本を忘れることができません 日付。これまでの人生でこれほど愛されていると感じたことはありませんでした。日本は私がどこへ行っても、そして私がまったく予想していなかった時にも、私に愛情を注いでくれました。今、私は多くの学術的所属に縛られていますが、私の心の中にはぽっかりと空いた穴があり、それを埋められるのは日本だけだと思っています。(Aside from the award itself, I felt like I was on top of the world when I spent every minute with people who are genuinely kind at heart. That's when I realized that even though I had won something, it will never replace the victory of being around the Japanese people and students from the beginning. An award is an award, but the connections I've built, the friendships I made, and even the moments we shared are more than just a piece of paper, it was a blueprint close to my heart. Going to Japan alone and meeting new and kind people was already an achievement I have grasped from the start. Forgetting Japan was one whole challenge for me, I still cannot forget Japan up to this date. I've never felt so loved in my whole life, with Japan raining its affection on me wherever I go and whenever I least expected it. Now, I am encumbered with a lot of academic affiliations, but there's this hole in my heart that I carry inside me, and only Japan could fill it.)



WYM2025 参加感想/Student Impressions

Silay Institute, Inc., Philippines

Kienell Marie J. Salazar

① 交流前の準備状況/Preparations before exchange

WYM2025に参加することが決まった瞬間、胸が高鳴ると同時に不安も押し寄せました。ずっと憧れていた国際交流の舞台に、自分が本当に立てるのだろうか——。そう思うと、責任感と緊張でいっぱいになりました。準備では、ただ自己紹介やスライドを作るだけでなく、「自分は何を伝えたいのか」を考え続けました。フィリピンの文化や風景を写真で表現する中で、「私はこの国の一部なんだ」と改めて誇りを感じました。練習中は失敗への恐怖もありましたが、その裏側には「きっと素晴らしい出会いが待っている」という強い期待がありました。(When I first learned that I would be joining WYM2025, my heart leapt with both joy and worry. It was the kind of opportunity I had secretly wished for, but never thought would truly come so soon. To prepare, I didn't just focus on the technical side - like slides and introductions - but also on my mindset. I told myself, "This isn't just about representing myself, but also my school, my city, and my country." I spent long evenings curating photos of the Philippines, choosing moments that felt alive with color and meaning. I remember the night before one practice session: I stared at my notes, my hands cold from nervousness, and yet I couldn't stop smiling because deep down I knew that something unforgettable was about to happen.)

② 交流中の出来事/Notes during online and onsite meetings

交流会の時間は、常に温かさと活気にあふれていました。誰かが話すたびに、その言葉の内容だけでなく「国際的な舞台で自分を表現する勇気」に心を打たれました。グループ活動では自然に会話が生まれ、文化の違いを越えて笑顔や笑い声が広がっていききました。真剣に学び合う瞬間もあれば、楽しく打ち解ける瞬間もありましたが、常に感じたのは「互いを尊重し合う空気」でした。誰一人取り残されず、全員の声大切にされていたのです。The meetings themselves were filled with energy, warmth, and curiosity. Every time someone spoke, I felt a sense of respect and admiration - not only for what they said, but also for the courage it took to share in front of an international audience. The group activities gave us the chance to interact naturally, and even though we came from different cultures, laughter and smiles seemed to erase those differences. There were moments of

seriousness, moments of fun, and everything in between, but what stood out to me most was the atmosphere of support. Nobody was left behind; everyone's voice mattered.

③ 大会終了後の振り返り/Impression after the event

大会を終えて振り返ると、心に残っていたのは「人の温かさ」でした。文化を学ぶだけではなく、人の優しさや思いやりに触れられたことが何よりの宝物です。最初は「国際プログラムに参加する」という目標だけだったのに、今はもっと大きな夢を持つようになりました。世界中に架け橋をつくりたい。異なる国の人たちともっと深くつながりたい。そして、自分の声を信じ、この世界に小さくても意味ある影響を与えたい。そう心から思えるようになったのです。When the event ended, I sat quietly and let the memories wash over me. The excitement, the nerves, the laughter, the lessons – all of it had stitched itself into my heart. What touched me most wasn't just the cultural exchange, but the human exchange: kindness without borders, empathy without translation, friendship without conditions. I realized that my original excitement to simply “join an international program” had transformed into something deeper: a desire to continue building bridges, not just between nations, but between hearts. WYM gave me courage – not only to speak, but also to listen, and to believe that my small voice can matter in this big world.

④ 学びと今後への課題/Achievements and challenges

今回の経験で学んだのは、「挑戦する勇気が未来を広げる」ということでした。不安を抱えながらも一歩踏み出すことで、自分自身が成長し、そして周りの人々とも強くつながることができました。引率者の立場で考えると、ただ導くのではなく、皆が安心して意見を交わせる空間をつくるのが大切だと感じます。今後の課題は、語学力をさらに伸ばし、多様な考えを理解し受け入れる力を育てることです。WYM は終わりましたが、私の中では始まりに過ぎません。この学びを未来に活かし、他の人にも「挑戦する勇気」を広めていきたいと思います。This journey taught me that growth happens when we dare to step into the unknown. For me, the greatest achievement was learning how to trust myself – to speak even when unsure, to try even when afraid. But I also saw the responsibility that comes with being part of a global dialogue: to respect differences, to encourage others, and to create a safe space for honest sharing. The challenge now is to keep this flame alive – to improve my communication skills, deepen my global awareness, and inspire my peers to reach beyond their comfort zones. WYM may have ended, but its lessons have

only begun to unfold in my life.



WYM2025 学生の感想/Student's impressions

Silay Institute, Incorporated, Philippines

Nikko Adrian M. Lampiernes

① Preparations before exchange

Since this is my first trip abroad, I have prepared important documents, such as my passport. I was chosen, and becoming the representative of our school fills me with excitement and joy. My team in NFU is also active since they are cooperating to make the presentation possible. We usually hold online meetings at least once a week for more than 2 hours a month. I am thankful that our presentation was excellent and successful, despite the challenges we encountered, such as differing schedules among team members, which made it difficult to arrange a suitable time for meetings.

We also welcomed the high school students from Nihon Fukushi University to our school; interacting with them was enjoyable and helped strengthen my Japanese language skills a bit, boosted my confidence due to our daily interaction. I studied Nihongo at Silay Institute, Inc. for 2 years and also dedicated a significant amount of time to self-study and independent practice during the pandemic. However, I never had the opportunity to practice with a native Japanese speaker. My motivation for learning Nihongo stems from my strong interest in blending into Japanese society and being able to speak like a native, as I aspire to work as an English teacher in Japan one day.

② During the WYM program

My first step in Japan filled me with excitement, as I could feel that I was in my dream country. Meeting my host family, the Maruyama family, my team at NFU, and a bunch of inspiring students was an amazing experience in my entire life. Even though we won the gold award, the presentation was excellent and worthy of praise. My host mother was always there to support me, that also made me calm down when I was about to be scared before the presentation, I really love their family as this had their full support in me and letting me enjoy Japan culture, teaching me Nihongo, buying what I want to eat, and welcome me with warmest hospitality I have felt in my whole life.

The exposure of speaking Nihongo to those who can speak very well or a native Japanese helped my Nihongo improve a bit it made me realize that all those time I spent studying and practicing Nihongo on my own had purpose especially for those moments when I can talk like one of them. I really don't have the confidence to speak Nihongo but they compliment me a lot so I was able to grow because to those amazing people whom I met in NFU campus.

③ Impression after the event

After of the event, I felt very happy and at the same time sad because our purpose is done, the presentation is over so I will never be seeing those amazing people, as I ride the bus on the way to Osaka, I couldn't stop crying because it is the last time seeing my host mother, our facilitators, my team, and those exchange students who went to the Philippines. But even so, I accepted it because that is part of life, some good things comes and go, the experiences and memories are unforgettable and I will cherish my time in Japan, which is my dream country.

“New experience, new perspective.” This phrase reflects my feelings after the trip. Experiencing the culture, food, and warmth of the people motivated me to study Nihongo even harder. My dream of teaching English in Japan became stronger. One night, I taught my host brothers English, and seeing their excitement as they learned inspired me deeply. I realized that I can make learning easier for others, and it strengthened my desire to become a teacher. For now, I must finish my college degree and continue studying Nihongo until I reach at least N2 level, so I can apply to work in Japan in the future.

④ Pedagogical achievements and challenges

As a student-leader, I have learned that communication, regardless of the distance and busy schedule, the teamwork, the presentation skills and patience with intercultural sensitivity are all important. Thought, speaking with large audience is much of a challenge to me because it was my first time, but it also serves as a stepping stone to guide me a better opportunities in the future and I am thankful for the overall experience. I want to improve of my speaking skills in front of the large audience but after the presentation, it boost my confidence when speaking with a lot of people, it is as if my voice really matter because I used to think that my voice means nothing but after the event, I realized my voice is stronger than I thought, that I can lead, guide, praise people and boost their confidence.



WYM2025 参加感想/Students impressions

Silay Institute, Incorporated, Philippines

Pauline J. Pineda

① Preparations before exchange

交換の前に、私は学校で行われた会議やオリエンテーションに参加して準備をしました。これらはプログラムについてもっと理解し、何を期待すればよいかを知る助けになりました。また、新しい人々に会ったときに共感し、敬意を示せるように、他の文化や伝統について学ぶようにもしました。もう一つの準備としては、ゆっくり話す練習をしたり、コミュニケーションのときに使う語彙を調整したりしました。これは、自分の考えを伝え、他の参加者とつながるために大切だと思いました。また、自分に「心を開き、敬意を払い、新しい友達を作る準備をする」と言い聞かせ、前向きな気持ちを持つようにしました。全体として、私の準備は勉強したことだけでなく、自分の態度を整えることでもありました。敬意、自信、そして思いやりを示すことで、自分自身、学校、そして国をしっかりと代表したいと思いました。 Before the exchange, I prepared myself by joining the meetings and orientations given by our school . These helped me understand more about the program and what I should expect . I also tried to learn more about the culture and traditions of other so I could relate and show respect when meeting new people. Another preparation I did was practicing how to speak slowly and adjust some vocabulary that I'm using when communicating . I knew this would be important because it would help me share my ideas and connect with other participants . I also prepared myself by having a positive mindset , telling myself to be open , respectful , and ready to meet new friends. Overall , my preparation was not only about what I studied , but also about preparing my attitude. I wanted to show respect , confidence , and kindness , so I could represent myself, my school, and my country well during the exchange .

② 交流中の出来事/Notes during online and onsite meetings

WYM プログラムの間、私はすべての出来事を本当に楽しみました。主催者はとても上手に運営していて、常に活気があり、そのおかげで活動が楽しく、意味のあるものになりました。私はまた、さまざまな国の学生と交流する機会があり、彼らの文化や伝統について学ぶことができました。

各参加者の話を聞くことで、平和について多くの知識を得ることができました。そして、どんな状況でも平和を推進する彼らの創造性に驚かされました。彼らのアイデアは、私自身の生活の中でも平和を分かち合う方法を考えるきっかけになりました。全体

として、このプログラムは素晴らしい思い出、新しい友達、そしていつまでも大切にしたい学びを与えてくれました。During the WYM program , I really enjoyed everything that happened, The organizers managed it well and kept it lively., which made the activities fun and meaningful. I also had a chance to interact with students from different countries , where I learned about their culture and traditions . Listening to each participants gave me so much knowledge about peace , and it amazed me how creative they were in promoting peace in every situation. Their ideas inspired me to think of ways I can also share peace in my own life . Overall , the program gave me wonderful memories , new friends , and lessons I will always treasure.

③ 大会終了後の振り返り/Impression after the event

イベントが終わったあと、参加できたことにとても感謝しました。これは特別な経験で、他の文化を学び、新しい友だちをつくる大切さを理解することができました。参加者のみんなはとても優しく、フレンドリーで、私を温かく迎えてくれたので、本当に嬉しかったです。国が違っても、みんなが私を安心させ、仲間に入れてくれました。中には小さなプレゼントや記念品をくれた人もいて、それは私が WYM に参加した時間や出会った人々をいつも思い出させてくれる宝物です。私にとって、このイベントは学びだけではなく、思い出や友情を築くことでもありました。みんなが互いに尊敬し合い、思いやりを示す姿に感動し、出身国が違っても人と心をつなぐことができると気づきました。このプログラムに参加できたことで、自信がつき、幸せな思い出ができました。私はこの経験をずっと大切にします。After the event , I felt very thankful for the chance to join . It was a special experience that helped me understand the importance of learning about other cultures and making new friends . I was very happy because all the participants were kind, friendly and welcoming to me . They made me feel comfortable and included , even though we came from different countries . Some even gave me small gifts and tokens that I can keep. These things will always remind me of the time I joined WYM and the people I meet also . For me, this event was not only about learning but also building memories and friendships that will carry with me in the future . I was inspired by how everyone showed respect and care for one another, and it made me realize that we can truly connect with people no matter where they came from . Being part of this program gave me confidence and happy memory that I will always treasure.

学びと今後への課題/Achievements and challenges

WYMに参加したことで、多くの学びを得ることができました。特に、さまざまな参加者の発表から、平和について新しい知識を得ることができました。彼らがどのように平和を創造的に表現しているかに驚き、日常生活の小さな行動の中にも平和を示すことができることを学びました。もう一つの成果は、自分に自信を持てるようになったことです。最初は恥ずかしかったですが、イベントが進むにつれて、自分の考えを発表できるようになりました。また、他の国の人々と交流し、文化を尊重し、友情を築く方法を学びました。ホストファミリーと一緒に生活することも大きな成果でした。新しい環境に適応し、出会ったばかりの人々と暮らすことを学びました。ホストファミリーは優しく接してくれ、まるで自分の家にいるように感じさせてくれました。これにより、文化交流の大切さをさらに深く理解することができました。もちろん、WYMでは課題もありました。一つの課題はコミュニケーションでした。異なるアクセントや話し方のために理解が難しいこともありましたが、一生懸命耳を傾け、シンプルな言葉で自分を表現するようにしました。もう一つの課題は、ホストファミリーとの新しい環境や生活習慣に慣れることでした。とても親切でしたが、自立して適応することを学ばなければなりませんでした。また、たくさんの活動があったため、時間をうまく管理することも少し大変でした。しかし、これらの課題は良い学びとなりました。忍耐、心の広さ、そして相手を尊重することの大切さを学びました。課題は学びの一部であり、私たちをより良い人間に成長させてくれるのだと気づきました。Joining the WYM gave me many achievements in learning. I was able to gain new knowledge from the presentations of different participants, especially about peace and how it can be promoted in many creative ways. It amazed me how each participant shared their ideas and experiences, and I learned that peace can be shown through small actions in daily life. Another achievement was gaining confidence in myself. At first, I was shy, but as the event continued, I was able to speak up and share my thoughts. I also learned how to interact with people from different countries, respect their cultures, and build friendships with them. Staying with my host family was also a big achievement for me, because it taught me how to adjust to a new environment and to live with people I just met. They treated me with kindness and care, which made me feel at home and gave me a deeper understanding of cultural exchange. Of course, there were also challenges during the WYM. One challenge I faced was communication. Sometimes it was hard to understand others because of the different accents and ways of speaking, but I tried my best to listen carefully and express myself in simple words. Another challenge was adjusting to new surroundings and routines with my host family. Even though they were very kind, I had to learn how to adapt and be independent in a different place.

I also found it a bit challenging to manage my time because there were many activities happening. But these challenges became good lessons for me. They taught me patience, open-mindedness, and the value of respect. I realized that challenges are part of learning, and they help us grow as better individuals



WYM : A Step Beyond

Nihon fukushi university affiliated high school Suzune Takeuchi

My experience at WYM was a big challenge for me, but also a big step for my growth. It was my first time to give a presentation in front of many people. I was nervous and worried if I could speak well. But, because I practiced many times with my friends, I felt a big sense of achievement and happiness on the day.

During the one-week exchange with Taiwanese students, I saw the differences in culture and values. At the same time, I found we shared kindness and fun. Sometimes I could not explain well in English, but I learned that gestures and facial expressions can also tell my feelings and ideas.

For the presentation, I checked my script, practiced pronunciation and intonation, and thought carefully about the message I wanted to give.

Through the two days of WYM, I not only improved my English, but also learned the importance of expressing my opinion and accepting different cultures. I believe this precious experience will help me in my future study and communication with people.



My Experience at WYM

Nihon fukushi university affiliated high school Mari Tashiro

By giving a presentation in front of many people, I learned that it is difficult to say exactly what I want to say. But I also felt a big sense of achievement when I could do it.

With limited time, I practiced and prepared again and again. Through this, I got concentration, action power, and stronger friendship with my teammates.

In the one-week exchange with Taiwanese students, I learned the joy of sharing our hearts even if our language and culture are different. At first, I was nervous to talk with foreign students. But by using smiles, gestures, and simple English or Japanese, we became friends soon.

I was also nervous when I gave the presentation, but I could show the result of my practice, and it gave me confidence. The time I spent preparing with my friends became a very important memory.

Through WYM, I noticed not only the importance of English, but also the importance of trying to understand others. This experience is very special to me. Working together with respect for each other's ideas was a valuable lesson that I can use in the future.



About My Trip to WYM 2025

Kaohsiung Municipal Gushan Senior High School Charlotte Su

A few months before WYM, everything felt like a big question mark. I didn't know what it would be like living with a host family, and I wondered if I could truly communicate in languages other than Chinese.

But time flew by. After meeting my teammates online a few times, WYM suddenly came and went in a flash. Looking back, I can say that my time at WYM was the best part of this summer break!

About my best—and first—time living with a host family

I was shocked at first when I heard I would be staying in a temple. But it turned out to be a wonderful and unique experience! The temple was huge and clean, and my host mom and dad were incredibly generous. Their whole family made me feel welcomed and safe. I want to give them my biggest thanks!

From the very beginning, we worked together to turn our ideas into reality and make the presentation truly ours. Even though I wasn't the one who did the most work for the entire presentation, I still learned a lot. I also gained more confidence on stage and spoke more clearly than before.

The best part, though, was meeting new friends, having fun with them, and standing on stage with my teammates. I picked up some Japanese while communicating, and I brought home many inspiring experiences for the next time we get to work together.

After rewatching our presentation video again and again, I reflected on our strengths and weaknesses, and I hope to make the next one even better—with the help of our amazing team!

I can honestly say that I wouldn't have cried my eyes out on the bus if I hadn't had such a wonderful time in Japan. And we could never have completed such a lovely presentation without the best team ever! I'll miss all of you in Taiwan, and I'm already looking forward to seeing some of you again in December. I promise I'll do my best for Team Japan, and I know we'll have a great time together.

Thank you for everything that made this trip unforgettable. My luggage was almost overweight when I came home—because I carried back not just souvenirs, but also so much love, friendship, and the best memories and experiences of my life.

Learning Beyond Words

Fukui Commercial High School
Kobayashi Michiru

By spending time together and being active together, people can understand each other without words and cooperate, even if the home country and language are different, and even within the limited time just one week. That was WYM for me.

I participated in WYM to improve my English communication skills and to get closer to realizing my dreams for the future.

Our group presented on Fair Trade. At first, we were too considerate of each other, so we couldn't have a deep discussion. Moreover, there were several issues during online meetings with Taiwanese students and we were unable to have enough discussion. Therefore, I worried about the presentation. However, after Taiwanese students came to Japan, we were able to discuss well since we could communicate with face to face. By doing so, we combined the results of each research, made slides that were easy to understand, and completed a better presentation. However, occasionally, some issues occurred. I couldn't always tell Taiwanese students what I wanted to tell in English. In those cases, I tried to explain using simpler English words, and sometimes with gesture. As a result, I was able to share my opinion well. At that moment, I felt happy and enjoyed talking in English.

We spent time with the Taiwanese students not only preparing for WYM but also hanging out on holidays. These allowed us to get along with them. I realized that people can become friends by laughing together at the same things even if our cultures are different.

For the actual performance, we practiced speaking to express our own words effectively. For example, we checked each other's pronunciation, intonation, gestures, and emotional expressions. In the actual presentation, I was nervous, but we encouraged each other so I was able to relax, and we paid off all that practice. It was the best performance up to that point, and we won a platinum award! After the presentation, my friends said to me, "Nice presentation!" and "Good answer to the question!" Therefore, I felt I had expressed well and gained confidence.

When we said goodbye to Taiwanese students, we recalled our memories and cried our eyes out. We are connected at heart. These activities became unforgettable memories for me. It was only a week, but it was so fulfilling that it felt much longer.

Thanks to everyone who supported us and to this wonderful opportunity, I was able not only to improve my English communication skills but also to grow as a person. Building on these experiences, I promise to actively participate in many international exchanges.

World Youth Meeting 2025 Report

Fukui Commercial High School
Tada Ibuki

Through this year's World Youth Meeting, I gained a clearer image of my future dream. Although when I first heard about this event, I didn't pay much attention to it. I thought I didn't have time to spend on this project, and that was true. Preparing for the presentation was long and tough because I couldn't fully focus on the preparation. Still, I knew that almost every student had the same problem, so I decided to give it my best.

In my team, we've decided to present on scam because the school we were collaborating with was from Taiwan. Taiwan is a country that suffers significant damage from scams, similar to Japan. These days, many people around the world can become victims through social media. We discussed what we can do to reduce the damage and decided to spread the information to protect ourselves. Therefore, we made some brochures by cooperating with the police to gain people's trust. I believe cooperating with adults is important for moving the project forward.

Well, we had to make the presentation too, but we faced many problems. First, the script was not good enough, so we had to write it from scratch. Second, some of our members were not positive about the project because they had to attend their club activities, but I couldn't stay silent, so I decided to talk with them. After that, they decided to leave the team. Third, we found many points we had to change about the presentation just a week before the D-day. I was really upset, even though I had done everything I could do for that time. It was tough and tiring but it was worth it.

The D-day had come. To be honest, I was excited to present our project, but I was a little nervous because there were some university student teams too. Well, I think our team did great — we answered the questions correctly and delivered the script with emotion. The next day, we received the platinum prize!

I think all the hard work and teamwork was worth it. However, I think I gained something even more valuable than the prize through this event. I had many experiences that helped me improve my skills. Therefore, it's important not to miss opportunities to participate in events like this. This experience will be both a treasure and a source of strength for me.



What I learned through WYM

**Nara Ikuei High School
Juri Nakao**

1. What I experienced

We started working on WYM in late June. At first, it took us a while to decide on a theme, and I was a little nervous, but as I talked with my group members, I realized that there are a lot of suicides in Japan. This led to the question, "What about other countries?" and we decided on this theme. From the end of July, we exchanged opinions with the Taiwanese students over the summer vacation, and practiced many times as we prepared for the actual event.

2. What I learned

I learned a lot through WYM. First of all, I learned the difficulty and importance of expressing my opinions in English. In some cases, I couldn't express myself well, but I realized that if we are willing to try, our thoughts will reach the audience. Also, while exchanging opinions with Taiwanese students, I was surprised to learn that despite differences in culture and customs, we have been all seriously considering the same social issues. It is precisely because of our differences that we can learn something, and I found it reassuring that we can work together to address common challenges. Furthermore, through group activities, I learned that what cannot be done alone can be achieved by working together with my friends, and I strongly realized the importance of cooperation.

3. What I want to use in the future

I would like to apply this experience to my future life and studies. In particular, I want to remember to communicate my own ideas while respecting the opinions of others, and to work on problems in collaboration with people from different cultures. WYM was a big challenge for me, but successfully completing this event has given me confidence. I believe this experience will definitely be useful in my future studies and endeavors.

From WYM Skills to My Future Growth

Nara Ikuei High School
Aoi Tamura

Introduction

Our team worked with St.Paul's High School for about one month to prepare for a presentation. Through this experience, I realized the difficulty of cooperating in a team. I served as a team leader, but I struggled to manage the work as planned.

Although team members shared their opinions, they were often quite different, and respecting everyone's ideas sometimes caused delays. During interactions, we also faced disagreements and cultural differences.

Process and Challenges

Through the presentation process, I experienced the challenges of leading a team. It was difficult to assign roles fairly, and some members were less cooperative, which made organizing tasks and maintaining progress harder. Despite these difficulties, we practiced repeatedly, and finally achieving our presentation brought a great sense of accomplishment. We also exchanged ideas and received advice on English pronunciation and presentation strategies during interactions.

Learnings and Achievements

This presentation taught me that my leadership skills need improvement. Coordinating a large team and ensuring everyone participates was challenging. In the future, I want to improve my communication skills, encourage all team members to participate more actively, and clearly define roles and expectations at the start of a project. Additionally, I realized that my English skills were insufficient. I sometimes could not understand other schools' presentations or answer impromptu questions. I will work on improving my English and expressing my opinions confidently in the future.

Conclusion

Although I faced many difficulties during this presentation, I gained a lot from this experience. I was able to make friends with students from other teams, and the overall experience was extremely valuable. I am very glad to have participated in this presentation.



School: Kaohsiung St. Paul's High School

Student: Chaochien Huang

As a Taiwanese high school student attending the 2025 WYM, I not only had meaningful exchanges with Japanese students but also deepened my understanding of culture and global issues through homestay experiences and collaborative research presentations.

During my homestay, I felt the warmth and attentiveness of the Japanese host family. From traditional Japanese meals at the dinner table to casual evening conversations, I gained a closer look into their daily lives and values.

In our group research project, despite the language barrier making communication challenging, we worked together with Japanese students to explore the role of youth in addressing shared concerns. From gathering information to integrating perspectives, we sparked many new ideas through collaboration.

This experience was more than just an exchange of language and knowledge—it was a heartfelt connection that left a lasting impact on me.



School: Kaohsiung St. Paul's High School







Student: Juisheng Chen

"I don't want to take on this thankless task," I vowed a few months ago. Making a presentation is exhausting, especially presenting it on behalf of the school. I resisted, feeling my teammates weren't strong enough, and I wasn't strong enough to carry the entire team. It was like this until the day before the registration deadline, and our school still hadn't sent anyone. My teacher asked me to help, honestly, because of the teacher's previous letters of recommendation, his guidance in various competitions, and even the support of the discipline director for our club. I wouldn't have felt right if I didn't participate.

Initially, I didn't take it too seriously, simply aiming to make friends in Japan. But with the active participation of Japanese students, I knew I couldn't be a burden to the team. During discussions, the language barrier proved incredibly frustrating. I gradually learned to empathize, to experience what I'd felt before, and to express my thoughts more simply.

Besides the competition, I felt even more deeply the openness of the Japanese people during this trip. We as Taiwanese, all share a common perception that the Japanese are reserved, distant, and often intolerant of outsiders. However, my classmates, my host families, and even the staff at the cafe were incredibly welcoming to visitors. At the event, I happily and easily made several new friends. I still remember the lively yet slightly shy nature of the Japanese people.

Even though our project only won the Gold Award, we were determined to participate. Learning communication skills and cultural differences, enabling cross-border communication, and cultivating future international mobility capabilities are the most important goals of this educational trip.

Pictures		
		
Karaoke with the host family	Fireworks before leaving HS	Sauna with acquaintances from 2024ASEP
		
Disscussion	Making bookmarks	Presentation at BKC venue

WYM 2025

Lichih Senior High School

Lai Po

Hsin

The 2025 World Youth Meeting in Nara was one of the most valuable experiences in my life. Over the course of eight days, I gained not only knowledge but also deep friendships and unforgettable memories. From the very first day, my host family welcomed me warmly. Their kindness, homemade meals, and thoughtful gifts made me feel comfortable and supported, even though I was far away from home. Through daily conversations and time spent together, I felt the true warmth of Japanese hospitality.

During the preparation days, I worked closely with my teammates from both Taiwan and Japan. We practiced, revised, and encouraged one another, which taught me the importance of cooperation and trust. On the competition day, I realized how strong our teamwork had become, and the feedback from the judges gave me valuable insights for improvement. These moments reminded me that success comes not only from individual effort but also from supporting each other.

Outside of practice, I experienced many aspects of Japanese culture. Feeding the deer in Nara Park, enjoying delicious local meals, exploring anime shops, and even joining summer festival activities were all highlights of my trip. I was also touched by the small surprises prepared by my host family, such as handmade drawings and creative gifts. Each of these experiences made me feel closer to Japanese culture and created memories I will treasure for a long time.

This journey has taught me to be more open-minded, grateful, and willing to embrace new challenges. It deepened my appreciation for Japanese culture and inspired me to value every encounter in life. I am truly thankful for the opportunity to join WYM, and I sincerely hope that I can visit Japan again in the future to reunite with my friends and continue this wonderful connection.



Me and my partners

苦労はしたけれど

立命館宇治高等学校 H.S

私にとっての WYM の始まりは、ちょっとした好奇心からだった。何も知らずに応募した私は、これほど大変な経験になるとは想像もしていなかった。

初日は日本人だけのミーティングだった。私たちは SDGs 16 をテーマにすると聞かされた時、国際的な紛争などが議題に上がるのだらうと思っていた。しかし二日目、台湾の生徒とのミーティングで、彼女たちは私たちが思いもよらなかった「いじめ」をテーマにしないかと提案してくれた。最初はスケールが小さすぎるのではないかと反対の意を唱え、一時は議論がストップするほど行き詰まった。しかし、SDG16 を読み込み、「国際的な紛争もいじめも、根本には私たちの意識の低さ、すなわち見過ごすことによって事態が悪化するという同じ問題があるのではないかと考えを改め、最終的には台湾側と私たち双方の意見を盛り込んだ発表内容に仕上げる事ができた。

この経験から私は、どちらか一方の案を押し通すのではなく、調和を図ることで双方が納得できる結果を導けることを学んだ。また、意識の違いは当然あるという前提を無視せず、互いに譲り合いながら第三の案を模索することも、平和につながると感じた。

今回台湾側の生徒と議論を交わしたことは、私の平和に対する考え方を大きく変えた。それは日本人だけでは到達できなかったものであり、異なる文化圏の人々と意見を交換することの重要性を実感した。今後はこの経験を活かし、多文化共生を図る社会の一助になりたい。



初対面のミーティング

WYMに参加して

立命館宇治高等学校 EU

私にとってのWYMは、平和について深く考え、異文化の仲間と協力しながら学びを得る場になると思っていた。しかし実際に参加してみると、賞を取ることを意識しすぎている生徒が少なくないことを感じた。他のグループの発表を聞いても、アクションプランの数や派手さ、同じような内容が目立ち、「それで本当に問題は解決するのか/解決したいのか？」と疑問を抱く内容が多かったように思う。

私のチームでも、台湾のメンバーから「賞を取るために頑張るんだ」と言われ、さらにはAIへの依存があまりに大きく、前提となる議論をしっかりとやる私たちにとって、どう議論を進めるかが悩みとなった。当初は国際紛争のような大きなテーマを想定していたが、台湾側との意見の衝突もあり、一時は進行が止まった。なんとか、双方の視点を融合させ、「無関心」という共通課題に辿り着き、発表に漕ぎつけた。

この経験を通じて、海外の生徒と「平和を考える」ことの難しさに気づいた。知識や情報だけでなく、自ら考えて議論し、責任を持って行動できる力をつけなければ、どれほど国際的な会議を重ねても実質的な変化は生まれないだろう問題の本質に向き合い、真の解決に近づくための議論ができる人間でありたいと思う。



平和の扱われ方

立命館宇治高等学校 A0

World Youth Meeting という世界中の若者が SDG16 の平和と公正をテーマに国境を越えて語り合う会に参加した。私は台湾人と日本人の混合チームでプレゼンターを務め、準備段階からチームで資料作りや構成の議論を行った。参加前は賞のことなど全く考えておらず、平和について深く話し合えることに期待していた。しかし本番後、Grand Platinum 賞を受賞したときには嬉しさと達成感を感じた。

しかし、一方でちょっとした違和感が残った。会の中では、負の感情を抱く場面がいくつもあった。あるチームは「中国人に間違えられて嫌だった」と大々的に発言した。それは私には中国人差別のように聞こえた。もちろん本人は自分のアイデンティティが否定された悲しみを表したかったのかもしれないが、「ほかの人種ならよかった」と受け取れかねない言葉選びは避けるべきだと思った。また、打ち上げ会で「台湾が 1 番！」と叫ぶ人が現れ、それに続いて「日本が 1 番！」と返す人がいた。愛国心自体は悪くないが、平和を語る場で国同士の競うような空気感は明らかにミスマッチのように感じられた。さらに、スリランカの人たちが日本語を話す動画を見て、同じ系列校の参加者が笑い、揶揄する場面もあった。それは、ちょうど母国語ではない英語を使い、プレゼンを発表した直後の出来事で、はっきり言って衝撃と落胆が大きかった。

こうした経験から、平和とはかけ離れた行動は言葉や態度の端々にこそ表れると痛感した。そしてもう一つ強く感じたのは、「知らずに差別やいじめをしている人」への対応は比較的可能だが、「知っていながらする人」への対処は極めて難しいということだ。実際、チームの中でいじめについて議論した際も、「いじめを認識していながら行う人」に対しては有効な手段が見つからず、最終的には「知らずにいじめをしている人に対して何らかの行動をし、訴えかける」という方針に落ち着いた。しかし、現実には後者の方が圧倒的に母数として多く、対処の必要性が高いはずだ。だからこそ、この問題をどう扱っていくかが今後の自分の課題として浮かび上がった。

WYM Report

MAEDA Nanaka / Senior High School Attached to Kyoto University of Education

Preparation for the Presentation:

We had many discussions on the topic of child abuse. However, due to my limited English skills and the difficulty of listening and understanding in online meetings, I was unable to speak up at all. However, thanks to the proactive communication of other team members, I gradually became able to speak up. I also considered how to convey our arguments in simple English and made a conscious effort to create a presentation that was easy for the audience to understand, both semantically and vocabulary-wise.

On stage with my team:

At the time, I felt that we had given it our all. Although we achieved the gold prize, I felt that our teamwork was good, and everyone was able to present with confidence. I believe that by carefully considering the content, we were able to communicate our arguments clearly.

Also, listening to the presentations of other teams, I was overwhelmed by the ideas they came up with that I had never thought of before and the similar opinions they expressed.

Although communicating in English was difficult for me when we had discussions, I felt more confident in speaking English than before starting WYM activities. I was able to speak in simple English that I could understand. It was also a wonderful opportunity to learn about the differences such as things in work schedules between Taiwan and Japan.

Looking Back:

This was my second time WYM, and not only was I able to complete my presentation without any regrets, but talking and hanging out with the Taiwanese students was a valuable experience and a great memory.

Summer of All-English Activities

FUJII Kokone / Senior High School Attached to Kyoto University of Education

I'm not very good at English, so I didn't initially consider joining this activity. However, a friend who participated in World Youth last year invited me and provided me with a lot of support, so even though I'm not very good at English, I was able to interact with many people and it was a great experience.

●Preparing for World Youth

I spent a week with Taiwanese people preparing slides for the World Youth Meeting. We had a takoyaki party at their house, made fruit punch, went to Shijo, and had lots of fun. I used to think that if I didn't use correct grammar when speaking English, people wouldn't understand, but I was happy that everyone tried to understand even when my grammar was a little incorrect. They taught me how to count numbers and how to say "itadakimasu" (thank you for the meal) and "gochisousama" (thank you for the meal) in Taiwanese.

●Summary

I wasn't able to perfectly memorize my script for the actual presentation, but I think we made some improvements despite the limited time and created good slides. I often felt that the level of high school English classes was higher than I expected. Instead of just presenting slides about peace and justice in the SDGs, the students sang songs to convey important ideas and performed plays, which showed that there is more to it than just presenting slides they had made, and the students were full of individuality.

Exchange in Japan: Learning, Collaboration and Unforgettable Memories

Chen Ying Chun / Zuoying Senior High School-

This exchange program in Japan gave me many valuable experiences. Besides learning about local culture, the most important part was preparing for the competition and giving the final presentation. Through this process, I learned how to organize information, divide tasks, and express my ideas under pressure. Although we only received the Gold Award, I realized that what truly matters is not only the result but also the skills and growth gained during the journey.

Living with a Japanese host family also left a strong impression on me. I deeply felt their warmth and kindness. From homemade bento, tasty udon and ramen, to visits to temples and shrines, I gained a direct understanding of Japanese culture. I also noticed how polite and attentive Japanese people are, which is something worth learning from.

In addition, the interactions during the program were unforgettable. From water games to funny moments in the homestay family, these experiences not only strengthened our friendships but also helped us build teamwork and adaptability. I realized that real learning often happens outside the classroom, through active participation.

Moreover, participating in cultural activities and exploring local places allowed me to practice observation and reflection. I learned to appreciate small details in daily life, such as manners, cooking styles, and social interactions, which deepened my cultural awareness. This experience also encouraged me to be more open-minded and adaptable when facing new environments.

In conclusion, this eight-day exchange not only gave me a deeper understanding of Japan, enriched my knowledge, boosted my confidence and independence, but also taught me the importance of planning, communication, and cooperation. These lessons will be valuable for my future studies and life.

And lastly, I would like to thank my school friends who went to Japan with me, the teachers from Zuoying Senior High School, the host families, and my teammates. Without them, this journey would not have ended smoothly and satisfactorily. I also thank myself for being willing to give myself a chance to try this competition!

A Journey of Cultural Exchange and Personal Growth

Chen Yun En / Zuoying Senior High School

Participating in the WYM International Youth Forum was far more than an academic presentation—it was a journey of cultural exchange, personal growth, and self-challenge. During my time in Japan, I practiced public speaking and learned to manage myself in a new environment, which tested my adaptability and broadened my worldview.

In the first few days, we lived closely with Japanese students and experienced their daily culture. From dining customs and language to the arrangement of shoes, bathing etiquette, and table manners, every detail was a learning opportunity. These cultural differences taught me how to adapt, respect traditions, and integrate into a new community. What we built together with the Japanese students was not just a short-term friendship, but a genuine bond formed through shared experiences.

Our presentation journey began in Taiwan with online discussions, but in-person collaboration brought entirely different dynamics. Together, we refined our presentation four to five times, overcoming disagreements and language barriers with patience and respect. With guidance from teachers and multiple rehearsals at their school, we were able to present our ideas on stage. Although minor mistakes occurred during the live presentation, the process gave me deeper insight into SDG 16 and showed that even students can develop practical solutions to global challenges.

Working alongside the Japanese students was particularly inspiring. Their dedication, teamwork, and attention to detail encouraged me to communicate more clearly and think more critically. I realized that expressing ideas effectively in another language is as important as understanding the topic itself. Their support and collaboration highlighted the value of mutual respect, constructive feedback, and shared effort in achieving a common goal.

Above all, the greatest gain from this experience was courage—the courage to overcome communication barriers, to stand confidently on stage in front of an international audience, and to share my thoughts openly with students from different countries. This forum will remain a memorable milestone in my personal growth and will continue to influence how I approach challenges, teamwork, and collaboration in the future.



Great Experience in WYM

Kobe University Secondary School, Aoi SHIBAMOTO

I decided to participate in this WYM because I wanted to create more opportunities to experience English and to share the joy of communicating with people from different cultures and languages. I've always been very interested in international topics, especially learning about the cultures of different countries, so this WYM was a very exciting and meaningful experience for me.

However, there were also some challenges. One of them was the limitation I felt in expressing myself in English. There were many moments when I really wanted to say something or share my thoughts, but I just didn't know how to express them in English, and I ended up saying nothing. Every time that happened, I felt frustrated and wished I could speak English better. Looking back now, I regret not speaking more and being too afraid of making mistakes.

Also, since the theme this time was "Democracy and the SDGs," which I wasn't very familiar with, I sometimes had a hard time keeping up with the discussions and understanding what message our presentation was trying to convey. I felt very anxious when I couldn't follow the conversation, but when I told my group that I didn't understand, a student from Taiwan kindly explained everything to me step by step. That moment really warmed my heart.

On the day of the presentation, I wasn't too nervous. That's because, by that time, I had already become good friends with the Taiwanese and Japanese members of my team, and we had fun preparing together. I was very happy that our presentation went well in the end.

What I gained from this project is beyond words. It's something truly valuable to me. Talking with my Taiwanese friends about everything from our favorite idols to our cultural differences, and working together to create a presentation despite the challenges, became a precious memory and an experience. I believe it will be a great advantage for me throughout my life.

Through WYM, I've realized that I want to continue improving my English skills and practice speaking more. At the same time, I want to develop the confidence to communicate without being afraid of making mistakes. Even if I fail, I believe that those experiences will help me grow stronger.

Finally, I'd like to say thank you to my Taiwanese friends, Japanese friends, teachers, and parents who joined and supported me in WYM. I was helped so much, and I truly had a great time.

Being a HOST

Kobe University Secondary School, N. T

The day we met

There's a word unique to Japan, which is "Omotenashi". And I learnt this true meaning in myself during WYM. On the very first day of our meeting offline, I was just thinking that we are going to do some introduction to each other with the Taiwanese students. Then, we'll move on to the actual presentation preparation.

In the spirit of "Omotenashi"

However, once we worked on the project next day, it seemed like there is no progress in our work. I wondered why we got stuck in it. We thought it best to leave the script and the action plan, to age our thought and to refresh our mind. We went to the urban area to hang out. We enjoyed taking snaps in the photo booth, like what ordinary Japanese high school girls do. We laughed together looking at the gaudy effect on our faces, sharing our afternoon cakes. These were the course Japanese students planned for the Taiwanese students in the spirit of "Omotenashi". I soon realized, "This was essential. We were losing the piece of true-communication."

With gratitude to WYM

From that moment on, we could focus more on the tasks we had, and since we got closer that afterschool, we could make improvements in member's speech relatively easily. This experience of WYM reminded me of the perspective that we're the host and what hosts do should be considered in the visitor's point of view. It was new to me, because I never had a chance to be a host. Instead, I was always the visitor, being invited to overseas. I feel very grateful that I was involved in this program as one of the Japanese members. Thank you for offering such a lovely experience!

My experience at WYM

大阪府立東高等学校 (Osaka Prefectural Higashi High School)

一年 (first grade) 高見くるみ (Takami Kurumi)

At first, I was little nervous because I had never talked to students from Taiwan in English. However, after joining, I felt excited, happy and little sad.

The group work was challenging and little hard, especially when talking on the phone and meeting with Taiwanese students. However, we shared ideas, practiced together and supported each other.



On August 4th, we presented our ideas to every audience. A teammate couldn't present fluently, but I'm sure we did our best. After the presentation, some people said to us "the ideas were very interesting." I felt very proud.

Through this experience, I learned two important things. First, it's okay to make mistakes in English. Communication is about sharing our thoughts, not about speaking perfectly. Second, I learned how important teamwork is. We can't do everything alone, but when we work together, we can do something great.

WYM changed my way of thinking. I want to learn more about the world and SDGs. Also, I want to talk to many people from different countries.

WYMを通して、様々なことを考える力が身に付き、成長することができました。また、他校・他学年の人と交流することもでき、英語を学ぼうという気持ちが強まったと感じます。



My experience of WYM. 私の WYM での経験

Higashi high school 東高校 First grade1 年 Matsui Madoka 松井まどか

WYM is good experience for me. I learned importance of teamwork and autonomy. When our group decide the presentation theme, we were difficult to connect theme to SDGs. We had many meeting, but things wasn't going as planned. However as a result we can decide the theme and prepare for the presentation. That presentation day. We practiced to make it more perfectly. We was little nervous because our turn was first. The actual performance we made small misses, but we can I managed finally. I was able to be friends with my teammate. I enjoyed this activitie. If I havea chance to join such us experience, I would like join it.

WYM は私にとっていい経験になりました。私は、チームワークと自主性の大事さを学びました。私たちのチームがプレゼンテーションのテーマを決めるとき、プレゼンテーションのテーマと SDGs を結びつけるのが難しかったです。たくさんミーティングをしたけどなかなかうまく進まなかったです。だけど結果的に、プレゼンテーションのテーマをきめ、準備を進めることができました。プレゼンテーションの日、私たちはプレゼンテーションがより完璧になるように練習しました。私たちのチームの順番が1番だったので、少し緊張しました。本番では少しミスをしてしまったもののなんとか最後までやり遂げることができました。チームメイトとも仲良くなれました。私はこの活動を楽しむことができました。もしまたこのような経験が出来るチャンスがあれば、ぜひ参加したいと思いました。



After Finishing WYM2025

Hlgashi High School First grade Yuika Oe

Thanks to WYM where I learned a lot of things, I think my horizon has been greatly broadened by interacting with many people. As one of the team members, I did my best to make a great presentation, but I felt down because the points weren't good. However, as I watched the other teams' presentations, I was surprised by everyone's points of improvement that I had never thought of. I think doing WYM presentations can enhance each participant's skill to strongly appeal to the audience about interesting things by adopting various methods of presentation. Also, in the Interactive Session discussions, I learned different perspectives and opinions by sharing my own and listening to others' opinions about various topics. I could communicate with many people using familiar topics and had a wonderful experience. From now on, through things that I learned in WYM2025, I would like to continue to broaden my horizons more and treasure communicating.

私は WYM2025 を通してたくさんのことを学ばせていただいたことに感謝しています。なぜなら、多くの人と関わったことによって、私自身の視野は大きく広がったと感じているからです。チームの一員として、素晴らしいプレゼンテーションを作ろうと奮闘しましたが、結果あまりうまくできなかったところもあり落ち込んでいました。しかし、他のチームのプレゼンテーションを見ていると、みなさんの今まで考えたことのなかったプレゼンテーションの工夫点にとっても驚きました。多様な工夫をプレゼンテーションに取り入れることで、それぞれ違った魅力を引き出し、聞き手を引き込む面白いものになりうることを痛感したと思っています。また、意見交流する場でも、いくつかの議題についてそれぞれの意見を述べたことによって、違った視野や意見を学ぶことができました。身近な議題で様々な人と交流でき、素晴らしい経験をさせていただきました。これからは、WYM2025 で学んだことを通して、自分の視野をもっと広げ、交流を大切にしていきたいと考えています。



WYM Competition + Teaming Up

with Osaka Higashi High School, Japan – Reflections

Kaohsiung Municipal Ruixiang Senior High School, Yi-En Lin

This journey and competition experience could not have been more worthwhile. During the preparation process, I truly felt that the Japanese students were both highly capable and dependable. This overseas team collaboration, along with my very first technical homestay experience, brought me unexpected and invaluable rewards — I can confidently say that I returned with a wealth of gains. I am grateful to this competition for encouraging me to speak English boldly, making it a natural habit that I simply had to use. I would also like to sincerely thank every Japanese teacher and student; it was both an honor and a stroke of great fortune to be able to form a team with you. To be honest, participating in this kind of event has greatly broadened my horizons, and it has even inspired me to imagine studying abroad in Japan in the future. This country's culture, people, and atmosphere gave me a sense of comfort, peace, and belonging that I truly love. Lastly, to my Japanese teammates and supervising teachers — thank you. I feel incredibly lucky to have met you, and I appreciate all your hard work.



WYM2025 活動報告書

聖心学園中等教育学校 森岡 海帆

1, 参加目的・動機

友達や台湾の学生と交流し、共に社会の問題や平和について深く考え話す機会はめったにない。実際に自分が世界を平和にすることは叶わないが、若い人々が集まって協議することに魅力を感じ、深く興味があつたため参加を決めた。

2, 最も苦労したこと

最も苦労したことは、伝わりやすいプレゼンの構成をつくることだ。SDGsというと、内容が難しくなりがちであり、それを英語で大勢に伝えることは困難だ。そこで私達は、簡単に分かりやすいテーマにすることを心がけた。台湾の学生と英語でコミュニケーションを取りながら話を進めることの中には、互いの文化や考え方の違いがあつた。故に思いがぶつかり話がこじれる可能性があり、それを考えると思いを伝えるのがもっと難しくなる。チームの中でも常に伝わりやすさについて考え努力したことがチームの外で発表するときにも、上手く発揮されたと思う。

3, 成功・失敗したこと

本番、みんなの前で発表する時緊張で最後のセリフが飛んでしまい、周りに迷惑をかけたことが私の失敗だ。だが、それを観客に悟らせないように、チームのメンバーがフォローに入ってくれたことがチームの成功したところだと思う。それは練習のときから、みんなが互いのことをよくみていたからこそできたことだ。また、その甲斐あってか、grand platinum という素敵な賞を頂くことができた。私は、そんなチームメンバーを誇りに思う。

4, チームのために貢献できたこと

よりよいプレゼンにするため、まずはよりよいチーム作りから始めた。空気が重いときは、全く関係の無い話をしたり、思い悩む時は、その話に入り新たなアイデアをだした。台湾の子とペアになり、プレゼンの流れをきめ大まかなストーリーをチームに提案したりした。

5, 経験から学んだこと

言語や文化が違うだけで、話が友達と話すことと比べ物にならないほど複雑になることを身をもって体感した。チームの意見をまとめるだけでも、同じことを何度も別の言語で話す必要がありとても時間がかかることを知った。メンバーの話を聞く時も、知らなかったことが沢山出てきて想像より大きな文化や価値観の違いを学んだ。また、苦労が大きくなればなるほど、報われた時の喜びも大きくなることを知った。初めはぎこちなかったチームも最後には離れたくないと涙を流すほど大切になり、WYMに参加したことを大切な思い出へと変えてくれた。



私は学校の国際交流プログラムの一環としてWYMに参加した。英語を使って海外の学生と交流することを通じて、異なる価値観や文化を理解し、また世界が直面している課題について考える力を身につけたいと思った。特に、将来グローバルな場で活躍するために必要な協働力や発信力を養うよい機会になると考え、参加を決意した。

最も苦労したのは、限られた時間の中で英語を用いて自分の意見を正確に伝えることだった。グループの仲間が多国籍であったため、英語の発音や表現の違いから誤解が生じることもあった。また、プレゼンテーションの内容をまとめる際も、それぞれの国の背景や考え方が異なるため、共通点を見出して形にするのが難しかった。しかし、その分、相手の話を丁寧に聞き取り、言葉だけでなく表情やジェスチャーも活用して意思を伝える大切さを学ぶことができた。

成功した点は、最終的にチーム全員で協力し、全員が納得できる形のプレゼンを作り上げられたことである。特にリハーサルを重ねる中で、互いに意見を修正し合い、一つの方向性にまとめることができた。一方で、質疑応答の場面では十分に準備ができておらず、思ったように答えられなかったことが心残りとなった。今後は発表そのものだけでなく、聞かれる可能性のある質問や反論を予想して準備することの重要性を意識したい。

私は主にスライド作成や資料整理を担当し、情報を分かりやすく伝えることに力を入れた。また、議論が行き詰まった際には意見を整理し、グループが前進できるように努めた。さらに、メンバー全員が発言できるよう配慮し、特定の人に偏らないように意識したことで、チーム全体の協力体制を築くことに貢献できたと感じている。

今回の経験を通して学んだのは、国際交流では語学力だけでなく柔軟な姿勢や相手を尊重する態度が不可欠だということである。一人で取り組むのではなく、チーム全員で課題を共有し、異なる考え方を受け入れることでより良い成果を生み出せると実感した。また、自分自身の弱点や課題が明確になったことも大きな収穫である。これからの学習や将来の活動において、この経験を活かし、より積極的に世界とつながっていきたい。



WYMでの学びと経験

聖心学園中等教育学校 下中由結

1 準備の大変さ

今回初めてWYMに参加しました。台湾の学生と力を合わせて準備する共通プレゼンは、思った以上に難しいことばかりでした。初めての顔合わせはオンラインでしたが、音質の悪さやタイムラグに苦労しました。日本での交流の際でも、緊張や英語力の不足からなかなか思うように意見を伝えることができず、意思疎通がうまくいかないこともありました。

それでも、メンバーと協力しながら翻訳機を活用したり上手に伝わるように工夫をして、みんなが納得できる形で意見をまとめることができました。その結果、無事に発表を完成させることができ、私にとって大きな自信につながりました。

2 発表本番

当日は、世界中から集まった人の前で発表することに不安と緊張を感じました。ですが、他のチームの発表を聞いているうちに勇気と自信をもらいました。どのチームも難しいテーマをわかりやすく伝えようと工夫していて、とても勉強になりました。

発表本番では、沢山の人を前に立つと参加者の多さを再認識し、さらに緊張しました。しかし、話し始めてからは次第に楽しさも感じられ、最後までやり遂げることができました。発表後には自分達の考えをしっかりと伝えられたという達成感がありました。その後の教授からの講評は、適格で自分たちにはなかった新しい視点で指摘してくださり、より自分たちの意見を深めるきっかけになりました。

3 WYM

会場には、さまざまな県の高中生や大学生、そして国籍の違う参加者が集まっており、イベントの規模の大きさを改めて感じました。交流の時間には各国の発表を聞いたり、国籍を超えて一緒にゲームをしたりしました。現地の人が自分の国の食事や衣服、生活について紹介してくれた内容はとても新鮮で、自分の知らなかった文化や価値観にたくさん触れることができました。

普段の生活では授業以外で英語を使うことも、海外の人と交流することもほとんどない私にとって、WYMは多文化や言語に直接触れられる貴重な経験になりました。

4 今回の経験を通して

WYMを通じて、国際交流の素晴らしさを知りました。自分と違う人と交流することで価値観や世界観などの視野が広がったことを強く実感しました。また、もっと世界の人々とコミュニケーションを取ったり、様々な文化について知りたいと思いました。

交流するうえで言葉が通じなくても身振り手振りや表情などでも通じ合えると感じたとともに自分の英語力不足も痛感しました。この経験をきっかけに、これから英語を勉強するうえでより前向きに取り組んでいきたいと思います。

WYM 2025 Reflection

I-ning hsai

National Experimental High School at Pingtung Science Park

WYM Asian Student Exchange Program Experience: Before and After

Before joining the World Youth Meeting, I thought I would be terrified. I imagined myself being too nervous, maybe even speechless, with no words to say.

After the competition:

But after coming here, I realized that everyone is full of energy and confidence. No matter their topic or English level, they are still brave and excited to show themselves. This experience gave me the courage to speak English more confidently with people from other countries. Since this is my first international competition, it has become a great opportunity for me not only to meet people overseas but also to understand myself better.

Working with Seishin Gakuen Secondary School

I think the chance to cooperate with Japanese students is really special. Before this experience, I used to think of Japanese people in a stereotype — that they might be shy and not very confident. But after actually working with them, I realized they are not only a little shy, but also very energetic and passionate.

This opportunity also gave me the chance to understand Japan better, because I could talk with local students and learn what they are truly thinking about. And there is one thing I found pretty special. I noticed that Japanese students think in a different way compared to Taiwanese students. As a Taiwanese student, I am more used to looking at the result first and then working backwards. But Japanese students prefer to start from the beginning and move step by step toward the result. For me, this felt like a kind of culture shock, and I thought it was really cool.

The Japanese students also taught me how to prepare a project more carefully and how to look at an issue from different angles. And I also noticed something pretty special. At the beginning, our group was going to talk about social security issues, and we decided to focus on the topic of “terrorism.” But then I realized that the definition of terrorism in Japan and Taiwan is totally different.

In Taiwan, when we think about terrorism, we usually imagine random attacks on people that cause many to get hurt. But for Japanese students, their definition of terrorism is much broader — it could include anything that harms society. At first, this difference made it difficult for us to communicate with each other.

I think this was a very cool experience, because it showed me that even though our countries are geographically close, we can still have very different understandings of the same word. It made me realize that sometimes misunderstandings can happen across cultures, and it also gave me the chance to reflect more deeply on this.

And there is another thing I noticed that was really special. The Japanese students were very kind and always cared about everyone’s emotions. During our discussions, sometimes some of us felt frustrated or even a little angry when others couldn’t understand our English, and small arguments happened. But I noticed that the Japanese students would try to calm things down. For example, they would come to me and ask, “What happened? Are you okay?”

I think this really touched me, because as a Taiwanese student, I usually focus more on the final result rather than on other people's emotions or feelings. But the Japanese students showed me how important it is to care about others, and I think that's really cool.

My thought after experiencing collaboration as a team

My story after experiencing team collaboration is a bit complex, because I have many thoughts—some about myself, and some about my teammates.

Starting with myself, I realized that I still have areas where I can improve, such as my temper. Sometimes I get frustrated when things don't go the way I expect. But then I noticed that everyone was working hard on the project. It's not only me who wanted the project to be perfect—everyone shared the same goal. So I shouldn't get upset at others, because we were all working for the same purpose. This is something I need to improve about myself.

As for team collaboration, I think there is still a lot for me to learn. As the team leader, I should have given clearer directions to my teammates. I realized that if the leader doesn't set a clear direction, people don't know what to do, and the team can easily get misled. For example, in the beginning, our team split into two groups to discuss ideas, but that made it difficult to combine everything into one final project. Looking back, I think I could have done better by having a full-group discussion from the start, making sure that everyone agreed on the same direction and next steps.

This is the part that gave me the most reflection, and I think it's an important lesson for me to grow as both a person and a leader.

My accomplishments and regrets

I think the thing I regret most about this World Youth Meeting is that I didn't have much time to talk with my Japanese partners. I feel a bit sad about this, because we probably won't meet each other again in the future. I hope that in the future, there will be more opportunities to communicate and get to know others better.

At the competition venue, I also wish I had been more talkative. I should have talked to more people, because it really gives a chance to learn and connect. But due to my personality as a Chinese student, I feel I missed a lot of opportunities. If I have the chance to attend WYM a second time, I will definitely be more talkative, energetic, and try to meet more people.

Everyone attending WYM was amazing, no matter their nationality or background. They all care deeply about making the world a better place for the next generation. Even the teachers and judges were impressive. If I have more opportunities in the future, I would love to talk to everyone there.



World Youth Meeting 2025

Hsun Ting Lin

National Experimental High School at Pingtung Science Park

1. World Youth Meeting Experience: Before and After

Before I joined the World Youth Meeting, I was always a little afraid to speak English with other people. I felt nervous and worried that I might make mistakes or that others wouldn't understand me. Because of this, I thought I couldn't speak English well, but I still tried to speak it as much as I could. However, after I joined the World Youth Meeting, everything started to change. I had many chances to talk to people from different countries, and I realized that making mistakes is okay. The important thing is to keep trying and not give up. Over time, I noticed my speaking skills improved a lot, especially my confidence. I started to feel more comfortable expressing myself in English. I realized that my problem wasn't my ability to speak English—it was my lack of confidence. Now, I feel much more confident, and I am very thankful to the World Youth Meeting for helping me grow and improve!

2. Working with Seishin Gakuen Secondary School

I was really looking forward to working with Japanese students. During the discussion, I found them to be generous and kind. Even though there was a language barrier, we managed to understand each other by using English. Together, we successfully created the poster, even though we faced many challenges along the way. Besides working on the poster, I shared some famous snacks from Taiwan with them, and they shared some Japanese snacks with me. We had a great time tasting each other's snacks and learning about each other's cultures. They also took us on a walk around their campus, and we even played sports together at school. These moments became very special memories for me.

At WYM, we eventually won the Platinum Prize. I truly believe this achievement wouldn't have been possible without their support and teamwork. After returning to Taiwan, I watched an anime that was set in their school, and it brought back so many wonderful memories.

3. My thought after experiencing collaboration as a team

Working on the poster with the Japanese students was a rewarding experience. Despite the language barrier, we communicated effectively using English and combined our ideas to create something meaningful. Their creativity and openness made the process enjoyable, even when we faced challenges in organizing our thoughts and finalizing the design. Step by step, we overcame obstacles and successfully completed the poster.

Winning the Platinum Prize at the World Youth Meeting (WYM) was the highlight of this collaboration. It showed me the power of teamwork and how different perspectives can come together to achieve great results. Creating the poster with them was not just about the project—it was about learning, growing, and building connections that I will always cherish.

4. My accomplishments and regrets

First, my World Youth Meeting accomplishments. Working on the poster with the Japanese students helped me build confidence, especially in sharing ideas and presenting our work. Despite the language barrier, I learned to express my thoughts clearly in English. Collaborating with the team to solve problems and finalize the design boosted my confidence in teamwork and decision-making. Winning the Platinum Prize was a rewarding experience that showed me the value of stepping out of my comfort zone. I will keep the confidence forever!

As for regrets, I was selected to join the poster group, but I had hoped to be part of the presentation group. I believe joining the presentation group would have been a great opportunity to improve my public speaking and presentation skills. These are areas I want to develop further. While I am proud of my accomplishments, I hope to focus on enhancing these skills in the future.

World Youth Meeting 2025

I I Liu

National Experimental High School at Pingtung Science Park

1. World Youth Meeting Experience: Before and After

Before joining WYM, I was scared because I haven't been to a meeting this big before. I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to keep up with everyone. But then when I arrived at the meeting, I found out that it was as scary as I imagined. Everyone was nice and interesting, full of ideas and different opinions. The meeting even made me learn how to speak out. I became more confident in my ideas and thoughts, and wasn't afraid to speak out anymore. I even made a lot of new friends, all of them special in their own individual ways. I didn't just learn a lot in this meeting, whether it's global issues or different ideas, most importantly, I made a lot of new friends and broaden my horizon, which means a lot to me. I am very grateful for this opportunity and grateful for all the new people I've met.

2. Working with Seishin Gakuen Secondary School

Working with students from another school is something I've always wanted to try, let alone students from another country. At first, I was nervous to meet the Japanese students, but then after some chats online through meet, I found out that they are very nice and easy to work with. Even though at first, we had some difficulty communicating with them, and we even had some small arguments, trying to figure out how to work together and to finish the job smoothly, it all worked out in the end. The Japanese students are also full of ideas and working with them has been nothing but easy and fun. Through this cooperation with the Japanese students, I not only fulfilled my dream of working with other students, but also made a lot of great friends that will probably stay in touch for a long time. This experience has been special and interesting, with a lot of fun moments involved.

3. My thought after experiencing collaboration as a team

Teamwork has always been something I find both exciting and a little challenging, but this time it turned out to be one of the best parts of WYM. At first, I worried about whether everyone in the group would share their ideas openly or if we would have trouble working together. But as we started our discussions, I realized that each member had unique ways that made the team stronger. Some were good at organizing, others were full of creative ideas, and some were great at explaining things clearly. With all of these abilities, we managed to finish our tasks more smoothly than I expected. I also learned that listening to others is just as important as speaking out. This teamwork taught me to be more patient, more responsible, and more willing to adjust my own thinking for the good of the group. In the end, teamwork didn't just help us succeed, it also gave me new friends and unforgettable memories.

4. My accomplishments and regrets

Looking back at WYM, I feel like I gained so much more than I expected. At first, I only thought of it as an event where we would sit down, discuss topics, and maybe just practice English. But in reality, it was so much bigger than that. I improved my confidence in speaking out, and I also learned how to organize my thoughts and share them with people who came from different backgrounds. Another big accomplishment for me was learning how to listen better. Sometimes, I realized that other people's opinions could inspire me to think in new ways, and that's something I want to keep practicing. Of course, WYM also gave me many new friends from different countries and backgrounds, and that means a lot to me. These experiences not only taught me about global issues but also broadened my horizon to a bigger world.



World Youth Meeting 2025

Hung Hsueh Chen (Patrick)

National Experimental High School at Pingtung Science Park

1. World Youth Meeting Experience: Before and After

Before World Youth Meeting, I was nervous because it was the first time to attend international campaign. Besides, It was really a challenge for me to deliver a speech in front of so many people who come from various countries. I also worried about that I may forgot my manuscript. But after that, I realised it wasn't as difficult as I thought. I met some students from different countries, connected with the world, deepened my knowledge in the area of SDGs, and understood the situations faced by other countries. It's a wonderful and precious experience and I hope I can have another chance to participate similar meetings.

2. Working with Seishin Gakuen Secondary School

When we were working with students from Seishin Gakuen Secondary school, we faced some problems, for example, we have different ideas, about our presentation firstly. When we got started, we had a little separation. It made our content somewhat fragmented. But through communication, we quickly decided what to do and reached a consensus. After finishing our presentation, we faced another challenge - -we can't completely memorize our manuscript. Therefore, we spent a lot of time reciting and working together.

3. My thought after experiencing collaboration as a team

Working with Japanese students on our SDG presentation was honestly a great experience. While we were preparing, we talked a lot, shared different ideas, and helped each other whenever someone got stuck. During the presentation, some of them forgot words or didn't know how to continue, but instead of panicking, we tried to encourage them and give them confidence. I realized that teamwork isn't about doing everything perfectly, it's more about supporting one another and not giving up. Even when things didn't go smoothly, we managed to keep going together, and that actually made us closer as a team. I learned that true teamwork means facing problems and growing stronger through those challenges.

4. My accomplishments and regrets

During WYM, I felt proud that I was able to share my ideas in English and work well with my teammates from different countries. It really pushed me to speak up more than I usually do, and I think I improved my confidence a little. At the same time, I also have some regrets. Sometimes I wanted to say more, but I couldn't find the right words fast enough, so I just stayed quiet. I also feel like I could have prepared more before the presentation. Even so, I learned that it's okay to make mistakes, because that's how I can grow.



World Youth Meeting Report

Koriyama High School
Inoue Ryosuke

Preparation for WYM

As part of the preparation for WYM, we had many online meetings with the students from Kaohsiung Municipal Hsin-Chuang High School. However, it was quite difficult to communicate with them because of the language barrier, and the lag and audio issues made the miscommunications worse. Despite this, we were able to complete the presentation together. We had decided to talk about the Kaikai incident and child abuse cases in Taiwan and Japan. Things went a lot smoother after we welcomed the Taiwanese students into our school. We all had lunch together and I was able to converse with them in a mix of Japanese, English, and a bit of Chinese. After we finished making the presentation, we practiced our scripts and tweaked a few parts. On the day of the event, I was hoping that we could see Lake Biwa from the bus, but unfortunately it was too far away.

WYM Event

The World Youth Meeting was held at a much more massive scale than I had expected. There were students from all around the world. I was so nervous speaking in front of the crowd that my leg was shaking. I was pretty satisfied with our presentation, and I felt our hard work paid off. However, we were quite disappointed that we weren't able to get the platinum award. Personally, I think that there were a lot of performative presentations this time around, but their action plans were not really thought out well. I particularly enjoyed the presentations by the foreign university students, especially as we were able to discuss the presentations with our peers unlike the main presentations. I enjoyed chatting with the exchange students, and I made some friends from various different countries. I think it would have been better if we shared our room with some exchange students, that way we could have played games and made more friends.

Thoughts on WYM

The World Youth Meeting was a great opportunity for me to meet students from various different backgrounds. It was also great for students like me to think about some of the countless problems in the world and find solutions to them. However, I believe that as high school students we are not able to do much about most of these problems. I realise that the World Youth Meeting program is sponsored by multiple ministries of the Japanese government, such as the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. I propose that the action plans planned by us students be considered for implementation in Japan by the government if possible. This would help increase the scale of the action plan, and prevent it from being just empty words. The government would also be more thorough in executing the action plan.

WYM2025 に対する感想文

奈良県立郡山高等学校 増尾風祐

台湾人の仲間達に対する思い

彼らと実際に会うまでは、仲良くできるかまた、言語のちがいによってプレゼンテーションの課題や問題点の共有が出来ないのではないかと心配していました。しかし、いざ会ってみると、気さくに日本語で話しかけてくれてすぐに打ち解けることが出来ました。また、プレゼンテーションの作成に関しても、彼らが事前に準備してくれた下書きを詳しく説明してくれていたため、円滑に準備を進めることが出来ました。

プレゼンテーションの練習について

台本の暗記には苦労していましたが、前に立つと頭が真っ白になり上手く話すことができなかったです。また、苦手な単語の発音やイントネーションを意識することで、さらなる緊張につながり、なかなか納得のいくプレゼンは出来ませんでした。

プレゼンテーション本番へ

壇上に立ち、ほかの参加者たちの視線が自分たちに向けられたことで、立つことが難しくなるほど緊張しました。私は、いつも通りにプレゼンをすることが出来ませんでした。先輩たちが上手く発表してくれたお陰で、全体としてのプレゼンは良かったと思います。面前での発表は、あまり経験がなく、新鮮な気持ちで臨むことが出来ました。ほかの参加者たちのプレゼンテーションでは、自作の動画やストーリー、ユーモアを交えた演劇などもあり、見て楽しい気分になりました。

WYM で感じたこと

多くの外国の方々と接することで、海外の様々な知見や文化に触れることができ、自分の中の常識が広がったような気がします。このような貴重な場を設けていただきありがとうございます。機会があれば、次回もまた参加させていただきたいと思っています。

2025 WYM Report

Kai-Xin Laio

Kaohsiung Municipal Hsin Chuang Senior High School

Preparation and Challenges

I still remember the first online meeting with Koriyama High School. I was filled with excitement and nervousness. The excitement came from my few experiences in international exchange, and the nervousness came from the pressure of having to express what I think entirely in English.

During the discussions, sometimes I could not think of the right vocabulary, sometimes I paused to think what should be said to express my opinion and occasionally I used incorrect grammar out of impatience. Although these were challenges, they helped me clearly realize which part of my English still needs to improve.

In addition, because of the distance, we could not communicate as efficiently as face-to-face discussions, and our action plan started a little bit later than expected. This was something I found regrettable. I hope that if I have the chance to participate in similar international exchange activities in the future, I can learn from this experience and do even better.

The Two Days of WYM

This year's theme, SDG16, happened to connect with a major child abuse case known as Kia-Kia case which happened in Taiwan in 2023. As a result, many schools chose this issue as the basis of their presentation. While this gave the presentations strong social relevance, it also created another challenge: when multiple groups chose the same topic, comparisons naturally arose, and the key to standing out was to present the most unique and creative action plan.

Before it was our turn to present, I was extremely nervous and worried that I could not speak well or make mistakes during the presentation. Fortunately, our teachers and teammates always used humor to ease everyone's tension, and I was really grateful for their support.

Listening to the presentations from the other schools turned out to be the most rewarding part of the entire activity for me. Different perspectives, different action plans, and different ways of thinking all broaden my horizons. I felt so lucky to meet so many outstanding students from the other schools. They showed me that around the world, teenagers of my age are already preparing action plans to make changes for the future.

Conclusion

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my partner in this activity. He not only supported me whenever I struggled to express my ideas, but gave me encouragement and confidence. Without him, I would not have gained such a fulfilling experience.

I would also like to thank my teachers, the students and teachers from Koriyama High School, and everyone who participated in this activity. The brilliance of August does not only come from the summer heat, but also from the passion of ambitious young people who are ready to change this world.

WYM 2025 Report

Ritsumeikan high school_Ui Nishimura

1. Why I joined this program

The first reason is that I knew I could make a presentation with the same Taiwanese members since ASEP. Actually, it was my second time to participate in WYM. At my first WYM, I couldn't do much, so I wanted to try again and take revenge through this opportunity. That is the second reason.

2. About our presentation

In the first and second meetings, we decided on our presentation topic. At the preparation stage, I think our team could prepare smoothly by using some apps. After they arrived in Japan, we mainly practiced mic passing, each position, and gestures. In the actual performance, although there were some small troubles, we managed to do it. When I finished and bowed, I felt both some regret and a sense of accomplishment.

We got the Platinum Prize, but the result was not completely satisfactory for me. Because last year, our team (I joined with KGHS) won the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award. Therefore, I felt really regretful. But I think I could take revenge for the last WYM.

3. The experience of hosting

It was my first time accepting a foreign student. Actually, I had known him since ASEP.

Also, he has come to Japan more than 40 times! On the weekend, we went to Yasaka Shrine and some shops. I hope he enjoyed Japan.

4. Through WYM, what can I do for the next ASEP?

It was a really precious experience. I was inspired by the Taiwanese students' English skills. I think we need more creative and innovative ideas to get a better prize. I will analyze the presentation of the best team at this WYM. If I can participate in ASEP this year too, I want to get the Platinum Prize with KSHS. Because KSHS and RITS teams have never won the Platinum Prize at ASEP. Thank you so much since last year, KSHS students!! You are my best teammates!!



WYM 2025 report

Ritsumeikan High School

Momoka Hitomi

1) Preparation for our presentation

This was my first time participating in WYM.

To prepare for our presentation, we had online meetings for two months. At every meeting, I was really surprised by the Taiwanese students' high level of English skills and sharp minds, and I also realized my own lack of English ability. "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions" was a difficult and complex theme for high school students, so we struggled not only to decide our topic but also to create the action plan. Because of the limited English skills among Japanese students, we sometimes couldn't fully understand or share ideas, so we had many meetings and also communicated by text messages almost every day. Before each meeting, I wrote down what I wanted to say and prepared pictures to make our ideas easier to understand, which really helped me. I was very happy when we discussed a lot and finally came up with action plans.

I was also glad to meet the Taiwanese teammates of ASEP again, and definitely, those 7 days were the most valuable days I've ever had. From the start of practice, I often felt frustrated about the high level required in the presentation, such as pronunciation, intonation, and facial expressions. During the week, I kept going over my script in my mind, whatever I was doing.

Before the actual presentation, I was extremely nervous, but I could step onto the stage with confidence in our performance. I will never forget the joy I felt when I saw the hall full of "Excellent" cards.

2) After WYM, from now on



I think my greatest decision in 2024 was choosing to try ASEP, because that wonderful experience gave me the chance to try WYM again this year. I am truly thankful to my teammates, teachers, parents, and for all the experiences and support I received through this WYM. As a group, our presentation was satisfying, but I was also left with personal challenges and regrets.

This experience will be the foundation for my future, and I will keep challenging myself through international exchange.

Title: My Reflection on the 2025 World Youth Meeting

Kaohsiung Municipal Kaohsiung Girls' Senior High School

Alice Liao

Introduction

This year's Nagoya World Youth Meeting focused on the theme of "Peace and Justice," which aligns with SDG 16. Students from both Japan and Taiwan were required to collaborate in groups to decide on a sub-topic and develop an action plan. This event not only deepened students' understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals, but also provided a valuable opportunity for cultural exchange between students from both countries.

What I Learned

One of the most important things I learned throughout the process is how to communicate effectively with others. Communication is often overlooked in our daily lives, yet it is incredibly important. Without proper communication, misunderstandings and conflicts can easily arise. In fact, even small issues related to poor communication can sometimes be the trigger for major conflicts or even wars.

What made me realize the importance of communication was not only because it was the topic of our research, but also because this competition required teamwork. Sometimes, others may not fully understand your ideas, so it's necessary to slow down and express yourself clearly. When facing people with different opinions, it's important to listen first and respect their perspectives. When encountering problems or difficulties, it's also essential to speak up and brainstorm solutions together as a team.

Challenges

During the preparation process, we encountered many challenges. The biggest one was that we had so many results we wanted to present, which made our script very long and difficult to memorize. In the beginning, we weren't familiar with our blocking or lines, so we often went over the time limit during practice. This made all of us feel nervous and frustrated. However, with more intensive practice and encouragement from our teacher, we gradually improved and started to gain more confidence.

One thing I was particularly worried about was our research topic. Although our topic was more actionable and closely related to everyday life, I felt that our project only covered a small part of SDG 16. But later, during the competition, I gradually realized that what we were promoting—that even as students, we can do our part—might actually be the true lesson this activity wanted us to learn.

Conclusion

Although we didn't achieve the best result in the end, I still feel incredibly proud of our team, because we gave it our all and did our best to perfect our project. This journey was filled with challenges, but we supported and encouraged each other every step of the way, staying united and determined until the very end.

We weren't just teammates—we also became close friends. Beyond working hard together, we also spent time hanging out, going on outings, and sharing our lives with each other. I'm truly grateful to the students and teachers from Ritsumeikan.

Through this competition, I not only gained new knowledge and problem-solving skills, but also made many new friends and created unforgettable memories that I will cherish for a lifetime.

WYM 2025 Overview and Self-Reflection

KSHS, Sean

Overview

The first few days of our schedule consisted of presentation preparations, group activities such as school tours and small trips with host families. Upon arriving at the WYM venue, we had very little time to prepare before giving our presentations. Additionally, we held a small welcome party that night. The next day, we toured the campus after participating in group ice-breaking activities. Later that evening, we spent the rest of our time sightseeing in Osaka before departing the following day.

Self-Reflection

First, I would say our concept is fairly well-developed, supported by sufficient resources and clear descriptions. However, the main flaw is that we did not provide realistic action plans detailing how our ideas can be implemented in real life. This is a significant drawback, especially considering that most of the other groups have provided real-life evidence.

Second, the oral presentation was not as good as we had anticipated. I take responsibility because I was the one who advised adding more sentences before going on stage. I should have considered the anxiety everyone was experiencing, which hindered our ability to memorize the newly introduced information. However, I believe we still did a great job recovering the situation and returning it to a normal or even better state, which was also part of the judges' grading criteria.

Lastly, for the group reflection, I would say we did an excellent job collaborating, as demonstrated during the Q&A session. Additionally, each of us made significant contributions to the slides, script, and gestures. This was an important aspect of our work distribution, as the judges wanted to see how we overcame the language barrier.

For me, this is the first time I have participated in such a large cross-border program, which honestly made me feel a bit anxious. Although some negative aspects of the competition occurred, I still learned a great deal from the experience. I have become more aware of my abilities and the role I play in group projects. This has been a truly unforgettable experience, and I look forward to having more opportunities to join similar programs in the future.

