

# **JENESYS Programme 2008**

## **Reflection**

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Till now, I can hardly forget how excited I was when I was informed to get selected as one of the youth delegates in the JENESYS programme. Prior to this programme, I had not joined any exchange programmes before. At that moment, I already had great expectations for the exchange visit, hoping that I would develop a more comprehensive understanding about the Japanese culture and help establish even better Sino-Japanese relations. When the programme finally drew to an end, I was delighted that the exchange visit was indeed beyond all expectations.

In spite of a very tight schedule and short duration of the trip, I acquired much knowledge about the Japanese culture in different aspects, as if I had already attended lots of lessons about the Japanese culture. For instance, through attending the talk delivered by Professor Motoshige Itoh at the University of Tokyo, I understood the importance of friendly Sino-Japanese economic relations and effects of globalization on the global economic development. Through paying visits to the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution and Kobe City Resources Recycle Centre, I knew how the Japanese government prevents natural disasters and renovation work done after the Kobe disaster in 1995, as well as recycling work carried out by the government in detail. I learnt much about the transport network in Japan as I travelled on the Shinkansen and PortLiner in person. I acquired much knowledge about the Japanese cuisine as well as I was offered chances to try lots of delicious Japanese food, such as sushi and tempura. I even had my first taste of living like an ordinary Japanese citizen as I could live with my host family for one day. All these unforgettable experiences in my exchange trip let me develop a more comprehensive understanding about the Japanese culture from different perspectives.

Regarding my contributions to better Sino-Japanese relations, I now keep telling people around me that the Japanese are actually very friendly to us. During my nine-day trip to Japan, I realized that the Japanese are now very keen on making friends with the Chinese as I received very warm welcomes from senior secondary school students there. Most of them hope to solve the long Sino-Japanese disputes and misunderstanding since the Second World War. What touched me the most throughout

the trip was that one of my new Japanese friends expressed her interest in devoting to work related to better Sino-Japanese relations in future. This manifests that many Japanese youths now desire for long-lasting Sino-Japanese friendship. Later, I will help express their wish to my schoolmates and friends around me. Doubtless, this exchange visit did contribute much to better Sino-Japanese relations.

Apart from fulfilling my expectations in the exchange visit, I have come to realize that we can learn much from the Japanese. I admire the Japanese a lot for their politeness as they usually bow to others and speak softly, especially towards their guests. For instance, Japanese passengers remain very quiet even when traveling on public transport, unlike Hong Kong people. In Hong Kong, quite a lot of shops are however blamed for serving customers impolitely and teenagers are now always rude to their parents and teachers. There arises a need for Hong Kong people, particularly teenagers, to face this social phenomenon and try to be polite to others soon.

I reckon that the Hong Kong authorities should take the Japanese government on heritage preservation and recycling work as a reference for future planning. According to what I observed in my visits, I perceive that the Japanese government has taken a far more active role than the Hong Kong government as more funds and resources have been allocated to such work. To my dismay, the Hong Kong government often makes use of “delaying tactics” in legislation. I hope that the Hong Kong government can learn from the Japanese government and attempt to speed up legislation. Hopefully, the government will not merely emphasize on the importance of heritage preservation and recycling work.

To conclude, my exchange visit to Japan was doubtless far beyond my expectations as I have learnt a lot about the Japanese culture and accelerated better Sino-Japanese relations. It is hoped that the Hong Kong people and government will take Japan as an example in terms of politeness, heritage conservation and recycling work.