

Global Writing 2014

INTRODUCTION:

What do you imagine when you hear the word "Canada"? Many people must imagine The Vancouver Olympics, The Niagara Falls, and An aurora. Then, what do you imagine when you hear the word "Canadian culture"? Is it hard for you to come to mind? We think Canada is familiar country but is it true? So we start this project, it is called "Global writing". This time we used Facebook and contacted Toronto University students. Each of us wrote about the other side countries question and exchanged each other. This report shows you about what is "Global writing". Are you ready? Here we go!

WHAT IS GLOBAL WRITING?

APU students give 6 interesting topics about Canada and ask questions about them in English to students at Toronto University. They write reports on their knowledge and experiences in Japanese and answer.

In the same way, students at Toronto University give 6 interesting topics about Japan and ask questions relating them in Japanese to APU students. APU students send comments in English. We did these exchanges 3 times on Facebook.

Achievements:

Masataka



Canada is a multiracial nation. I am really interested in Canadian identity, so I chose Canadian identity as my topic. Through the discussion, some interesting points could be found. Canadian identity is made by various kinds of nations. Canadian people can acquire two citizenships such as a Canadian citizenship and a Chinese citizenship. Canadian people tend to regard both of citizenships as important things. This perspective depends on individuals.

Nanami



Strictness of vertical relationship and length of working hours in Japan are famous in all over the world and these are linked to social problems like death from overwork. In Canada there are also vertical relationships and overtime work. However, these things seem to be not such big problems that develop into social problems. On the whole, I got impression that Canadian companies are much comfortable places for workers than these of Japanese. I thought there are many points which Japanese company should follow like relationships between boss and subordinate and work-life balance.

Chie



It was rewarding for me to consider homosexuality because same-sex marriage is not allowed yet in Japan and relatively less familiar problem than Europe and United States. I got to know that discrimination against homosexuals still lingered and there were campaigns to take away discrimination even in Canada that was legal and widely accepted through this project. But like Canada has changed the idea about homosexuality than it used to be, I hope Japan also become tolerant gradually.

Shiho



I learned that there was a program to experience the life people in developing countries have. I thought that many students did not really think about the problem of food because I saw many students leave a lot of food in the US. However, I realized that they just did not know what they could do. Also, I agree with the idea that it is difficult for them to understand food is valuable if they have not lived without food. Therefore, the most important thing is to understand the situation in developing countries and think what we can do to solve the problem.

Takuto



It was great experience sharing each other's opinion with Canadian students. Two Canadian students and I discussed "job hunting". Job hunting system in Japan seems to be famous in the world for its intensity. They asked me if this phenomenon is occurring because Japanese put too much emphasis on work. Being told how different the system in Canada is, I was surprised how Japanese are intense about working. I thought acquiring some of the Canadian system might be a considerable thing to do.

Sample of FACEBOOK PAGE



Takuma



I learned about education for immigrant in Canada, particularly classes of ESL (English as a second language) through this project. I could understand the government of Canada is positively supporting immigrant educations so that they can adopt new environments or cultures as soon as possible. I think these education system is not established yet in Japan, so this situation in Canada was surprising and new for me.

Haruho



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I was surprised that I was asked about "Otaku culture". It was good opportunity for me to think "Otaku" concept and I can understand what image they have through conversation. One Toronto University student said me why Otaku people are scorned even though they contribute Japanese economy? I did not have such an idea so I am interested in their opinion. I noticed about it is different "Otaku" concept between Japan and other countries. In abroad, "Otaku" means just "big fun of particular thing."

Endeavors:

It was challenging for me to exchange our idea to use Japanese and English. Of course we have not mastered our first foreign language. However it was very good opportunity to say what I want to say and we have done deep conversation, not casual talking! I think we did a great job! (Nami)

To my shame, I don't know about Japan greatly and I couldn't answer some questions. I should learn about Japanese society more and I want to explain Japan to foreigners with confidence. I had good opportunity that I think about the problem of Japanese working system that probably I'll face in the near future. (Nanami)



Students at Toronto University often asked questions onee talents (lady-boy comedians) give influence on the Japanese way of thinking about homosexuality, but it was hard to answer because I thought homosexuals and onee are completely different. Thanks to this project, I had an opportunity to think that it was wrong to discriminate and criticize homosexuals and onee although their tastes are different from my ones. (Chie)

It was so interesting that I could exchange opinions between APU and Toronto university. I was able to acquire the local voices. I really enjoyed considering my topic. My thinking style is brushed up. Moreover, another topics are so compulsive. From another topics, I could also learn many things.(Masataka)

It was a good experience for me. However, I found it hard for me to talk about some problems with foreign people, who have different way of thinking and perspectives, WITHOUT seeing each other. I argued a lot with my friends while I was in the US, but I could see how they reacted to what I said. This time, on the other hand, I cannot know their response until they reply. Therefore, I tried to be more moderate than when I talk face to face.

This project provided me with an opportunity to think about some problems, and to know what foreign students think about the problems.(Shiho)

My major troubles were translating my opinion to English and talking about job hunting which I haven't experienced yet. It made it even harder because the topic was hard to think even in Japanese.

Also, it was very difficult to make up my opinion based on limited information that I have. But at the same time, it was great opportunity to know more about job hunting.

Discussing serious topic was a challenging task for me but, I'm glad I took part in this program!(Takuto)

After finishing this project, I realized that I do not have so much knowledge about Japan. When I answered questions about Japan from UT students, I often could not answer concretely without researches. This was shocking and I felt embarrassed. I became to think it is very important to collect a lot of information on our society or culture habitually by using newspaper or TV program.(Takuma)

It was interesting for me to communicate with the university students from foreign countries because I had never done such projects. Although there were many difficult topics, it is not difficult to write my opinions because one of the most important themes of this project was writing our real opinions. It was impressive that we can communicate with each other sufficiently if we make use of English and Japanese. And also, it was interesting to know real opinions of Canadian people. I want to communicate with many people from all over the world by making good use of this experiences..(Haruho)

**OVERVIEW:**

Through this project, local opinions regarding various matters could be exchanged. Some topics were common with Japanese people, but other ones were different between Canada and Japan. The project enables us to acquire a custom of considering daily matters, and brush it up. Numerous opinions stimulated our way of thinking. We are grateful to Toronto university students, professor Miyatani, Ms. Okazaki, the iCoToBa adviser, and all the members who took part in this project.