

2018 Mayors for Peace Youth Exchange for Peace: Support Program for "HIROSHIMA and PEACE"

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This program was the most valuable opportunity to foster my understanding of abolition of nuclear weapons and explore more ways to peacebuilding, recognizing the distinctive features of Takayama City as an international tourist city. The days I spent together with members from all over the world was one of the most precious moments in my life and I profoundly believed that the fact that our attempt of understanding the meaning of peace on the same table through the lectures and discussions was the way to peace. I was able to comprehend peace in a multilateral and holistic manner with the profound confidence of the importance of intercultural communication.

I realized that it is highly important that we acquire an ability to actively learn what is happening in the world and sympathizing with those who suffer from conflicts and natural disasters. Identifying Takayama as a peaceful place with no conflicts or natural disasters, the citizens may become indifferent to the outside world. However, we can develop a sense of generosity and the importance of multicultural coexistence through active learning from others through dialogue, and it will also contribute to conflict and disaster prevention. As a result, we can be a true global citizen embracing and spreading a "culture of peace". Takayama City, hosting 460,000 foreign tourists per year, can be an ideal place for international understanding education. The followings are some activities I can suggest.

International Understanding Education

I would like to support international understanding education for citizens to be able to become more concerned with the international affairs and different cultures by providing more opportunities for them to interact with foreigners and the citizens. While foreign tourists can learn about traditional cultures and lifestyle through their stay, the citizens can learn about foreign cultures and have a deeper understanding of the world situation. For example, as a tour guide, I can invite them to have more meaningful interactions. At school and small community, I can also provide some workshops, exhibitions or events in order to introduce foreign cultures and international affairs.

Accommodation of Immigrants

It is quite challenging to heavily rely on tourism to develop international understanding education due to its transitory. Immigrants will be a significant element to realize it. In order to supply the lack of labour force caused by the recent situation of de-popularization, immigrants will also bring us excessive benefits. Therefore, it is important to create an environment where both citizens and immigrants can make a friendly relationship with an open mind and cultural competency. To realize that, we can provide the support system for immigrants to consult about their situation and have a good education of manners of living in Takayama. At the same time, the citizens can also learn about multicultural coexistence and acquire the necessary skills of cultural competency through some lectures or events.

Learning Peace

We can make it a habit to have a moment to think about peace by spreading the idea of Peace Day on September 21st. It can be a participatory event where many citizens can get involved with and be aware of Peace Day. For instance, we can organize some concerts, film festivals, panel discussion and cultural

exchange programs to get more attention. I can spread the message of Hiroshima and Peace through the local media and provide some workshops related to peace as a facilitator. I also believe that a school trip will another a great opportunity for peace study by visiting Hiroshima or Nagasaki.