

Hannover, Germany
Jens Dumke

Again in Japan and again with so many wonderful people. When I heard that I can go to Japan again, it was at first unbelievable for me and then really great. As I expected, all the Japanese people were really friendly and hospitable to me. Thank you so much for that.

When I arrived in Japan, I thought that we would be a small group of some people from some nations. But then I realized how big this conference will be and how many people from different cities from all over the world will participate. I met so many wonderful people and during the seminar we talked about so many topics and I experienced many other opinions and how other people from other nations think about those topics. Thank you so much for the interesting discussions at the seminar and in the time in between. I already knew some things about Japanese culture and the style of living, in the program and in the sightseeing I saw so many new multifaceted ways. On that point I want to thank everybody who organized this conference and especially my host family.

In the discussion time of the conference, I thought so much about peace and what peace means to me. Peace is nothing that is coming from the government. Real peace is coming from inside of people and everybody can participate by being friendly, by being respectful to other people and other nations, by asking more instead of accepting stereotypes. I think the biggest obstacle of peace is misunderstanding of others.

I will try to live this peace and to share all the experiences I got during the conference in my surroundings, my work and my volunteering in the YMCA.

As the Mayors for Peace lead city Hannover is planning a German Mayors for Peace conference. The conference is going to take place in Muenster on the 15th of June in 2018, where I will report about the International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future in Hiroshima.

Best wishes from Germany
Jens