



OIC joint seminar & Hiroshima field trip

A JDS Field Trip Report

Lorie Cinco Bermejo

This JDS report pertains to OIC Workshop and Field Trip in Hiroshima and Miyajima, Japan on May 27-29, 2016. Seven ICU students who come from China, Myanmar, and the Philippines joined the event, namely; Xiaoyan Han, Shuixiang Lou, Yang Chen, Shili Jia, Thet Thet Kyaw, Ei Ei Htwe, and Lorie Bermejo. Prof. Stephen Nagy, an ICU faculty member, led this group. The three-day trip became an avenue for the participants to discuss research with other school students as well as to get together and appreciate the peacebuilding efforts in Japan.

Upon arrival at the Ibaraki station during the first day of the trip, all the participants proceeded to Ritsumeikan University (Osaka Ibaraki campus) for the joint seminar. The three among them, as well as other OIC students, had presented their research papers. First, Ms. Han tackled about her paper on "Investigating City Community Governance from a Polycentric Governance Approach: A Case Study of Chenggong (Kunming, China)". Second, Ms. Kyaw discussed "Issues Concerning Human Resource Management in the Japanese Civil Service: Lessons for Myanmar." Third, Ms. Lou delivered her "People-to-People Diplomacy in China: The Constructive Role of Jiangxi Province's Work on International Sister City Relationships within the Framework of China's Overall Diplomacy". Most of the attendees were actively participating whereby important, analytical ideas free flow at the assembly. As such, participants could obtain new knowledge or information about other student's interest in research. The seminar ended up very successfully with a dinner.

On the following day, field trip participants visited the Hiroshima Peace Park and, consequently, the Peace Museum. A guide staff had helped them better understand the things related to Hiroshima bombing incidents that happened in

August 1945. The staff who is also a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing described the incident details as well as the importance of structural image or monument present at the peace park. She said that the atomic bombing (including of Nagasaki) had caused great damage and pain to the people where many victims died because of radiation poisoning and other atomic-related diseases. Also, listening to the recorded testimonies of the survivors provided additional information about the damage brought about by the bombing. Many lessons learned from its destruction 70 years after. Though about 190 countries are anti-nuclear nations, some of them still have nuclear energy industry. But today's people are hopeful that these nations should share nuclear technology for peaceful energy purposes only. Specifically, the participants had realized that the atomic bomb might be the best weapon ever in which its power is a great danger, but what had happened to Hiroshima should be the world's greatest hope for lasting peace.

The participants went to Miyajima during the third and last day of the trip. Visiting Miyajima as one of the three most scenic spots of Japan was one of the most interesting and unforgettable experiences of the participants in Japan. Because the place is fascinating, no wonder for Miyajima Island to become a World Cultural Heritage. The presence of various temples, pagodas, and many others, including the most attraction 'The O-Torii Gate' have made the site wondrous to most (if not all) visiting people of Miyajima Island.

In general, the trip was a fruitful one. All the participating JDS Fellows had not only learned more for their studies but also enjoyed the company much. They are grateful to the JDS Committee for this opportunity and experience in the Japan country.

