

“ASEP 2015”

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My trip to Taiwan made me grow as a person. There were many things that I could never have experienced if it were not for ASEP. I went through lots of hardships in Taiwan, but going through them improved me in a lot of ways.

At first, leaving Japan with the presentation unfinished, I was very worried whether the script will be finished on time. I became even more worried when the script was not in a great shape and we decided to change a big part of the structure, but I felt very satisfied because it was under everyone's agreement. If we left the presentation as before, we wouldn't have understood the concept ourselves. And there was no way we could give a convincing presentation to the audience with unconcern. The big change was a very big risk but looking back I am glad that we went for it. I think everyone is thinking the same way.

Watching many groups' presentations, I noticed that even though we share one big theme “Traveling and Learning”, there were many different and unique ideas that I couldn't have thought of. Watching the presentations, I have learned that there are various ways of thinking. Some were like ours, some were completely different from ours. ASEP gave me an opportunity to interact and share ideas with people whose point of view differs from mine. I figured that having a wider and flexible mind helps us to think up of many interesting ideas.

To be frank, before going on to this trip, I thought that I had a wide perspective compared to other people, because I have been abroad for many years and have traveled to many places. However, there were many things I could not take in. It made me realize that there are many things I don't know about the world. I want to experience many things and keep on learning.

Another thing I was concerned about other than the presentation was the homestay. It was my first time to stay with a family whose mother tongue is neither Japanese nor English. So I was worried if I would be able to make myself at home. But there was no need for concern. My host family was very nice and also very talkative so it didn't take long for me to get along with them. Thanks to their hospitality, my trip has become one of my best memories.

One last thing and what I think is most important is to become social. I was able to make friends, not only the students of Shu-te but also students

from other schools. I exchanged addresses and I am still contacting them. We talk about how the weather is in Japan and how I celebrated New Years and so on. I think it is great that there is still a connection between Japan and Taiwan thanks to the internet society. I hope to keep in touch with them.

