

Participate in ASEP

Nagoya Commercial High School
Hanami Horinouchi

1.Asian Student Exchange Program Experience: Before and After

It was first time to participate in ASEP and it was also the first time for me to interact with people from other countries, so I was very anxious. I was afraid of finding out if my English was good enough. And It was difficult to take action as I thought couldn't successfully communicate what I wanted to say. However, being in a situation where I had to answer questions by myself made me think of doing something by myself instead of relying on others. Now that I know my level of English, I've started to put more effort into my studies to aim higher. Participating in ASEP, and overcoming one obstacle made me feel like I could try anything without fear. It also made me think that I should try to take positive action.

2.Working with Kaohsiung Commercial High School

We never actually met to discuss it. Since the only means of communication was the Internet, there were many misunderstandings. That's where my anxiety and impatience came from at times. There were things we were couldn't do and things we did not understand. However, I was able to complete my presentation with the help of the students from Kaohsiung Commercial High School. Furthermore, the corona prevented us from meeting and interacting with each other so, we sent each other food from our own countries, Christmas gifts, and Christmas cards.

3.My thought after experiencing collaboration as a team

We teamed up with students from Taiwan. I was not sure if I would be able to communicate with them in English in their native languages. However, we used words that were easy to understand and that made it easy for them to understand. We also communicated with each other through hand and body movements. I felt that we were able to support each other because we could not communicate clearly. I also thought I was able to deepen my understanding of the topic. No matter what the result, I think that the accomplishments and sense of accomplishment gave us an experience that will help us grow even more in the future, both as a team and as individuals.

4.My reflection on the rehearsals, and your stage performances(including Q&A)

I was my first time to participate in ASEP, so I was very anxious because I had no idea how it would go. Also, I was very nervous because we were the first group to speak. Just before the show, I guessed the questions we would be asked and the answers to the questions. I thought the question and answer session was not as difficult as in previous years because the main event was held via the Internet, which was not the case in previous years. I had to think and answer the questions displayed the late questions so

we couldn't answer the questions that were displayed late. However, when I looked at it after the show, there were some interesting questions. It was nice to be able to look back at the presentation later and see how the people who saw it felt about it.

5.What I thought about the host school and other participants

Because of the ASEP event, I was able to interact with high school students from other countries and also learn about my own English level. It gave me a chance to make friends from other countries, and it made me more interested in foreign countries than ever before. I thought this event would be a good experience for us high school students to grow. I have been talking in English with friends from other countries even after ASEP was over and I thought it was a good idea to participate because I could be in constant contact with English. There was a lot of overlap in themes with high school student from other schools. However, it was interesting to see foreign high school students to express our different opinions with each other. I also learned a lot about the different ways of doing presentations and how to add hand actions.

6.Summary

I wanted to be able to talk without relying on people and things. It was very frustrating to not be able to hear and speak in meetings. I decided to use this feeling as a weapon to challenge everything without being afraid of making mistakes.

After the ASEP

Nagoya City Nagoya Commercial High School

Mio Koike

1.Asian Student Exchange Program Experience: Before and After

I joined WYM in the summer. This time, we had to compose the sentences and make the PowerPoint presentation by ourselves. At first I didn't know what to do and was confused, but I was able to create a presentation.

Before participating in this event, I was not very good at sticking it out until the very end, and I often slacked off somewhere along the way, but I learned that there is such a sense of accomplishment when you don't slack off until the very end. When I prepared the Manuscript of the presentation, I checked the English text many times to make sure it was correct. Also, if I didn't understand the pronunciation of the English, I would asked my English teacher or a friend who was good at English. When I finished my presentation on the day, I felt a sense of accomplishment.

2.Working with Kaohsiung Commercial High School

In making a presentation with Kaohsiung Commercial High School, I made a conscious effort to speak simple English. It was a reflection of the last WYM that I couldn't convey what I wanted to say well, so I made an effort to tell what I want to say, even if it was simple. I was very happy when I could understand what they meant when we had a video conference with Kaohsiung Commercial High School. However, my English is still not very good, so I would like to improve my English skills before the next exchange so that I can be understood without having to say things simply.

Since it was the season, we exchanged Christmas presents and cup noodles with everyone from Kaohsiung Commercial High School. I had a lot of fun thinking of gifts for the students at Kaohsiung Commercial High School.

3.My thought after experiencing collaboration as a team

It was very difficult to share what I was thinking with everyone at Kaohsiung Commercial High School. At first, we didn't know what to say to each other, and there were times of silence. At times like that, I would ask for help from the teachers and keep talking. Once I got used to it, I think I was able to communicate using gestures and such. From now on, I would like to be able to carry on conversations without the help of teachers.

4.My reflection on preparation period

I think I was able to create my presentation systematically during the preparation period. I think I was able to do a good job of creating and reviewing my Japanese presentation before the deadline for submitting it to Kaohsiung Commercial High School. The deadline for shooting the presentation video was urgent, so I was very impatient,

but I'm glad we managed to make it on time.

5.What I thought about the host school and other participants

I think it is a wonderful event for high school students to use English and interact with people of the same generation overseas. I think that working together to create a presentation is something that will be needed in society. I think it is a valuable experience for high school students to do this with people from overseas.

6.Summary

After participating in ASEP, I decided that I wanted to improve my English even more. I also learned another way of thinking by watching the presentations of other teams. I'm very disappointed that I didn't get an award this time, so I want to take my revenge.

After the ASEP

Nagoya City Nagoya Commercial High School
Nono Hirase

1.Asian Student Exchange Program Experience: Before and After

Before I joined ASEP, I thought I used what I had learned in class and used a translator to understand. Actually, I was a participant in the experience. I felt it was difficult for us to read the other person's feelings and communicate my own feelings. Therefore, I realized that I needed to have the ability to listen to and understand English, and to immediately communicate what I had heard to the other person. I think I want to learn many words so that I can communicate well.

2.Working with Kaohsiung Commercial High School

I was able to experience the Taiwan culture to exchange Christmas gifts because we met face-to-face. We ate famous Taiwanese sweets and cup noodles that are not available in Japan, and we also deepened our friendship by giving our favorite sweets and unique Japanese gifts. In a video conference, I was anxious and nervous and could not talk positively. But thanks to Kaohsiung Commercial high school students we conversed well. If we can meet face-to-face someday, I want to communication well, so I wilk try to study English more.

3.My thoughts after collaborating as a team

It was difficult for us to work on one thing at a time speaking different languages. It was very difficult for me to understand the other person's opinion and to covey my own opinion through text-only communication. I could think about what I could do to create it. I thought it is important to respect individual opinions. We came up with something good and talked about what made us nervous about the competition. As a result, the presentation was satisfactory.

4.My reflection on the preparation period

We asked for help from the other school students. I couldn't express my opinion on what they had created because I've been so full of myself. We had many discussions when we couldn't understand each other. I didn't have much time to spare, but I felt a sense of accomplishment.

5.What I thought about the host school and other participants

It was a good experience for me to participate in competitions and socialize with foreign people. Communicating in English is difficult and it made me realize that my English skills were lacking. This was a great opportunity for me to exchange information with friends my age from overseas. My motivation has increased since then. I saw presentations from other schools and was inspired by how good their English was.

6.Summarize

I think it is important for us to interact. I had the opportunity to use a lot of English, which was a new experience for me and gave me a more confidence. I would like to participate again if there is an opportunity like this.

Experience ASEP

Nagoya City Commercial High School
Misaki Kina

1.Asian Student Exchange Program Experience: Before and After

I made a presentation at WYM in the summer. At that time, our seniors made the presentation using power point, but at this ASEP, we had to create it ourselves from scratch. It was a lot of work, but through this experience, I think I have improved my presentation making skills more than before. I think there are many chances to make a presentation when working in the society, so I will never forget what I learned from ASEP.

2.Working with Linyuan Senior High School

Through working with Lin Yuan High School, I found out what I need to do in the future. When I participated in the WYM last summer, we mainly exchanged opinions by email, but this time we were discussing through video chat. Through the chat, I was unable to express what I wanted to say in English, which made me feel frustrated with my poor English skills. In order not to be frustrated in the future, I would like to improve my English skills so that I can communicate smoothly.

3.My thought after experiencing collaboration as a team

At first, I was very anxious about working as a team with all the Taiwanese students to do one thing. In past years, ASEP has actually gathered to work on the project, but this time we were not able to do it, so it was more difficult to communicate with each other. But I used a lot of gestures to exchange the message. There were many difficult times, but encouraging each other through SNS was the biggest motivator for me.

4.What I thought about the host school and other participants

I think ASEP is a very valuable experience. Working in a team with students from other countries is lot of work. However, we will never forget a sense of accomplishment of success with them. I also learned more about the problems and issues that are happening in the world by watching the presentations of other teams. I don't forget the knowledge I gained at ASEP and will use it in the future.

5.My accomplishments and regrets

What I was able to do through this participation was to complete to make a power point presentation. In WYM, the seniors made the presentation, so it was my first time to make it from scratch. I was anxious because I didn't know what to do, but I was able to create something that I was satisfied with. However, I was so focused on the power point that I couldn't remember the sentences perfectly. Because of this, I wasn't able to speak with confidence. I will keep this reflection in mind and use it in my next presentation.

6.Summary

During the video chat discussions, I could not speak English actively for fear of making mistakes. Therefore, after participating in ASEP, I wanted to improve my communication skills even more. Also, before I could think of sentences in English, I could not summarize the idea in my head. As for future tasks, I would like to be more conscious of speaking English more actively without being afraid of making mistakes, to clearly summarize my opinions, and to improve my English skills for the next ASEP.

The ASEP experience

Nagoya City Nagoya Commercial High School
Miyuki Mizuyama

1.Asian Student Exchange Program Experience: Before and After

I joined ASEP because I wanted to interact with students from Taiwan. It was my first experience and I was thinking a lot about how to put my opinions into English. I think I have grown as a result of this ASEP experience. I was able to demonstrate this in English conversation class. I used to think about how to say something in English before I said it, but now when I think of one word, many come out and I enjoy the conversation. I have learnt to speak English to the best of my ability instead of worrying about it, and that voice inflection and facial expressions are part of communication.

2.Working with Linyuan Senior High School

To be honest, I was very worried because I was not confident in my English ability, but the Taiwanese people were very kind and spoke slowly, gestured and spoke in Japanese until we understood. After we talked about ASEP, we asked questions about each other's countries and danced and got to know each other very well. After ASEP, we asked questions about each other's countries and danced and got to know each other very well.

3.My thought after experiencing collaboration as a team

We had different ideas and different languages, and we were not sure if we would be able to work together on one thing. However, we were able to do it smoothly because we were willing to understand each other. It was very stimulating to hear new opinions.

4.My reflection on preparation period

There were no senior students in this ASEP, so we had to create it from scratch. We had to think a lot about the topic, what we wanted to say and how to express it in English. It was very hard to think about the topic, what we wanted to say, and how to express it in English, but we talked about it a lot and I think we made a very good product. We also practiced Q&A with the Taiwanese students, which helped us to improve each other in preparation for the show.

5.My accomplishments and regrets

The most important thing was that I couldn't go there. I wanted to experience the local food and culture. However, the Taiwanese students told me about the latest recommendations, which made me want to visit Taiwan more than before.

6.Conclusions, future challenges and resolutions

What I have learnt from ASEP is that you have to try your best to communicate. I have learnt that it is important to try your best to communicate, not to use unfamiliar words,

but to be creative and try to convey what you are thinking to the person you are talking to. I would like to make the most of this experience in the future.

