

# ASEP Report: Learning online collaborative skills

Ritsumeikan University  
Aerin Kim

## **1. Asian Student Exchange Program Experience**

The biggest reason why I have participated in this Asian student exchange program is because I thought that I would be able to interact with other international students and experience how collaborate projects would be like during the pandemic. Yet, I was a little nervous and worried as it was my first online collaborative project with students from Taiwan. It turned out that joining this project widened my perspectives in terms of our diversity. I initially thought that our diversity would be a main cause of conflicts throughout this project due to our different backgrounds and beliefs. However, it actually contributed to creative results as well as a positive environment for all the students as we were trying to listen to each other first and to use respectful communication skills all the time. Therefore, it was a great experience for me to learn the efficient ways to conduct a collaborative project with students from different cultural settings.

## **2. Working with Shu-Te University**

I still remember the first time when I saw the students and staffs from Shu-Te university. It was for our first test meeting, and was to introduce ourselves. Afterwards, all the meetings were held by the students only. I believe that it would have been very hard if we, Ritsumeikan students, did not have such students from Shu-Te university, as they were cheerful, enthusiastic and responsible. Moreover, our effort on communications built trust between students from Ritsumeikan and Shu-Te university. Even though English was not our mother tongue for both Ritsumeikan and Shu-Te university students, we did not stop or give up communicating for the sake of getting the best outcome for this project. Working with Shu-Te university not only inspired me but also gave me more confidence on this project.

## **3. My thought after experiencing collaboration as a team**

Experiencing collaboration as a team is always challenging, however, it always leaves important lessons of working as a team. During a university career, there are crucial things to experience as a student. I believe that experiencing collaboration is one of them. Additionally, conducting team projects with people having different cultural backgrounds will be asset for those who want to work in international settings. Through ASEP, I was able to learn that cross cultural communication and open minds are the main keys when it comes to collaboration as a team with international group members.

## **4. My reflection on preparation period**

As ASEP 2020 decided to adapt online based methods due to the pandemic, we had some issues regarding facilitating online meeting platforms. It was very first time for both students from Ritsumeikan and Shu-Te university. Therefore, we continued to seek the way to improve our current stage and to conclude our project successfully. There were times where we felt frustrated due to some technical issues, however, our efforts and enthusiasm on this project led us to solve issues that we faced.

## **7. Summary**

If I get a chance to join ASEP again, I will definitely participate in it. All the lessons from ASEP 2020 are valuable, and became a stepping stone for the next project. Thanks to my team members, our project was nicely done despite all the difficulties from the current situation. Everyone adapted the best way to continue this project by themselves despite the fact that it might be the first time for them participating in online oriented projects. Experiencing this project would be beneficial for all students in terms of problem-solving and communication skills.