

# **Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum**

**on  
Cooperation and Mutual Understanding between  
Canada and Japan in Post-Disaster Era**

**February 19-26, 2012**

Hosted and Organized by  
**Ritsumeikan University**  
**Kyoto, Japan**

in cooperation with  
**Meiji University**  
and  
**Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research,  
University of Alberta**

**Final Report**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZER

The third annual Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum was held in February 2012 at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto under the theme “Cooperation and Mutual Understanding between Canada and Japan in the Post-Disaster Era,” where 15 students from 10 Japanese universities as well as 15 students from 8 Canadian universities were brought together.

It was a pleasure for us, Ritsumeikan University to host this year’s forum, which was completed with great success. The students from Japan and Canada, who would never usually come into contact with each other, stayed together in Kyoto for one week and faced many unexpected challenges. We believe that in the process of working together to overcome these challenges the students enhanced mutual understanding to make contributions to the global society where different cultures co-exist harmoniously.

Since the Great East Japan Earthquake and the accidents at the nuclear power plant in Fukushima, steady and patient efforts have been made and the affected people in the region have received aid and support from all over the world. It is against this background that we chosen “Cooperation and Mutual Understanding between Canada and Japan in the Post-Disaster Era” as the theme of this year’s forum and students from Japan and Canada got together to learn about cooperation and contributions to society that transcend the borders of culture and academic fields. More specifically, they have learned about participations in the reshaping of society such as through tourism and other recovery efforts. Experts from various fields including the Japan Foundation, earthquake volunteers, the Embassy of Canada delivered lectures during the forum. All the students had a keen awareness of the issues, participated proactively in the discussions and contributed to group activities throughout the forum and achieved meaningful learning outcomes. Working alongside people from different cultural backgrounds as well as from different academic fields is not always easy. However, we are confident that the students will benefit from their experiences over the six days in their future careers as global leaders and hope that the efforts of all participants will help build bridges between Japan and Canada.

We were especially honored in the presence of Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado during the closing ceremony and the congratulatory words from Her Imperial Highness to all those present were greatly appreciated. We would like to also extend a special thanks to the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund, the Canadian Government, the Japan Foundation, the University of Alberta, Meiji University and the members of the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium, who have been supporting this annual event.

Lastly, we wish for further development of all member universities of the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium.

Professor Kiyofumi Kawaguchi  
*Chancellor of The Ritsumeikan Trust*  
*President of Ritsumeikan University*

## ABOUT THE FORUM

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum was hosted this year by Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan. 15 students from 8 Canadian universities and 15 from 10 Japanese universities attended the week-long event from February 19-26, 2012. The theme of this year's forum was Cooperation and Mutual Understanding Between Canada and Japan in Post-Disaster Era. Students discussed Canada-Japan relations in a global context with a special focus on the impact of the Great East Japan Earthquake, with subtopics in Tourism in Canada, Japan and the Global Society, and Intercultural learning for Successful International Cooperation.

The goal of the JACAC Student Forum is to provide students with the opportunity to interact with their peers from a different culture, in order to gain insight into their current areas of academic interest and to encourage a flow of ideas between Canada and Japan. Students who attended this year's forum participated in lectures given by academic and industry professionals, as well as having participated in group projects among their peers both from Canada and Japan.

Lectures and afternoon group sessions were held at Ritsumeikan University, Suzaku Campus. Towards the end of the week, the group participated in a field trip and tour of the Kobe region, as well as enjoyed some time exploring downtown Motomachi and Chinatown. Students also participated in a city tour of the historic and world-renowned cultural sites, temples and castles of the city of Kyoto. The forum was wrapped up at Suzaku campus, where students gave their final group presentations and a closing ceremony and reception were held.

Students were divided into 6 groups, with 5 members in each group and were assigned to a forum subtheme. Each group then chose from a set of questions posed by the Organizing Committee regarding their topics, and worked on a 15 minute presentation. The students' presentations provided an overview of the understanding acquired through attending the forum lectures, group discussions, and students' own research, and addressed the issues from several perspectives, including social, business, and environmental. At the closing ceremony, one group was awarded as having the best presentation through peer evaluation, based on originality of their ideas, profoundness of their discussion and the best team effort.

The opportunity for interaction between both undergraduate and graduate students at the forum allowed participants to discuss issues relevant to their studies and research with their peers from a different country, gaining valuable insight from a multicultural viewpoint. Cultural exchange was also evident as students socialized both during organized and casual events.

For the fourth forum, the venue moves back to Canada and is currently scheduled for February 2013 and will be hosted by York University, in Toronto, Ontario.

## **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

### **Chair**

Naoki Ishihara,  
*Executive Director, Division of International Affairs/  
Professor of Faculty of International Relations*

### **Program Coordinators**

Miki Horie  
*Director, Division of International Affairs/  
Associate Professor of Ritsumeikan International*

Makoto Sagane  
*Managing Director, Division of International Affairs*

Yasue Ueki  
*Administrative Manager, Office of Study Abroad*

Noriko Nakagawa  
*Assistant Administrative Manager, Office of Study Abroad*

### **Program Assistants**

India Ison  
Jiro Okada  
Le Trong An Sinh  
Amy Su  
Mutsumi Yoshikawa

## **JACAC MEMBER UNIVERSITIES**

### **Canadian Universities**

University of Alberta (Secretariat)  
University of British Columbia  
University of Manitoba  
York University  
Queen's University  
Université de Montréal  
Concordia University  
Université Laval  
University of Prince Edward Island  
University of Waterloo & Renison

### **Japanese Universities**

Meiji University (Secretariat)  
Josai International University  
Sophia University  
J.F. Oberlin University  
Tsuda College  
Kwansei Gakuin University  
Hosei University  
Ritsumeikan University  
Kyoto Education University  
Nagoya University  
Hokkaido University

## **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

### **Canada**

Tae Ahn, University of Alberta  
Peter Arbaugh, University of British Columbia  
Jasmine Belanger-Gulick, University of Montreal  
Robyn Biggar, University of Prince Edward Island  
Samuel Briere, University of Montreal  
Simon Brodeur, University of Montreal  
Gabriel Chen, University of British Columbia  
Yuumi Currah, University of Alberta  
Andijana Djokic, York University  
Samuel Lemieux, Laval University  
Katy Shum, York University  
Murielle Timbo, Laval University  
Angel Tse, Queen's University  
Alexandre Turcotte, Laval University  
Heather Wogden, University of Waterloo

### **Japan**

Reiko Ando, Sophia University  
Yukari Asano, Kwansei Gakuin University  
Naho Fujisawa, Josai International University  
Shinya Hayashi, Kwansei Gakuin University  
Masatake Hirono, Ritsumeikan University  
Minaho Kubo, Tsuda College  
Suzana Matsuyama, Hokkaido University  
Yuuhi Miyauchi, Ritsumeikan University  
Yuri Mizutani, Kyoto University of Education  
Saika Nagai, Sophia University  
Hitomi Okano, Hosei University  
Tomomi Shimmura, Nagoya University  
Sho Tsujimoto, Meiji University  
Kana Yamase, Meiji University  
Risa Yoshimoto, Nagoya University

## FORUM PROGRAM

Date	Time	Scheduled Event
February 19 (Su)	-	<b>Students Arrive in Kyoto</b>
February 20 (M)	10:00-11:40	<b>Walking city tour</b> Led by program assistants
	12:00-13:00	<b>Lunch</b>
	13:00-14:40	<b>Orientation &amp; Ice-breaking</b> Welcome remarks (Miki Horie) Student group assignments and introductions
	15:00-16:40	<b>Presentation by Miki Horie</b> (Associate professor, Ritsumeikan International) <i>Introduction to Intercultural Communication and Group Dynamics</i>
	17:00-18:00	<b>Group Project</b>
	Evening	<b>Welcome Party</b>
February 21 (T)	10:00-11:40	<b>Guest Speaker Session 1 by Dr. Kazuo Ogura</b> (Former president of Japan Foundation / Visiting professor of Ritsumeikan University) Non-verbal Communication in Diplomacy – Meal, Music, and Gifts
	12:00-13:00	<b>Lunch</b>
	13:00-14:40	<b>Guest Speaker Session 2 by Dr. Monte Cassim</b> (Professor and vice chancellor of the Ritsumeikan Trust) <i>Innovation Beyond Borders: Transdisciplinary Collaboration for Humanity and the Arts</i>
	15:00-18:00	<b>Group Project</b>
February 22 (W)	10:00-11:40	<b>Guest Speaker Session 3 by Ms. Maureen Riley</b> (General Manager-Japan, Canadian Tourism Commission) <i>Faces Over Places – 国際交流 Through Tourism</i>
	12:00-13:00	<b>Lunch</b>
	13:00-14:40	<b>Presentation by Ritsumeikan Student</b> <i>Volunteer experience in Tohoku</i>
	15:00-18:00	<b>Group Project</b>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Scheduled Event</b>
February 23 (R)	8:15-18:00	<b>Field Trip to Kobe</b> Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution Free time in Downtown Motomachi & Chinatown Glicopia Kobe
February 24 (F)	10:00-11:40	<b>Group Project</b>
	12:00-13:00	<b>Lunch</b>
	13:00-14:40	<b>Guest Speaker 4 by Eric Petersson</b> (First Secretary of the Canadian Embassy)
	15:00-18:00	<b>Group Project</b>
February 25 (Sa)	10:00-11:40	<b>Group Project</b>
	13:00-15:40	<b>Group Presentations</b>
	16:00-17:30	<b>Closing Ceremony</b>
	17:30-	<b>Farewell Party</b>
February 26 (Su)	-	<b>Student Departure</b>



## GUEST SPEAKER INFORMATION

Dr. Miki Horie

Associate Professor, Ritsumeikan International, Ritsumeikan University

*Introduction to Intercultural Communication and Group Dynamics*

### Introduction to Intercultural Communication and Group Dynamics

JACAC Student Forum

Feb. 20, 2012

Miki Horie, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of International Education,  
Ritsumeikan University  
mhorie@fc.ritsumei.ac.jp

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Yuuhi Miyauchi

Ritsumeikan University Student

*My Experience at Tohoku*

## Great East Japan Earthquake



Date and Time:

11 March 2011 14:46

Magnitude: 9.0

Epicenter: N38.1, E142.9

Depth 24km

Dr. Kazuo Ogura  
Visiting Professor, Ritsumeikan University  
Former President of Japan Foundation

*Non-verbal Communication in Diplomacy – Meal, Music, and Gifts*

Nonverbal Communication in Diplomacy

**1. Meal**

- (1) To recognize and respect the other's identity by observing taboos others have on food.
- (2) By eating the same meal (particularly with materials of the host or guest nation), one could reinforce the sentiment of "togetherness" or "friendship."
- (3) To demonstrate a special favour by serving an exceptional (rare) food.
- (4) By serving a particular wine or food one could subtly convey a certain specific political message to the guests.

**2. Music**

- (1) As catalyst for releasing social tension.
- (2) To heighten or strengthen people's emotion or sentiment which could be shared for the cause of certain political creeds or actions.
- (3) To express and strengthen the national ethnic or ideological identity of a nation or group.
- (4) To muffle political satire or lampoon (in other words, subtle political message can be conveyed in the form of music).

**3. Gifts**

- (1) To dispel or mitigate (potential or actual) hostility.
- (2) To maintain authority or prestige by giving an extremely generous gift.
- (3) To convey the wish that a reward should be given in exchange.
- (4) To maintain or strengthen the personal (social) relations and/or to "personalize" the group-to-group or nation-to-nation relationship.
- (5) To share, by means of a gift as symbol or catalyst, the idea of principle or sentiment associated with a certain past event or episode (cases of specific symbolic political message embodied in the gift).

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Dr. Monte Cassim  
Professor & Vice Chancellor, Ritsumeikan Trust

*Innovation beyond Borders: Transdisciplinary Collaboration for Humanity and the Arts*



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Ms. Maureen Riley  
General Manager, Japan, Canadian Tourism Commission

*Faces Over Places – 国際交流 Through Tourism*

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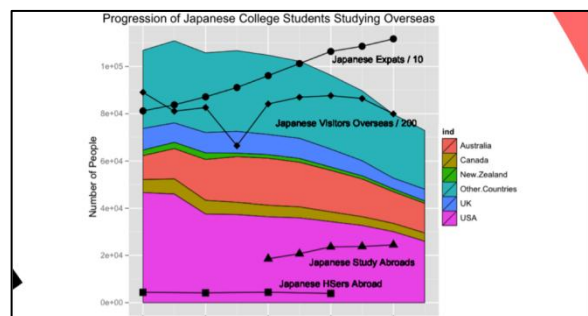
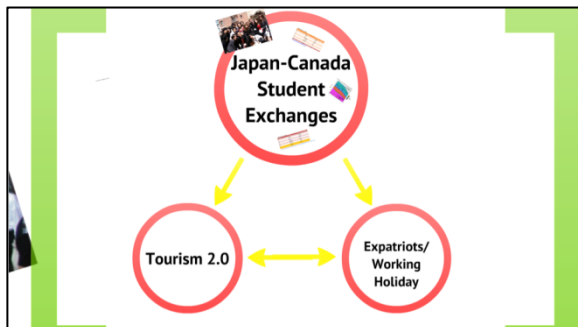
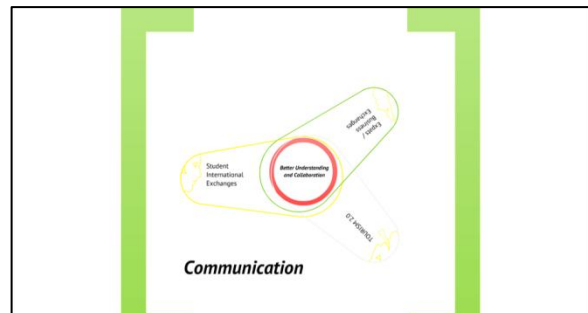
Mr. Eric Petersson  
First Secretary, Canadian Embassy

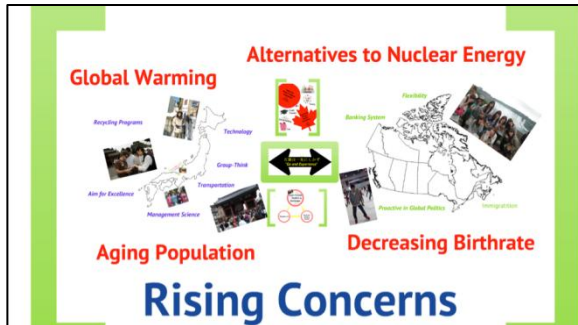
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## STUDENT GROUP PRESENTATIONS

### Group 1: Go and Experience

Alexandre Turcotte (Laval University)  
 Yuhi Miyauchi (Ritsumeikan University)  
 Gabriel Chen (University of British Columbia)  
 Kana Yamase (Meiji University)  
 Heather Wogden (University of Waterloo)

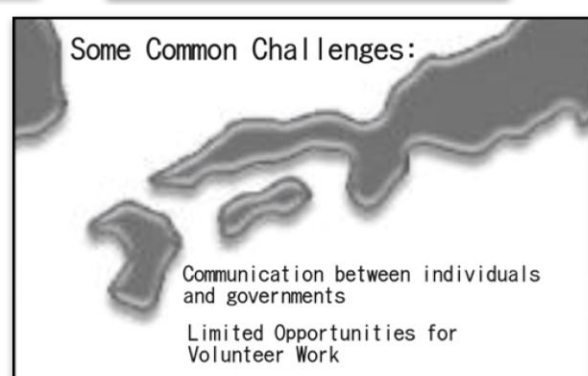
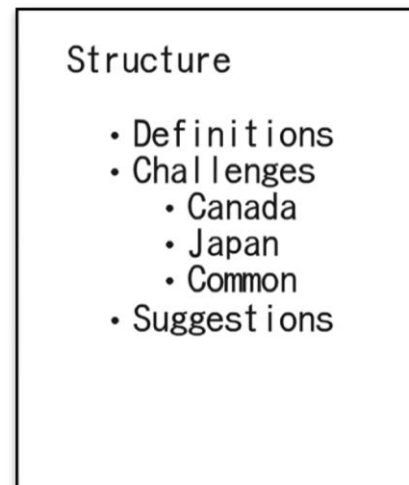
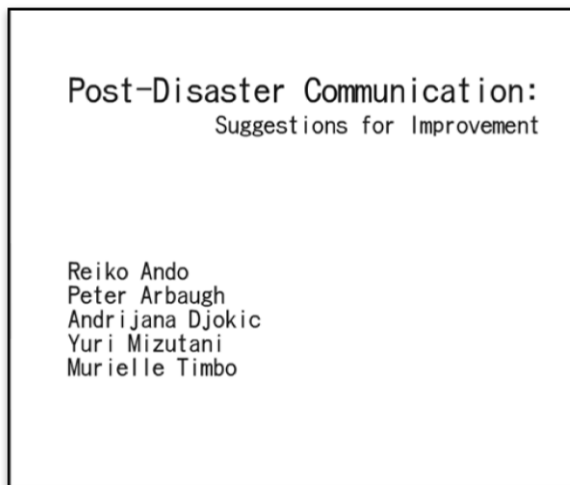


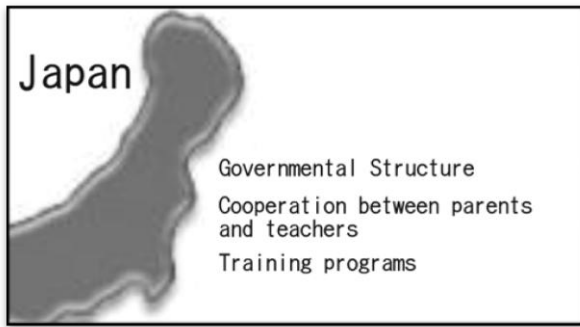


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## Group 2: Post-Disaster Communication: Suggestions for Improvement

Peter Arbaugh (University of British Columbia)  
 Yuri Mizutani (Kyoto University of Education)  
 Andrijana Djokic (York University)  
 Murielle Timbo (Laval University)  
 Reiko Ando (Sophia University)





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Group 3: Disaster Mitigation in the Context of Globalisation: How Can We Learn from Each Other's Past Experiences and Collaborate in the Future

Samuel Lemieux (Laval University)  
Naho Fujisawa (Josai International University)  
Jasmine Belanger-Gulick (University of Montreal)  
Yukari Asano (Kwansei Gakuin University)  
Katy Shum (York University)

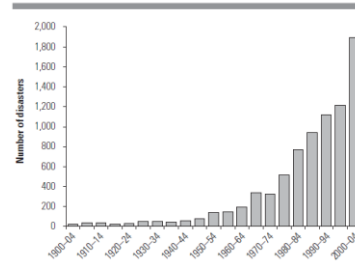
## Disaster mitigation in the context of globalization:

*How we can learn from each other's past experiences and collaborate in the future*

Yukari Asano  
Jasmine Bélanger-Gulick  
Naho Fujisawa  
Samuel Lemieux  
Katy Shum

## Introduction: *Disaster*

Figure 1.1: Number of Natural Disasters in All Countries



Source: EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database, <www.em-dat.net> Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium.

## Disaster mitigation

- Disaster mitigation measures are those that eliminate or reduce the impacts and risks of hazards through proactive measures taken before an emergency or disaster occurs.

## Types of disasters

### <Japan>

- Typhoon
- Snow
- Earthquake
- Tsunami
- Floods (heavy rain)
- Fire
- Heavy snow
- Landslide disaster

### <Canada>

- Ice storm
- Floods
- Earthquake
- Tornado
- Forest fire
- Blizzard
- Hail
- Sea ice and fog

## Strategies and initiatives (Canada)

- Canada's National Disaster Mitigation Strategy
- National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

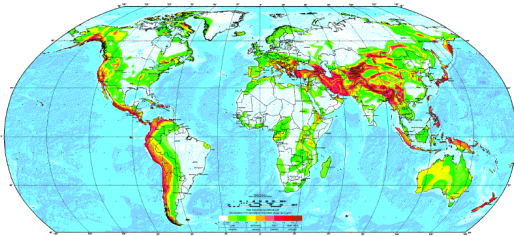
## Strategies and initiatives (Japan)

### <Each type of disaster>

- Earthquake
- Tsunami
- Heavy rain
- Landslide disaster

## Mutual learning: earthquakes

GLOBAL SEISMIC HAZARD MAP



## Mutual learning: earthquakes

- Japanese features of earthquake mitigation
- Earthquakes in Canada
- Canadian features of earthquake mitigation
- Learning and possible enhancements

## Mitigation & nuclear energy

- Mutual learning?
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- Enhance power of international organizations
- Explore alternative energy sources

## International efforts

- 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe
- Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015

## International efforts

- World Disaster Reduction Campaign
  - Recognize/promote contributions of youth
  - Build bridges/understanding across cultures

## Personal actions

- What should we do?
- educate & prepare ourselves
  - Hazard map
  - Earthquake insurance
  - Knowing what to do
- get involved, motivate our peers



## Personal actions

- Create/make use of exchange opportunities
  - Study abroad
  - Attend conferences (such as JACAC Forum)
- Build bonds between each other – work across national borders



## Conclusion

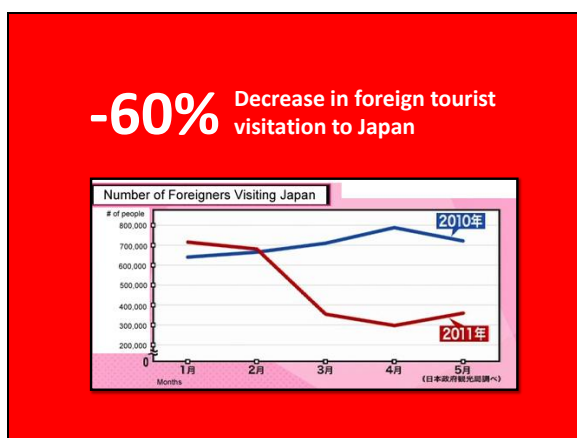
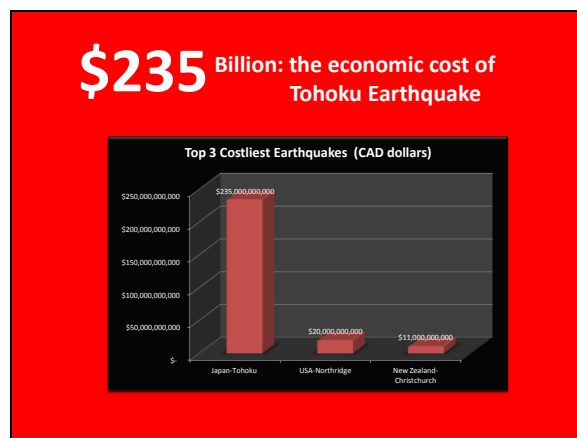
- Necessity of international collaboration
- The experience from the Tohoku earthquake
- Increased frequency of natural disasters
- Cooperation to combat global issues

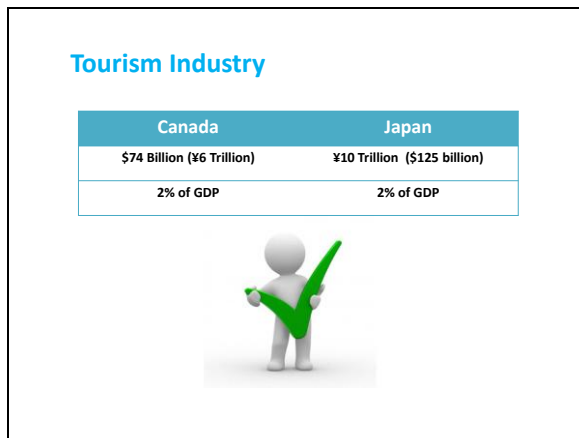


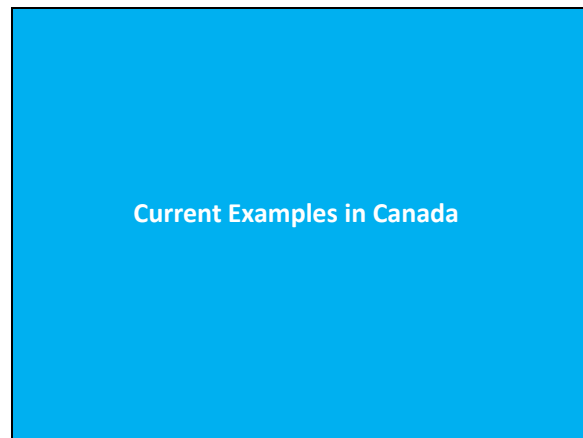
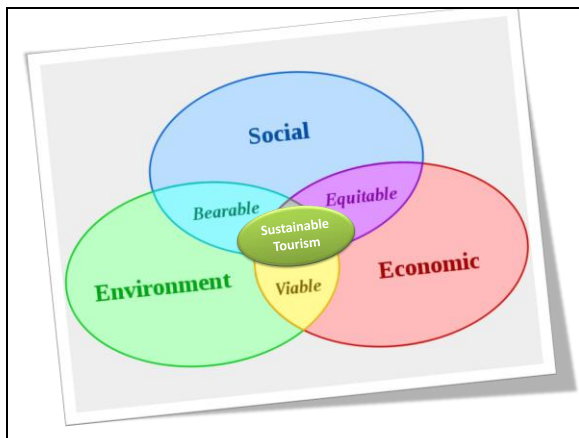
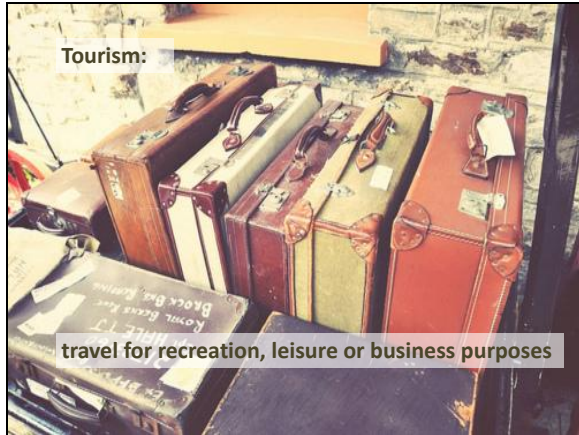
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## Group 4: How Can Canada and Japan Cooperate with Each Other to Develop More Sustainable Societies?

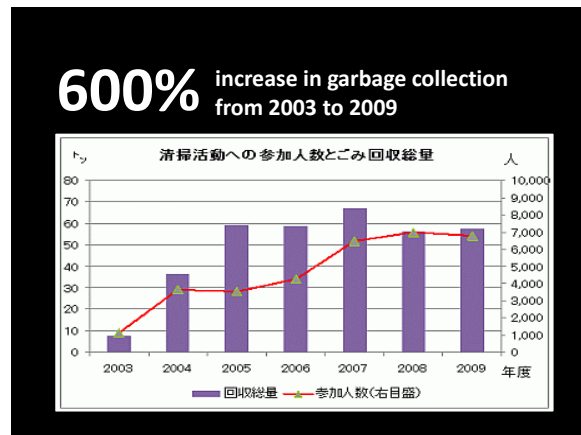
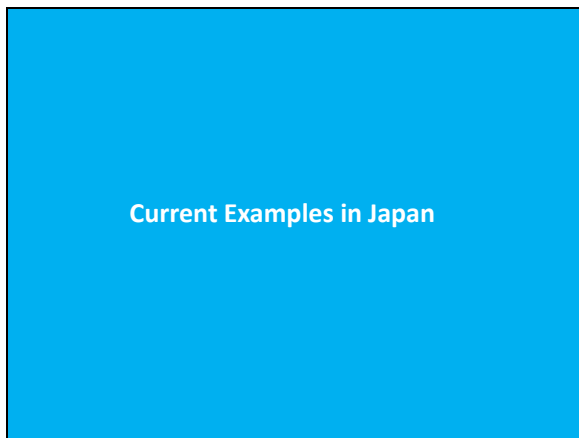
Angel Tse (Queen's University)  
 Suzana Matsuyama (Hokkaido University)  
 Masatake Hirono (Ritsumeikan University)  
 Samuel Briere (University of Montreal)  
 Tomomi Shimmura (Nagoya University)





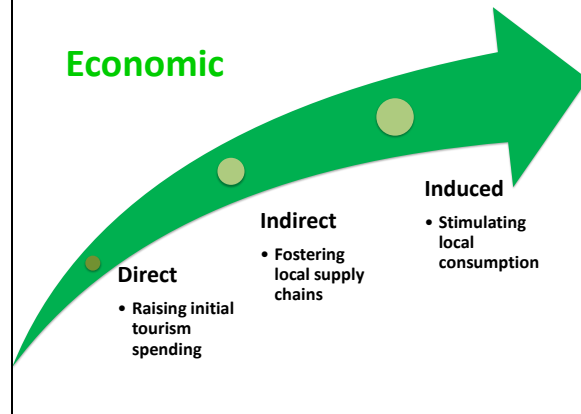






## Benefits of Sustainable Tourism

### Economic



### Case Study: Wakayama Prefecture

**142** ¥ per tourist increase in local revenue

**34** million ¥ of profit gain

**12** % of local government's total revenue

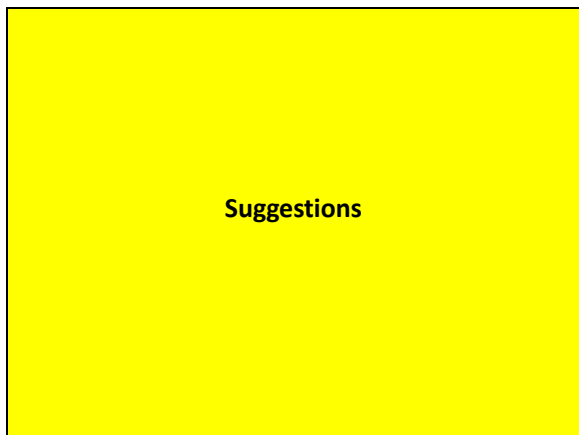
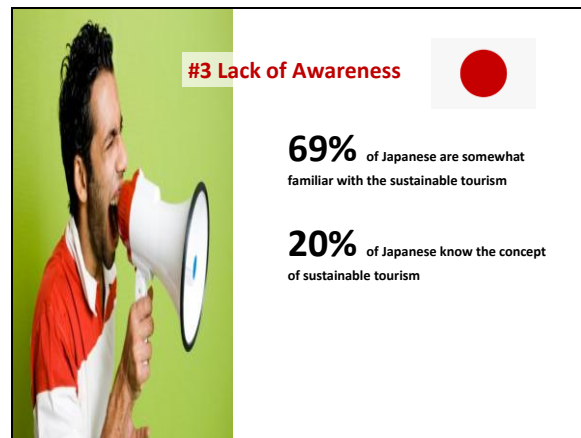
### Social-Cultural and Environmental



### Case Study: Shiretoko National Park -Ainu Culture

- Enhancing Environmental Understanding
- Respecting Diversity
- Connecting with Locals

## Current Challenges with Sustainable Tourism



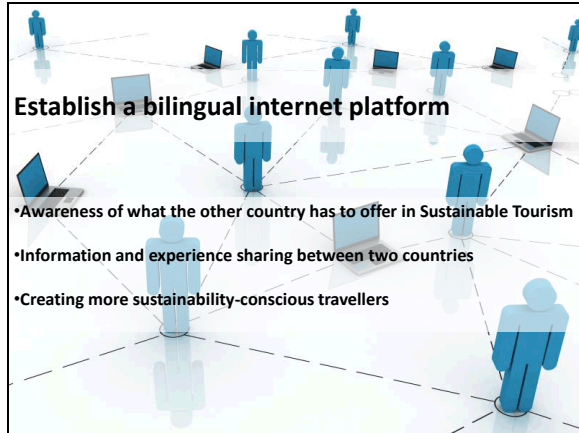


#2 Establish a better **certification** system for sustainable tourism



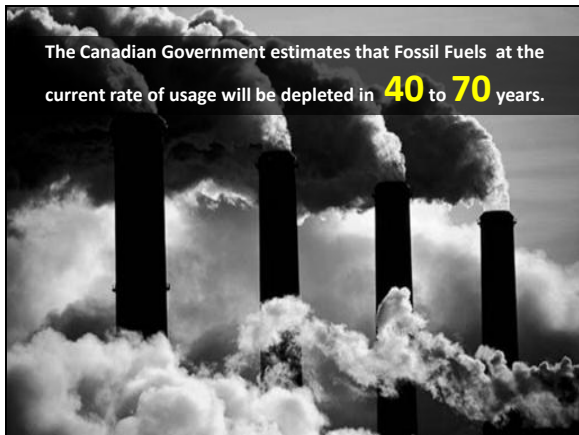
### Establish a bilingual internet platform

- Awareness of what the other country has to offer in Sustainable Tourism
- Information and experience sharing between two countries
- Creating more sustainability-conscious travellers



### What We Will Face

The Canadian Government estimates that Fossil Fuels at the current rate of usage will be depleted in **40 to 70** years.



So what can we do?





ありがとうございました

Thank you

\*\*\*\*\*

### Group 5: Creating an International-Friendly Japan

Tae Ahn (University of Alberta)

Hitomi Okano (Hosei University)

Risa Yoshimoto (Nagoya University)

Simon Brodeur (University of Montreal)

Shinya Hayashi (Kwansei Gakuin University)

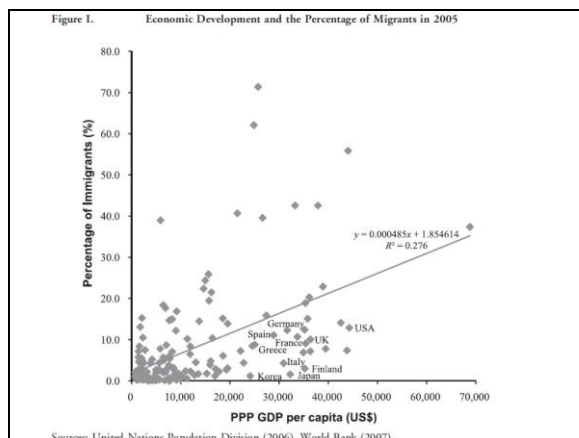
Group #5  
Tae Ahn  
Simon Brodeur  
Shinya Hayashi  
Hitomi Okano  
Lisa Yoshimoto

## Creating an international-friendly Japan

Promoting favourable immigration policies

### Introduction : A new challenge for Japan

- Declining demographics
  - By 2060, population will shrink by around 40M
- Aging society
  - By 2060, people 65+ will represent 40% of the population
- Emigration/Immigration in Japan
- Correlation between immigration and wealth
- How to make Japan more international-friendly?



### Japan needs to accommodate foreigners

- Foreigners seldom speak Japanese
- Problematic mindset

"Nobody will be able to pass the tests and they will all be sent home"

— Hidenori Sakanaka, director, Japan Immigration Policy Institute

## Japan needs to accommodate foreigners

### "Language Barrier"



## Bilingual policies in public places in Japan

- Inadequate infrastructures for non-Japanese speakers
- 3.11
- Need for accessible services for non-Japanese speakers :
  - Public transportation
  - Road signs
  - City halls
  - Emergency announcements
  - Basic government services

## Language exchanges between students in Japan

- Coordinate language exchange between students in Public and International schools
- Targeting growing children between the age of 4 and 12
- Engage the students in group activities together

## Language exchanges between students in Japan

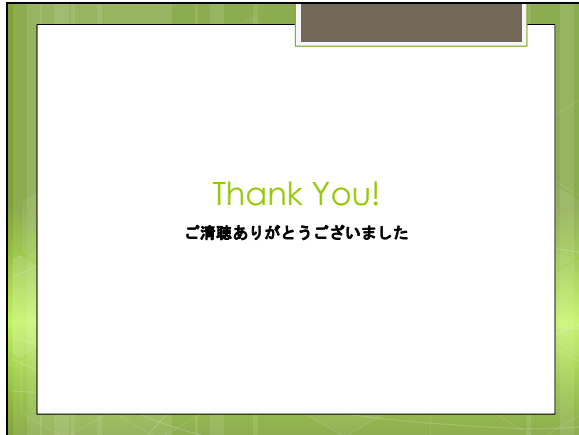
- This policy will serve two purposes;
  - Encourage interaction among Japanese and International students
  - Change the students' mindset toward learning English/Japanese and meeting other foreigners

## Conclusion : An international-friendly Japan

- Bilingual policies in public places
  - Direction of the transportation
  - Emergency announcement
  - Direction in Public organizations in Japanese
- Language exchange students program in Japan

## An international-friendly Japan

- International society in a domestic setting
- Making positive international relations
  - Solve problems and build a better society



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## Group 6: Considering Nuclear Power: Energy, Environment, and Economy

Sho Tsujimoto (Meiji University)

Minaho Kibo (Tsuda College)

Robyn Biggar (University of Prince Edward Island)

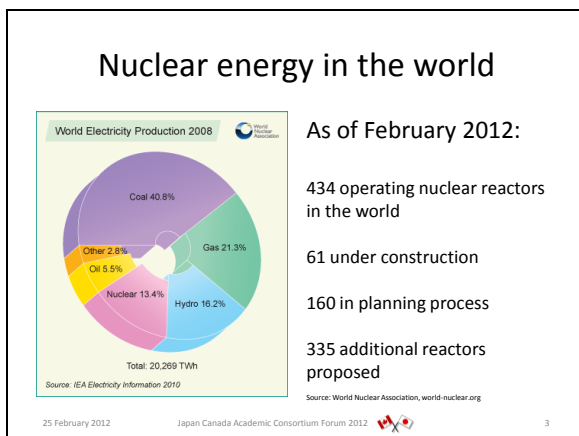
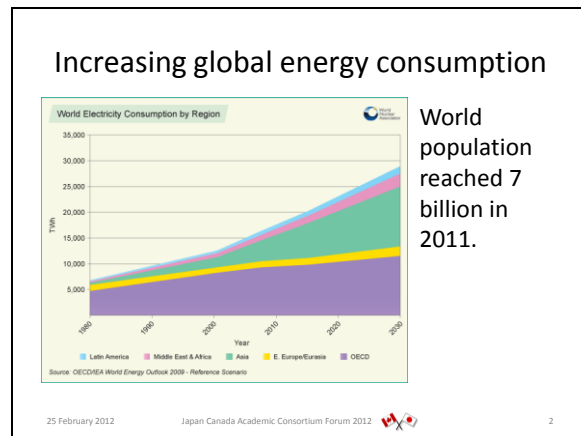
Yuumi Currah (University of Alberta)

Saika Nagai (Sophia University)

Group 6

### Considering Nuclear Power: Environment, Economy, Energy

Robyn Biggar, University of Prince Edward Island  
Yuumi Currah, University of Alberta  
Minaho Kibo, Tsuda College  
Saika Nagai, Sophia University  
Sho Tsujimoto, Meiji University



### Why worry about nuclear power now?

Canada: 18 reactors, 15% of electricity  
Japan: 50 reactors, 30% of electricity

Source: World Nuclear Organization, world-nuclear.org

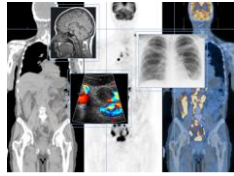
25 February 2012 Japan Canada Academic Consortium Forum 2012



Energy



Nuclear fuel banks



Medical radioisotopes



Nuclear weapons, political instability, human conflict

25 February 2012

Japan Canada Academic Consortium Forum 2012



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## Environment

25 February 2012

Japan Canada Academic Consortium Forum 2012

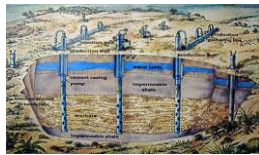


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## Pre-Consumption Impact



Open-Pit Mining



In-Situ Leaching



Transportation



Enrichment/Refining

25 February 2012

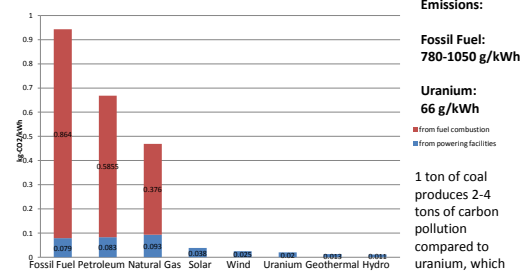
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## Post-Consumption Impacts

comparing CO2 emissions of different power sources



Emissions:

**Fossil Fuel:**  
780-1050 g/kWh

**Uranium:**  
66 g/kWh

■ from fuel combustion  
■ from power facilities

1 ton of coal produces 2-4 tons of carbon pollution compared to uranium, which produces none.

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## Disaster Impacts



Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

104 spills 1997-1998

Eco-system and life devastation

Released gases



Fukushima

Radiation

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## Economy



## Power provides us wealth



It enables us to have dynamic industry.  
It also offers us employment, and enriches countryside areas.

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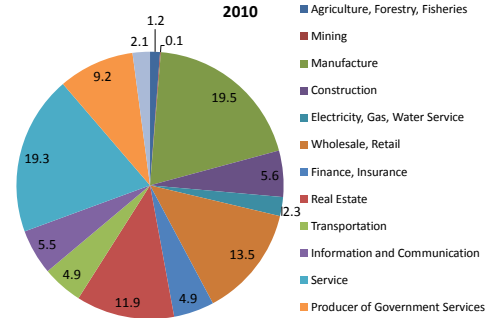
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## Industry contributing to GDP (Japan)

(unit : %)

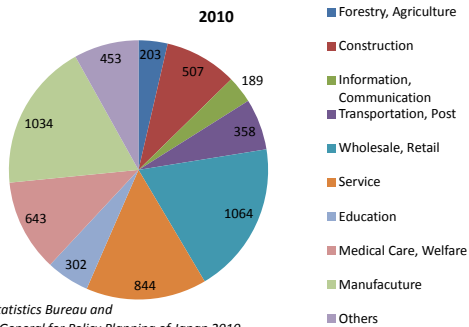


Source: The Statistics Bureau and the Director-General for Policy Planning of Japan 2010.

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## Composition ratio of employees by industry

(unit : ten thousand)



Source: The Statistics Bureau and the Director-General for Policy Planning of Japan 2010.

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## Main ten items of Japanese exportation(2010)

1, Cars	13.6 (%)
2, Electronic Components for Semiconductors	6.2
3, Steel	5.5
4, Car Components	4.6
5, Plastics	3.5
6, Motors	3.5
7, Ships	3.3
8, Scientific Optical Instruments	3.0
9, Organic Compounds	2.8
10, Equipments for Electric Circuit	2.6

Source: Japan Fair Trade Commission 2010.

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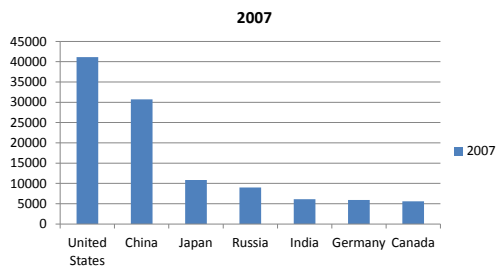
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## Energy consumption by country

(unit : hundred million kWh)



Source: The Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan.

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- We need so much power to maintain this economy.
- The Japanese Government had promoted nuclear power in particular.

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## Why Nuclear Power?

① Japan has few natural resources.



Japan imports  
99.6% of oil  
96.4% of natural gas  
99% of coal

Source: Agency for Natural Resources and Energy 2006, 2005.

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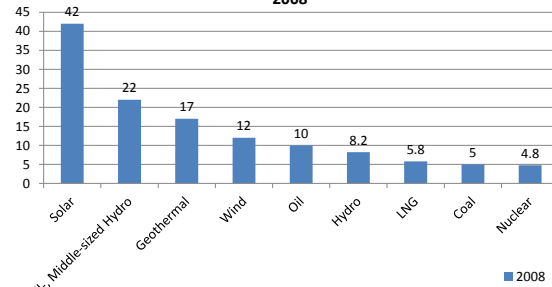


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## Unit price of power generation

(unit : Yen/kWh)

2008



Source: Energy White Paper 2008

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## Why Nuclear Power?

- Except for being a public servant, a fisherman, or a farmer, few jobs are available.
- Villages and towns in countryside are suffering from depopulation.



② Hosting a nuclear power plant is a solution for local small government.

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## In case of Higashi Dori Village

- Population: 7,000.
- Main industry: fishing.
- Has several nuclear power plants: one in suspension (started in 2005), one in under construction, two are in plan.
- Has received 15.7 billion yen (CAN\$ 196,250, 000) for 30 years.



Source: Asahi Shimbun May 7, 2011., Feb 19, 2012.

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# Energy



## From a scientific point of view...

- Efficiency
- Stability
- Technical potentials in the future

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# Energy efficiency

	2020年 2020		
	nuclear power	solar power	wind power
Capacity	1million 100万kw	3.5kw (per roof)	1,000 kW
utilization rate	30%	11%	20%
number of fuel bases	3分半 3分半	7分半 7分半	4,000
site area	33 Nagoya Dome	1,380 Nagoya Dome	5,107 Nagoya Dome

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## Stability

- difficult to shut down the whole system once started
- keeps on heating for about 10years

→needs cooling

# Technical difficulties for maintaining stability

BWR (Boiling Water Reactor): same type as Fukushima steam condenser

The diagram illustrates the BWR system components and their interactions:

- Nuclear reactor:** Contains nuclear fuel (燃料) and control rods (制御棒) submerged in water (水). The water is heated by the fuel, creating steam (蒸気).
- Pressure control:** A pressure control tank (原子炉圧力容器) is connected to the reactor to maintain water pressure and prevent boiling.
- Steam cycle:** The steam (蒸気) from the reactor drives the turbine (タービン), which is connected to the generator (発電機) to produce electricity (発電機). The steam is then condensed back into water (水) in a condenser (凝縮器).
- Water circulation:** The condensed water is pumped back to the reactor by a feed pump (給水ポンプ). The condenser is cooled by sea water (海水) through a cooling loop (冷却水).
- Control system:** A control rod (制御棒) is used to regulate the nuclear reaction. A pressure control tank (原子炉圧力容器) is also shown.
- Other components:** A control rod (制御棒) is shown, and a pressure control tank (原子炉圧力容器) is also shown.

Nuclear fission → vapor steam → turbine → converts into electric power

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- gets up to 280 degree Celsius under the pressure of 70 atmospheres
  - once operated, will keep on heating for 10years
- 
- (WASH-1400報告、1975年より)
- ↑  
Heat rate
- 10.0  
1.0  
0.1  
0.01
- 0.1 1 10<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>3</sup> 10<sup>4</sup> 10<sup>5</sup> 10<sup>6</sup> 10<sup>7</sup> 10<sup>8</sup> 10<sup>9</sup> 秒
- 時間
- 1 期間  
1 日  
1 週  
1 月  
1 年  
10
- Time axis →
- Japan Canada Academic Consortium Forum 2012
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What caused Fukushima?

the control rod affected by the tsunami

↓

no cooling

↓

nuclear reactor kept heated

↓

temperature reached almost 400 degree Celsius

**Melt down**

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# New technology

Regarding...

- Fuel: take good control of the fuel rod
- Material: high durable and strong material required
- Cycle of power system: an improvement plan/innovative way to deal with the highly concentrated radioactive substance and the reprocess-able substance needed

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## Where to build the plant

Generally: plants in Japan have to be located on solid rock formed before the Tertiary period

Possibilities of locating it under ground or on the sea?

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## Conclusion

Education change our views

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## FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS

### CANADIAN STUDENTS

What significance does the 3.11 Tohoku Earthquake have to Japan? Is it different from other countries' perspectives? How is my perception of the current state of Japan different from others? During my short one-week-long stay in Japan, these were the questions that always lingered inside my head. I found that I could not come up with answers on my own, and hoped that talking to various people in Japan would help me find the solutions. Over the course of 8 days and 7 nights, I was able to meet fourteen other distinguished delegates from Canadian universities, and fifteen delegates along with volunteers from Japanese universities who were just as gifted and intelligent and formed the 2012 Japan-Canada Academic Consortium. I was especially glad to find out that each participant had insightful thoughts about Japan. By listening to their stories and working alongside with them, I was never more motivated to pursue deeper into the issues that surrounded Japan, and also the world at large. Through the experiences I shared with my fellow participants, I gained a number of valuable insights that helped me come up with a conclusion of my own. Therefore, it is my utmost hope that my thoughts will encourage others to find out more about the importance of, not simply Japan, but also the nations across the world in cooperating with one another.

Compared to Japan, Canada is mostly spared from the threat of earthquakes. Although the West Coast in British Columbia is considered as part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, the last time the region had experienced a sizeable earthquake was in 1946, when a 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck a remote location on Vancouver Island, resulting in casualties of two people. On the other hand, looking at the world earthquake map, one will find it difficult to spot Japan under the bed of big and small red dots. Japan's long history of natural disasters, mostly of earthquakes, tsunamis, and typhoons, has trained its people for a sudden strike. Should an earthquake occur, they would be ready, or so they thought. Twice in recent years, Japan was devastated by an earthquake; in 1995 in Kobe, and in 2011 in Tohoku. The Great Hanshin Earthquake in Kobe claimed the lives of 6,300 people, and left over 300,000 people homeless. However, Kobe recovered. Over the following years, Kobe rebuilt and repopulated itself to become one of the major industrial cities in Western Japan. So, one may ask, what makes the 3.11 Tohoku Earthquake different? It was the biggest earthquake ever recorded in Japan, and is considered one of the world's five biggest earthquakes ever recorded in history. Claiming the lives of 15,850 people and costing over \$235 billion USD, it is the most expensive natural disaster in world history. Despite its sheer scale of destruction, the world at large remained sympathetic at best; simply another earthquake in a natural disaster prone country. For many of those sitting in their rooms watching the news, they could only imagine the terror and tragedy. *How big is magnitude of 9.0 anyway?* However, when the tsunamis struck the Fukushima nuclear plants, perhaps fear is the best word to describe the state of mind that swept across the globe. *Is it going to be another Chernobyl? How deadly is the nuclear radiation? Most importantly, am I going to be okay?* As an example, 8,000 kilometers away from the epicentre, US and Canadian citizens near the West Coast were hoarding "anti-radiation" pills, and companies that sold them suddenly found themselves sitting on a fortune. Thankfully, many governments and people across the world offered their help by means of donations, labour, natural resources, and even skills and expertise. The numerous aftershocks that continued to shake Japan afterwards could also be felt across the world in the automobile industry, in stock markets, in government policies, and also in how people think and behave about natural disasters. The 3.11 Tohoku Earthquake effectively alarmed the world that even natural disasters were no longer one country's sole responsibility to bear.

Could natural disasters be prevented? As was the case of Japan, perhaps not completely. However, could the damage be mitigated? By offering help in the earthquake relief effort, many world leaders

have shown their capability to support their friends in times of need, but the media has spent more time focusing on selling the fear. I myself was advised by a few concerned friends that Japan was too dangerous to visit. Few ever knew that, even after Tokyo came to a stop, there was no panic on the streets. No frantic screaming, running, or rioting, but just people who were quietly walking home. As citizens who were living far away, we must question ourselves, would the same thing have happened in our country? Vancouver's reaction to losing the Stanley Cup Final last year brings doubt to my mind. As our world becomes smaller, the influence of worldly issues is becoming more and more important, even if it is happening halfway across the globe. In the coming generation, our individual role and capacity in being able to contribute to international cooperation between nations is expected to rise as well. Therefore, increasing our knowledge of what is going on around the world will not only be crucial, but also necessary in building ourselves into fine global-minded citizens of tomorrow.

- *Tae Ahn, University of Alberta*

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Although I was elated upon learning that I had been selected by the University of British Columbia for this conference, I was skeptical in many ways. I only returned to North America after a year in Japan six months ago, so although I felt I could contribute in many ways to the conference, I wasn't certain that it would be from the perspective expected of me. For many of the other Canadian students, Japan was exciting and, if not new, at least a departure from the everyday. For me, returning to the Kansai area was a return to an everyday I had left only recently. The television commercials were still similar; I found I still had a balance on my transit card; and I saw acquaintances by chance on the street. Yet, despite these continuities, the conference gave me the opportunity to learn a great deal more and move beyond the familiarity.

While participating in the forum, I realized that I had not been exposed to a very diverse group of Japanese students. Through the forum, I met people from diverse regions of Japan and many Japanese who had lived overseas. This was a new experience for me, as almost everybody I knew in Japan was from the Kansai region, spoke Kansai dialect, and while many had traveled overseas, few had lived abroad. It was interesting to hear their perspectives on the Kansai region and on many different topics where opinions and experience can vary regionally. For example, my experience of 3/11 was a very Kansai experience. I knew some people in Tokyo, but very few and we were only affected by government and university policy regarding the earthquake, not by the event itself. Through the forum I was able to learn a good deal more about the actual experience and was able to move beyond what was replayed on television without end in the days after.

In addition, despite the fact I have lived in Canada for three years, this is one of the few times that I have had the privilege to meet a large number of students from eastern Canada, as most students I know at my university are local to the lower mainland of British Columbia, Alberta, or are from outside of Canada. At the forum I met a variety of people from Ontario, Quebec, and even PEI. This was a great experience for me as I know very little about eastern Canada and haven't had much chance to learn more.

Beyond the social and networking aspects of the forum, I was able to develop a deeper understanding of the ideas of awareness and international communication, which was the focus of our presentation. Prior to the forum, my beliefs about globalization and exchange focused largely on study abroad and student exchange programs, in large part due to my work and experiences at UBC. However, now I have been able to broaden my perspective to view international exchange from a variety of new angles including volunteering, and communication through several media.

In conclusion, this program has shown me that despite studying in one part of a country for a year or several years, I still have a long way to go to learn more deeply about my host countries. I realized how limited my exposure has been to people from around Canada and Japan during my time in university. This has inspired me to pursue opportunities to travel and become involved in new regions of places I already thought I was familiar with. It has been an amazing opportunity and I feel incredibly proud and thankful to have been involved.

*-Peter Arbaugh, University of British Columbia*

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Participating in the 2012 Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum was an amazing experience, one of the richest and fulfilling of my life. The forum was, at the same time, stimulating intellectually and an amazing opportunity to meet and get to know incredible people with different academic and cultural backgrounds. It was the perfect combination of an academic event and of a social and cultural event. I truly feel lucky to have had the opportunity to participate in this year's forum.

The objective of the forum, permitting exchanges and learning between students from Japan and Canada, is quite ambitious for a six-day forum, but I think it was attained. Of course, I did not get to know all of the participating students as much as I would have liked, but I had great exchanges and discussions with several of them and I certainly know more about Japanese culture and society than before. Japan is fascinating and so different from Canada, but at the same time, Canada and Japan face similar challenges. I could not have realized that, while at the same time having the opportunity to share so much with Japanese people, without going to Japan and without the opportunity to meet students from all over Japan. Canada is a very diverse country culturally. The forum was therefore not only an occasion to exchange with Japanese students, but also with Canadian students from other parts of the country.

Group work is already a challenge, so cross-cultural group work was even more so. It was difficult, but I'm glad to have had the opportunity to experience it and be able to learn from it. There was not a lot of group work involved throughout my undergraduate degree, the challenge was therefore new, but very instructive. The activities proposed on the first day about intercultural communication and group dynamics were interesting and telling. Although they were short, they helped me to understand how each country's students typically interact with other people and they helped us all become aware of cultural differences and move beyond them to truly exchange.

I did not take the opportunity to do an exchange program during my undergraduate program. The forum was therefore a great opportunity to meet students from other places in Canada and from Japan in an academic context. I most definitely want to come back to Japan soon and get to know more about Japanese people and society. The forum made me experience the advantage of cross-cultural collaborations, as we all have different perspectives, and we can enrich each others' ideas by confronting them to others' views. At the same time, this experience also underlined that knowledge of the other's culture and curiosity are essential features of productive cross-cultural group work and of mutual understanding. As a political science student, the forum made me realize how important it is to know a culture to fully understand political phenomena, and the best way to get to know a culture is by spending time with local people. It also made me understand the value of learning and questioning local people about a local phenomenon. From a distance, you can understand a phenomenon, but only with the eyes of a foreigner. This does not mean your understanding is false, but naturally it will be

biased; talking with local people, or with whomever for that matter, will positively complement your own ideas.

In conclusion, the forum was an amazing experience. Thank you for permitting me to take part in this incredible event.

*- Jasmine Belanger-Gulick, University of Montreal*

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One week to experience a people, a culture, a forum – and branching from these, hundreds of ideas from perspectives I could never consider on my own. JACAC provided an opportunity for me in one week that I never thought possible. I was in a constant state of admiration and exploration when in Japan. This was a country, an island, with such a firm culture, influential history, and beautiful scenery that even being someone who had never been before, I could feel a connection among the people there that was different from Canada. Japan inspired me, and it was because of JACAC and the phenomenal work that was done to organize and encourage thought and insight. For those involved in making the program a reality: Thank You! To put so much effort into organizing such an event for the benefit of 30 young minds is exactly what inspires those same 30 to reach out and do something just as inspiring and influential in their own lives.

Through the people and support of JACAC and through the participants, the knowledge and wisdom that I have gained will forever influence my future decisions and actions. Professor, and former ambassador, Kazuo Ogoura taught the significance in the ways we interact, how important such communication is for it communicate something more profound – respect and intention through symbols. Professor Monte Cassim inspired the group with the power of creation and innovation contrasting with actions that consequentially lead to destruction and how we can approach such problems. I learned that travel experience is not what photos you can take, but how you can influence and take from where you travel to in a positive and meaningful way. What all of these ideas have in common is that man and woman do not stand alone, but come together to make a difference. Through JACAC, through research collaboration, through exchange of ideas – this is not just what JACAC was trying to embody, it is life itself. Doing anything but enriching the world you live in through creativity and respecting all that is around you would be denying what joys life can bring.

I was so lucky to have an amazing team of students to work with during the week. It was through them that I experienced Japan, and their range of personalities and input all came together at the end. I enjoyed working with them and enjoyed the effort we all put into our project. Our Japanese members overcame a difficult language barrier, and our Canadian members became accustomed to an entirely different (although in ways, similar) culture.

Being from a very small town, I have not truly lived in this global world. I have never taken an anthropology class (although not from a lack of interest) and I have never travelled abroad. This experience has demonstrated to me that the world is mine to travel, learn from, develop from, and take care of in return. I want to travel and study abroad more than ever. But I have also learned to admire my own country, and so before I travel the world I am preparing by experiencing my own country. I am going to live on the other side of Canada for this summer so that when I do travel abroad in my future, I can bring more than just Prince Edward Island: I can bring pieces of my entire country.

This entire experience could not be analyzed into smaller pieces to discuss a single event that ‘made’ this opportunity for me. It was everything together, it was the whole – the people, Japan, the ideas, the

actions, and its entirety into one experience that is my own but also one that I have shared with a group of amazing and brilliant minds that I hope will be my future. One week was not enough, but that only suggests that this forum was a great success! Once again, Thank You!

- Robyn Biggar, University of Prince Edward Island

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When my University first informed me about the forum, I was really excited by this opportunity. When they announced that I was chosen as a candidate, I was amazingly happy. I have always been fascinated about Japan and its culture, but never had the chance to visit the country. Furthermore, since I didn't take part in a student exchange during my studies, it was a good way to live an academic experience in a foreign country.

I was gladly surprised with the high quality of the organization of the consortium (conferences, host professors, hotel, welcome dinner, farewell party, etc.). The final ceremony was quite amazing, considering the special guests invited and the delicious buffet served.

This forum was an amazing opportunity to travel and live a unique experience with a wonderful group of Canadian and Japanese students. I've learned so much on Japan, Canada and myself through this teamwork experience. My knowledge of Japan, its language and social reality is now incredibly enhanced. I believe the conversations I had with fellow Japanese students were very beneficial for my understanding of Japan. As well, the friendships I built here will last for good.

I am extremely proud of the work we achieved with my group. Since I am doing an internship in an environmental NGO and working as a tour guide, the subject we chose (sustainable tourism) was highly motivating. I believe each member of the group was able to relate this theme to their respective academic backgrounds. Since we had different perspectives on sustainable tourism and different examples in mind, our discussions were extremely interesting. What I am most proud of is not so much our work in itself and the award we won, but the cooperation and mutual understanding behind it.

The consortium was a real success, and I can only wish we had more time together in Japan. I sincerely want to thank the organizers, Prince Takamado Japan Center for Teaching and Research, Ritsumeikan University, University of Alberta, Meiji University and JACAC for having given me the chance to live such a memorable experience

- Samuel Briere, University of Montreal

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This year's JACAC Student Forum in Kyoto was certainly an experience of a lifetime for me, and probably for every other student who participated. In addition to being a very successful event for exchanges and mutual understanding between Canadian and Japanese students, it was an extraordinary experience on a personal level.

There were a number of impressive and positive aspects to this program. Two of the most positive elements were the structure and the supervision. Indeed, the structure of the forum not only allowed the students to learn a lot about Japan, Canada and the relations between these two countries, but also enabled them to discover a new culture and to tie excellent bonds with the other students. I had plenty of time to discuss with our fellow classmates and to visit Kyoto, which provided me with a different

understanding of the Japanese culture and mentality. As for the supervision, the students had easy access to professors and teaching assistants, who could provide very useful information on our work or even be of great help to discover the city. Another positive aspect of this year's forum was the guest speeches: they were extremely interesting and varied, and they allowed the students to gain insight on a variety of different topics. Finally, everybody was really nice and likeable, and the Japanese students were eager to show us their culture, which was immensely interesting and fun.

The JACAC Student Forum was an intellectually rewarding experience. As a student in international relations with a multidisciplinary background, I especially appreciated the multidisciplinary approach of the guest speakers, specifically Dr. Cassim's presentation. This approach gave us an interesting perception on many questions regarding Japan, Canada, and the relations between our two countries. Additionally, as I didn't know much about Japanese society, culture and mentality, spending time with Japanese students around Kyoto was profoundly fulfilling. A few simple conversations with my fellow classmates helped me understand this country and its people a little better. We also had many discussions on both the Canadian – and Western – society and the Japanese society, comparing many different aspects of those cultures and trying to understand each other a little better. Overall, I believe that every student went home with a new understanding of a different culture and with lessons from their counterparts that can be applied in their own country.

Having already studied and worked abroad, I consider myself as a student open to international experiences. This forum has not modified my openness to studying abroad, and I might even consider doing a semester abroad in Japan for my master's degree, if possible. However, the conference speakers and my fellow classmates were instrumental in my realizing the importance of mutual understanding between countries and actors in international relations (IR). It has become increasingly important to view IR as more than countries conducting international affairs with other countries according to their interests, but also as individuals and groups who interact with each other and need to achieve mutual understanding to attain their goals.

In conclusion, the JACAC Student Forum was an incredible experience that allowed me to learn a lot about Japan and gain a deeper understanding of the Japanese society. I'll be forever grateful to have had the chance to contribute and benefit from this forum.

- *Simon Brodeur, University of Montreal*

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My journey was initiated one cold evening by my Japanese sensei's promotions of the JACAC program at the University of British Columbia. As she rambled off about the specifications of the program, my mind wandered off as I thought, "How likely would it be that I get chosen?". Eventually, my interest was captured as she listed the program topics and the activities that would take place during the week. I applied. I was accepted. My journey began.

The forum was a culturally integrated program that placed us 15 Canadian students into a completely different society where we were supposed to work, play, and adapt ourselves to an environment entirely new and foreign. This was why I loved it. In whichever city we toured, whether it was Kobe, Osaka, or Kyoto, there was always a local resident who was happy to show us around. The experience was amazing since we got to interact with all the local students and it felt as if we were living in the country rather than visiting it as tourists. Pretty much everybody I met was extremely kind and our whole group bonded well together. Whether it was sightseeing, group-working, eating, or partying, there were plenty of smiles and laughs to go around. I really enjoyed the warm atmosphere and I felt

that the JACAC coordinators had done an excellent job setting up the stage for that!

I felt that I had really learned a plethora of things about Japanese culture by living, studying, and working with the local students. This experience was rather different from my first time in Japan, where I was a tourist and I had come with my family to visit. This time around, I really got to enjoy some of the night life, the local restaurants and simply just tour around with my new found friends. The forum itself taught me plenty of things as well. The enriching lectures truly educated me about various things that I have not considered before. My favorite lecture was on non-verbal communication, where I finally realized that I had to take more care in my actions when residing in a foreign country. This really changed my way of thinking and definitely will stay with me for the rest of my life. The group projects were extremely engaging and I had a great time working with my team.

To all the supporters, the JACAC institutions, and Ritsumeikan University, I would truly like you thank you for putting so much time and effort into the JACAC program. This forum is definitely one of the best programs that I have ever experienced and the memories that I have created will stay with me forever.

*- Gabriel Chen, University of British Columbia*

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If I had the opportunity, I would participate in this forum again. I was impressed by the students selected for this program; they were great company, easy companions and interesting group members. Unfortunately, I did not get to know everyone as well as I would have liked, but then again one week is not enough time to get to know 30 people. The accommodations were very comfortable and close to campus. Visiting Kyoto was a wonderful experience, and I appreciated the bus/subway pass provided by Ritsumeikan University. I wish the forum work had been scheduled to begin after noon everyday so we could spend more daytime exploring Kyoto and experiencing Japan. It was wonderful to see Princess Takamado present for the closing ceremony, and I was most impressed by her speech.

The program itself ran smoothly, though it would have been nice to know more about the field trip beforehand. Even so, the field trip to the Hanshin Earthquake Memorial, Chinatown and Glicopia were informative and enjoyable.

The forum topic was very broad and difficult to narrow down in the time we were given, but it was important and relevant, especially in the wake of 3.11. I was hoping that the lectures would provide guidance as to what approaches we could take that would address disaster, regeneration and international relations. I now think that this forum was about group work and cooperation between countries at the individual level more than anything else, and on that front, I think the forum was a success.

Based on my experience at the forum and my other trips to Japan, I am interested in participating in more events like this during my Master's degree.

*-Yuumi Currah, University of Alberta*

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Before I arrived in Kyoto, Japan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Japan-Canada Consortium Forum, I did not know what to expect. I was not sure if it was going to be an extremely formal event and if the students

were going to be competitive, making it difficult to interact. I was so glad to find out it was not like this. While a certain level of professionalism was expected, I never felt that we were pressured to act a certain way. Everyone that helped with this event was extremely warm and welcoming which helped us relax in the beginning stages of this forum. I loved that they went above and beyond in trying to unite all the students, and considering that we are all still friends, I think it is fair to say that they were extremely successful in this effort. I would also like to take the time to point out the hospitality. I have been to conferences before and the hospitality at this forum far exceeded any others I have attended. You could tell that all staff and volunteers cared about us getting to know one another and put in a lot of effort to do so by holding dinners or excursions in order to promote this.

I also valued the lecturers that JACAC took the time and effort to find. The lectures that were presented were on very interesting topics while not being too difficult in case people from outside the relative field could understand and engage in discussion. I also appreciated that many of the lecturers were very welcoming and easy to talk to. I know that many of us left this forum with a multitude of business cards in our pockets which sheds a bright light on our futures. These are people that understand the importance of a forum such as this, and who I am sure will be glad to work with us students in the future.

On a final note I would like to address the importance that this forum put on internationalization. I like that they did not solely promote internationalizing your degree. They discussed internationalizing your life, experiences, and friends. It was encouraged for us to immerse ourselves in other cultures in order to get the true beauty and enjoyment out of our travelling experiences. I think that this truly benefited all of the participants in the end. We were thinking about and seeing Japan through this international lens and therefore, I believe that we saw and experienced things in Japan we wouldn't have otherwise noticed. It led to us fully benefiting from this amazing opportunity that I am proud and grateful to have been a part of.

- *Andrijana Djokic, York University*

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In the actual context of globalization, many thinkers and deciders have had the great idea to enhance and improve the bilateral relations between Japan and Canada. From this starting point emerged great initiatives such as an academic consortium, JACAC, and foundations to promote and support new ideas, like the Prince Takamado Japan Center. As a very lucky participant of the 3<sup>rd</sup> JACAC student forum, I will discuss and elaborate on my thoughts and experiences during and after the forum.

What I think was the most impressive in this program was its very goal, which was to promote the relationship between Japan and Canada through an activity with their respective students. To think that there are people out there working, and funding such a remarkable programs left a great impression on me.

I was quite impressed also by everyone - participants, assistants and organizers as well - their will and dedication to make this forum a success. Languages, cultural differences, fatigue, etc. were neither obstacles nor burdens during the time of the forum; rather they were a new source of motivation to learn about each other, and to make new friends.

I gained a lot during the forum. First of all, thanks to Horie Sensei's presentations, and to the kindness of all the Japanese participants, I learned about the Japanese casual customs, and how to deal with these differences. The speakers' presentations too were really interesting. The quality of their



presentations, with the family atmosphere, made the experience very beneficial. Because I'm much more into politics, I preferred Mr. Petersson's presentation. This was an amazing speech by someone dealing with complicated international policies, but still honoring his ideals.

But my outcomes were way more than the knowledge I gained. I've made new friends and learned a bit about myself. Studying in science and engineering for three years, I'm seldom given the opportunity to search and share about politics and cultural ideas. Yes, I worked hard during the forum, but for me it was a relaxing and beneficial experience.

More than ever, I want to study abroad and I want to make sure that, in my life, I will carry on this kind of sharing experiences with other cultures. I already planned to complete my graduate studies in Japan, and the fact that I learned - through my fellow Japanese participants - how the real Japan was (and when to say *sumimasen!*) contributed to my determination to carry on with this plan. The forum helped me understand that even if the cultural differences are huge, we are still just people who love to eat, to laugh and to be listened to (even to sing!). If we keep that in mind, the world is ours, so big, but yet so small.

- Samuel Lemieux, Laval University

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To be honest, I was quite nervous before attending the forum. I knew I was one of the younger participants, and thus had less academic experience than the others. I felt unprepared, and was also a little doubtful about whether or not all of us participants – from such different cultural, linguistic, social, and academic backgrounds – could get along and work together in the span of just a single week.

As it turned out, I had absolutely no reason to worry! Travelling with other Canadian participants all the way to Kyoto already brought us together, and meeting the rest of the students later eased my fears – everyone was very eager to learn from and teach each other, and by the end of the first day, we all felt like close friends. I will never forget the warm welcome and care the Japanese students showed us: making sure we were adjusting to our new surroundings, not getting lost, visiting traditional sites and trying amazing Japanese foods. Exploring the beautiful city of Kyoto and experiencing Japanese culture as a group in and outside the program activities allowed me the chance to learn firsthand from the Japanese participants things that are not taught in typical classrooms.

The unique aspect of the forum was that it brought together people across both Canada and Japan, and offered the rare opportunity to see many different perspectives through the students, guest speakers, professors, and assistants. For me, working in a group with two native French-speaking students and two native Japanese students, all with varying academic focuses, was an enriching challenge. Usually, in regular university courses, this does not occur, as most people are from the same discipline, or group work is not required – yet such a mixture of viewpoints and interests are, as we have learned throughout the program, essential in almost all types of real-world collaborations. Aside from learning about Japan, I also realized that I still have a lot to learn about my *own* country – through interaction with participants from other provinces as well as the sessions.

On another note, the involvement of various dignitaries and distinguished guests truly made me feel, for the first time, that the thoughts and opinions of young university students like us are valued and our efforts highly encouraged; that we *can*, and *should*, make contributions to society. However, there was not as much time to prepare for the presentations as we would have liked. It seemed like for most groups, the first half of the week was spent trying to decide on and outline a clear topic, and though I

agree that engaging in this process ourselves was important – it was just frustrating, as time could have been better spent working on the actual presentation instead of doing most of it on the last two days.

Despite being short, the JACAC 2012 Forum was still absolutely amazing and the best academic and intercultural experience I've had so far. I feel very honoured to have been able to participate, and endlessly thankful to all the organizers, supporters, program director and assistants for making such a wonderful opportunity possible, and at practically no cost to us participants. It is hard to sum up a phenomenal week full of enriching experiences and precious memories in just one report, but if I were to only highlight one thing, it would be the tight friendships that were formed and strong connections forged between all corners of Japan and Canada. Every one of us had tons of fun interacting with each other, and cannot wait to visit one another's towns and countries. We finished the forum with sadness that our time together had ended, but with a sense of hope and confidence in the future, knowing that we can now make use of these bonds and continue to exchange ideas and strengthen the ties between our two nations – sharing similar ideals despite having quite widely differing cultures.

As for me, it also heightened my motivation to go to Japan for an exchange year in the near future. The country does not seem so foreign to me anymore, and I know I have dear friends I can find and ask help from if necessary. I definitely would like to help promote the JACAC student forum more and as the Forum is to be held at my school in 2013, help out as much as possible. I would love to join again, but also by encouraging other students to participate, more connections can be fostered between Canada and Japan. Just as we have discovered through the forum, I believe these types of person-to-person, individual and small-group relationships are the building blocks for future cooperation and mutual understanding between different nations for a truly better, more united world.

- *Katy Shum, York University*

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What an adventure! The Japan Canada Academic Consortium (JACAC) Student Forum went above all my expectations. Sadly, after a culturally intense week in Japan I felt that 7 days were not enough to exchange on complex themes like environment or natural disaster preparedness.

First I want to thank the staff in both Canada and in Japan for the incredible work they did to make the Forum such a success. I really appreciated the great selection of activities and speakers they had for us. It was extremely relevant to the main theme as well as to my personal interests. Everything, every detail was perfect to me, and I am sure that all my fellow participants will agree with me on this.

Looking back to this unique experience, it is difficult to find the right words to express how much I benefitted from it. It helped me grow as an aware global citizen and as a true friend of Japan. I learned so many new things, among them, cultural communication, tourism as a cultural experience and international cooperation in time of disaster. But above all, the presentation of Professor Monte Cassim and the winning-presentation on sustainable tourism reminded me of the severity of the world environmental situation and the need for each of us to take action at our level. Thus, if I have to remember one thing about the Forum it is that the relationship between two countries is really about the people and not just about government having diplomatic ties. We are prime actors in international relations and for that we need to take action on issues that really matter to us such as the environment. In the case of sustainable tourism, it is just about raising consciousness at the citizen level at home and in countries we visit. We do not need the help of government to take these actions. It is simple and it can make the difference for the environment and create new economic opportunities.

The JACAC Forum allowed me to get a grasp of what mutual understanding really means. Though I read about it in order to prepare myself to the Forum, now I understand that it is part of things you absolutely have to experience to get the meaning of the concept.

I will never forget the warm welcome of the local staff and of the participants. It was very touching. During the farewell party I was moved by the speech of our special guest and the story of the foundation of the Prince Takamado Japan Center. Being different but living peacefully together and understanding each other - this is the key to the emergence of a successful global community.

This experience also showed me that despite appearances and beyond the surface, young people, Japanese or Canadian, share the same concern for the future, common ideals, and common dreams. So I figured out that ideals for a better future are stronger than cultural differences and create a perfect starting point for a long-term relationship between people and between countries.

Now, all I can think about is finding a way to come back to Japan for academic purposes. I want to keep learning about and furthering my understanding of Japanese culture. Again, thank you to the Prince Takamado Japan Center and the University of Alberta, to Ritsumeikan University and to Meiji University for organizing this Forum and giving me the chance to live this unique opportunity. And thank you Japan for being so amazing!

- *Murielle Timbo, Laval University*

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Amazing— the one word that I would choose to summarize my experience at the Japan Canada Academic Consortium (JACAC) Student Forum. From the moment I departed my hometown, til the day I bade farewell to my newly made friends from all over Japan and Canada, it was non-stop adventures, inspiring lectures, eye-opening intellectual and cultural insights, and unforgettable new experiences.

I would like to take this chance to thank the organizers, Prince Takamado Japan Center for Teaching and Research, University of Alberta, Ritsumeikan University, Meiji University, and of course, JACAC for planning such an organized, exciting, and well-thought out conference. Notably, I enjoyed the diverse selection of guest speakers, who themselves were great presenters with interesting perspectives and had interactive conversations with the student audience. Also, I am extremely thankful and grateful for the warm hospitality of the assistants and professors at Ritsumeikan University. They were surely 100% dedicated to the event and sacrificed their precious time to support and stay with the participants until late at night. In particular, I would especially like to thank Miki Horie Sensei for her kindness and utmost dedication.

Though the JACAC forum was just one week (too short, in my opinion), I have learned so many things and developed many friendships, that I'm sure, will last for a lifetime. I learned that Japan and Canada's strong relationship is bound by our common ideals. I am reminded of the urgency of our global environmental issues, especially when we will reach our carbon footprint threshold in less than 30 years (Professor Monte Cassim). I was taught that when marketing tourism, it's not about the destination; it's about providing a unique experience. I realized that, no matter how similar to us someone else seems, the paths that they've chosen to take to arrive at the same place as us, will never be the same as ours, and most likely different beyond our imagination. And by discovering these differences, we can learn of new ways to look at life, to think of life and to live life.

If I was given the opportunity to go back in time and to change one thing about this year's conference, it would be nothing. Sure, there may be some things that could have been done better, such as organizing more large-group events, sending out the forum schedule earlier, or extending the conference for an extra week. But these suggestions are only good for a future conference. The JACAC Student Forum, just as it was, provided just the right amount of fun and learning. It was perfect.

- *Angle Tse, Queen's University*

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The whole program itself was really impressive: The motivation, the organization and the kindness of the people. The level of motivation was really high. Everyone was listening and participating in the lessons and the group works were more than amazing. The fact that we could choose our subject within a general theme allowed us all the flexibility to really have great synergy inside the group. I think that the organization of the forum made a perfect work for the planning and the coordination of all the activities and the elements for preparing students for the forum. Before, during and after the event, there was good communication with the group and everything went without problems and major complications - which is a really important element in this kind of events.

I also enjoyed the selection of guest speakers. They were great presenters with interesting visions with nice interactions with the audience. The fact that the forum had no real big financial charge was really impressive too. It was an important contribution to the success of the forum. By having all of the people who had a scholarship to come overseas, it forced us to have more focus on the lessons and group project. However, the experience was not only to work with other cultures, but always to have great time around the city! What a great way to know each other and appreciate the experience of Japan, with Japanese. This flexibility was magical and I think one of the major strengths was the opportunity to be in smaller groups.

I can't believe how great the organizers of the Forum were. Horie sensei, Mr. Marr and all of their supporters did tremendous work and their kindness passed my expectations. That gave really good insight of the Japanese people and how it works in Japan. By understanding how the Japanese work and think, you can see the different elements that will contribute to the new future of Japan. The forum presented us some challenges that Japan will face in the upcoming years, but it also showed how they will react as a society. Seeing and living their collective thoughts and work, it is more than inspiring for us Canadians.

- *Alexandre Turcotte, Laval University*

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My interest in Japan comes from my fascination of the way Japan has been able to retain such a unique culture, vastly different from any other country in the world, throughout its history. Other countries have influenced Japan's cultural development in a variety of ways, but Japan is still uniquely "Japanese". I have spent years learning Japanese language, not to be understood, but to understand. I want to understand Japan's society and people on a deeper level, to comprehend their motivation for action, and their reasons for inaction, on both an international and an individual basis.

The Japan Canada Academic Consortium provides an excellent opportunity for Japanese and Canadian students to meet and discuss international relations, in various forms, between our two countries. This interaction provides a tremendous opportunity for deeper cultural understanding, which I believe is

the key to success in any international endeavor. Together we discussed the Tohouku Earthquake and the 3.11 tsunami that devastated Japan. The Japanese students shared their stories of where they were that day, how they felt, and what they have done since to help. We marveled at the speed at which the area is being rebuilt, and at the resilience of the Japanese people. As Canadians, we learned more about how our government can help in times of crisis, and we discussed what we can do as individual citizens. Perhaps the most thought provoking question asked on this topic was: if this happened in Canada how would Canadians react? Would we remain calm and orderly, as they did in Japan? Or would there be panic and mayhem? I hope for the former, but lack conviction.

It has always bothered me that Canadian culture is so difficult to define. For one of the activities, Japanese students were asked to say things they associate with Canada. There were a variety of expected answers: snow, cold, maple syrup, ice hockey, Niagara Falls. Then there was a long list of answers pertaining to nature, certainly one of Canada's greatest attributes, and probably the first to be looked-over by Canadians. Their list was good, but having lived in Japan for four months back in 2010, there are a few other Canadian attributes that they missed. These attributes are the things that prevent me from moving to Japan indefinitely, and include such simple things as Canadians' ability to have casual conversations with non-acquaintances - the small talk with the person next to you while waiting in a line or elevator. This also includes our ability to say "thank you" and "sorry" to complete strangers on a daily basis. I also missed the smaller personal boundaries - the ability to hug both male and female friends. I love that most Canadian women don't wear a lot of makeup, and that many Canadian men appreciate our natural looks. But most of all, I missed Canadian multiculturalism. I love that Canada is home to people who came from countries all over the world. It does not matter if you look different, or if you speak a different language, you are still Canadian. You can't take a picture of a "typical Canadian", because we all look different while upholding similar values. I hope that the Japanese students were able to understand some of these great aspects of Canadian culture, whether from talking with the Canadian students, or through observing our interactions.

Going forward there are many problems that Canada and Japan will have to face, including aging populations, global warming, new diseases, declining birth rates, transportation issues, and energy concerns. It is very important that we work together in finding solutions to our common issues. These solutions will not be immune to cultural differences, but if we can understand the cultural barriers between Japan and Canada, we can adapt these solutions to work within both societal and cultural structures.

- Heather Wogden, University of Waterloo

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## JAPANESE STUDENTS

I'm thankful for joining this forum. I had so many wonderful experiences. One of the best was about the topic, "post-disaster era". Before this forum, I was so anxious about this topic, because this seems to be important only for Japan. I could not think of why we Japanese had to force Canadians to think about a Japanese problem. However, after this forum, I found all of the world need to discuss disasters and such world-wide events. This is because the planet is for everyone. If we want to improve many problems in the world, we need to rethink how to live on this world. Moreover, in order to keep sustainability, I found we have to cooperate more and more.

Cooperating may be difficult because there seems to be many problems for us. For example, money, companies, time, and so on. However, we cannot escape from those problems. We have to listen more from the world and say more to everyone. In order to do that, the best way may be making use of our knowledge and continuing to think. This forum motivated me to think about what we can do, how we cooperate and why I should do many things. If everyone has a warm heart, we can do together whatever we want.

Through the group discussion, we focused on suggestions for improvement. In fact, we were doubtful whether everyone wants to do more together. Some people may say yes, but others may say no. Actually, I think we can cooperate between the same levels. For example, sister-cities or foreign exchange students is the connection between the same levels. However, I think "vertical communication" has not yet been made. Vertical communication is a form of communication between countries and cities, cities and us, or countries and individuals. It makes miscommunication between everyone in the world. As a student, I have to say more not only for students, but also for companies, cities, or our government. We should not be afraid of the big power.

Now I'm only a student, but I am going to graduate and start working at the chemical-product company in this spring. This means I can do more for the world. This forum motivated me to contribute to the world. My dream has been made clear. My dream is improving the environmental issues of the world. I want to cut down the waste of resources and make our quality of life better. To do that, I want to make efforts to see from various aspects. I will never forget what I learned through this forum.

- Reiko Ando, Sophia University

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From 19<sup>th</sup> night to 26<sup>th</sup> morning, I joined the Japan and Canada Study Forum. It was the first time for me to discuss in English with native speakers. Although I'm not shy, I hesitated to speak in English to native speakers. In order to improve my English ability, I applied, but professor Horie said to us "the most important thing is not to speak English, but to have confidence to cut in the conversation" at the beginning of her lecture. Then, I decided to cut in the conversation whenever I had an opinion or I could not understand what another participant had said. Through the JACAC program, I received 2 treasures: one was *Knowledge about Canada* and the other was *Motivation*.

I have never been to Canada, because I had thought that it was not relevant in any aspect to Japan. However, now in Japan, the economic market is shrinking more and more, and private companies have to focus on the outside market to get higher profits. If all companies move their manufacturing from Japan to outside, the technology that Japan has historically had will no longer continue to be developed. Each Japanese person has to think seriously for the future of our country. In order to stop the loss of technology, the easiest solution is to make the market bigger. Now, more women work in society, the

less the birth rate is, so Japan has to welcome emigration from more countries. We Japanese have to learn the Canadian way and embrace multicultural society. There were many opportunities for me to express my opinion in all lectures, although I can cut in the conversation, but I couldn't tell my opinion at lectures. The reason was that I was afraid to use English. I'm never content not to ask questions to professors even though I asked between breaks. From this experience, I have motivated myself to improve my English more, and want to express my opinion without difficulty. I understand better now that I can tell my opinion if I know the words to express my opinion.

Nothing is more important than to make special friends in Japan and Canada. If I can keep in contact with the members, I can learn about multicultural society from Canadian friends, also I can improve my English from friends. I think all of the JACAC members are ambitious, so it is better for me to build these friendship amongst them to cooperate and compete with each other.

- Yukari Asano, Kwansei Gakuin University

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This program was one of the biggest experiences I have had while majoring in International Exchange Studies. I was able to have a lot of discussions with students from other Japanese and Canadian universities. It was a really good time - each student had their own opinions and we could have a chance to share them. The main reasons why this program was such a good experience are listed below.

First of all, I learned how important it is to participate in discussion more actively. The first time we did group work, we discussed group rules in a class taught by Miki Horie-sensei. Our group had the rule that each person needed to pay attention to everyone, but I felt I should not wait for the chance to speak. It was not easy because I was really nervous to give my opinion in correct English. But I tried to speak up and the other group members helped me a lot. We then decided part of our group work presentation topic based on my opinion. Actually, this gave me more confidence to speak English. We were doing group work, so I felt it was really important to join the discussion because I was one of the members of the group. This meant I had to share my opinions with the other members of the group.

Second, the most impressive part of this program was having the chance to share our experiences of the Great East Japan Earthquake. I was surprised that some of Canadian students were in Japan at the time. Also, some Japanese students went to volunteer in the disaster areas. They told me about their experiences, and we held discussions about the earthquake. It was really difficult to think of ways we can help the victims, but we could also talk about how we should support each other in both Canada and Japan in the future. It was a really good opportunity to reconsider what I need to do in my life in Japan.

Third, this program has helped motivate me to study more about improving support between Japan and other countries. This program focused on the relationship between Canada and Japan, but we have relationships with other countries, too. We have received support for disasters from all over the world, but we should not only receive support from others, we also need to help others. So I learned, both from my experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake and from this program, that it is really

important to provide support to and have relationships with other countries.

Finally, it was a week of thinking deeply about the relationship between Canada and Japan. I learned about the most important things we can do to help make good relationships between Japan and other countries around the world. I could attend many lectures from professors and they taught how we could develop relationships using cross-cultural communication and non-verbal communication. If I have other chances to attend similar programs, I would really like the opportunity to further share opinions and information, and to discuss what we can all do to help improve our future relationships.

- *Naho Fujisawa, Josai International University*

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I lived in Canada with a working holiday visa 2 years ago. At that time, I worked pretty much all the time for 1 year and could improve my work knowledge and language. However, I couldn't take any time to discuss with teenagers or college students about social issues at all. That is why I applied for this program when I saw the advertisement of the JACAC forum. I was sure it would be a great opportunity to get lots of knowledge from other participants who had different backgrounds and thoughts concerning the relationship between Canada and Japan. I was so pleased to take many lectures from people who have lots of work skills required in the international environment. I would like to work in another country in my future. Especially, it was a great chance to ask them my personal questions. I don't think I can't get any chances to talk to those people in any other program.

I was really interested in group discussion with my group members. As I mentioned before, each member had a different background and life experiences. Therefore, a wide variety of ideas came up in our discussion and sometimes made us quarrel with each other. We simulated each other through exchanging so much and could improve ourselves. That is what I really enjoyed and experienced in this program.

It would be better for all of us to take more time to explore around Kyoto or another city for sight-seeing. We concentrated on our discussion and making our presentation too much. If there is 1 day trip after our presentation, we probably could enjoy Japanese city from the depth of our heart and get along with other group members more and more.

- *Shinya Hayashi, Kwansei Gakuin University*

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The JACAC Forum was a really exciting and thought-provoking event for me. If I summarize what was the most impressive during the forum, I can say as follows: "I received an excellent opportunity to test what I have learned, check my progress and encourage myself to study harder".

Participants around me were so talented and attractive that I could totally enjoy the program. The lectures were also meaningful and beneficial. I have not had many opportunities so far to hear lectures in English, so I felt it a little worried about following what the speaker was saying. However, this experience has surely helped me to get over the hurdles and move to the next stage.

Even though this forum was a short one, I could certainly improve my listening skill and speaking skill



through my attendance. I was sometimes slow, but I managed to catch what someone said and respond as soon as possible. In the group work, I did my best in my part and tried to be a good participant. In order to get discussion to be successful, I learned it was very important to research what we had liked to talk about, think logically and respect others' view points.

Fortunately, my group was selected one of the best teams. I had an opportunity to give a presentation in public. Actually, I was so nervous that I couldn't remember what I was saying. However, making the strategy and practicing for the presentation over and over again were great experiences. I learned that group work needs "collective harmony" and "individual effort".

After this forum, my thoughts about student exchange programs have changed. I've never participated in a long term student exchange program because I've prioritized what I can learn in Japan rather than in English overseas. However, I have to think again on this point. In the near future, I'll have to be a good English speaker because in the post graduate school where I'd like to go, English is requisite. I consulted my room-mate about what I was thinking and he suggested I should go to university in another country for a long time. He also pointed out that I mixed what I'd like to achieve in the short run with that in the long run. My final goal is to give a presentation of what I studied to all over the world. Therefore, I must master English right now and studying abroad is the best way to do that.

- Masatake Hirono, Ritsumeikan University

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The most impressive thing in this program was that 30 students who had never met before began to know each other very well and worked hard together in order to solve a task. I and the other students had not known each other before we spent a week in Kyoto, but only within a week, in which we exchanged our ideas and thoughts, struggled very hard to meet our goals, argued to decide a theme of presentation, we became really great mates. I do appreciate this opportunity.

I learned the importance of teamwork from this academic consortium. In Japanese education, there is not much opportunity to have team work with classmates, because of our academic culture. Therefore, I was not so used to group work and was not confident in how to act in this environment. However, throughout the program, I learned that if we collaborate with each other's ideas, we can achieve higher goals. The process of collaboration was very important to learn international communication skill. Although working so hard and struggling with group mates was very difficult and sometimes a little bit frustrating because of the language barriers, I enjoyed most of the process.

By participating in this program, I have gained the mentality that no matter where you are from, or no matter what kind of background you have, you can exchange your ideas and mix them with other's ideas, and finally you can reach totally new ground. Living in Japan as a Japanese person, there is not enough occasions to have discussions with non-Japanese, especially after the disaster of March 11<sup>th</sup>. Hence it was such a fabulous opportunity for me to have discussions with the foreign students, it was especially fascinating that we could talk about the disaster and radiation problem. I had been very curious about how foreign people think about Japanese reactions about the disaster. Also I thought on this occasion that I was right to have studied English so hard so far, because I was able to express my opinion and to understand well what the Canadian students were telling me.

I cannot thank JACAC and the Prince Takamado Japan Centre enough for having provided me this fantastic chance. I appreciate all the people who were involved in this forum for trying so hard to give me the great opportunity to study with Canadian students and Japanese students in Kyoto.

*-Minaho Kubo, Tsuda College*

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From the beginning of this year, I had considered what I should do while being a university student. My answer was this: "Take many opportunities which I can't take after graduating from university. I should gain many kinds of experiences." Then I was told about this forum from my teacher, although I didn't know a lot about this forum, I decided to take this opportunity. I could gain many good experiences from this forum.

First, I could learn how to work in groups and make better presentations from other members. Actually, I had few experiences in working in groups and making presentations, but those who had more experience in group work and presentations helped me so much. From next month, I will start to work in groups as a member of a seminar, so I will be able to work well on that and may lead other members.

Next, I had a lot of chances of speaking in English. Discussing in English was very hard work for me because my English was so far away from fluent, and sometimes I couldn't understand what other people said. But I could manage by struggling to understand them and convey my thoughts to them. Through these experiences, I became not too hesitate to communicate with those who I had just met. In addition, I could strengthen my passion for studying English because I decided to study English harder so that I will be able to make clearer communication with other members when I meet them again in the future.

There was not only work but also play. During this program, we made some small trips around Kyoto which were held on the mornings before starting the program and the nights after finishing our work. In addition, we had a field trip to Kobe as a part of this program. It was so fun to go around the city and chat with other participants. It was interesting to exchange thoughts with those who had different backgrounds and thoughts from me. While we were hanging around Kyoto, Canadian students were surprised at everything around them which looked usual for us Japanese. Even though Japan and Canada have a lot in common – classified as a developed country, having a social system called capitalism, and respecting liberalism and democracy.

I would like to take other opportunities for further growth.

*- Suzana Matsuyama, Hokkaido University*

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The Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum was truly an amazing experience. It was a great pleasure to attend a forum with both Canadian and Japanese participants at Ritsumeikan University. Since the disaster that hit Japan on March 11<sup>th</sup>, many foreigners hesitate to visit Japan. Japan faces a turning point in which it has to consider its future within the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Through the forum, I learned how important Canada-Japan relations are in a global context, especially in the Post-Disaster Era. Cooperation between Canada and Japan possess great potential for playing influential roles.

Prior to my participation in the JACAC forum, I overlooked Canada-Japan relations, but now having participated in the forum I have developed a deeper understanding of the importance to maintain good relations with Canada. Despite only having a week to deepen our relationship, I learned a lot from the

Canadian participants and their distinguished guest speakers. Their words gave me a new perspective about the importance of Japan's relationship with Canada and what a major role it plays in the international community. I believe that if Canada and Japan collaborate together they have the potential to become leaders in addressing global issues. I am consistently overwhelmed by the response of gratitude from people all over the world who continue to support Japan well after the earthquake.

The forum was a great opportunity for me to share and reflect on my experiences of volunteering in Tohoku after the devastation of the earthquake. I really appreciated all the concerns the participants showed towards the earthquake disaster. There's still a long way to recovery, and I know that without the generous support from friends around the world, Japan will not make a full recovery. My heart goes out to all those suffering from the earthquake, and great appreciation to those who continually support us. I would like to thank you all for your kindness and support.

It was a wonderful eye-opening experience that has definitely changed my perspective for the better. Now we are responsible for making use of our experience during the JACAC forum towards our future. It is important to gradually build mutual trust between other countries. I would like to contribute to "Cooperation and Mutual Understanding between Canada and Japan in Post-Disaster Era" throughout my life by doing a job in which I would use my specialized knowledge. Thank you once again for this wonderful opportunity.

- Yuuhi Miyauchi, Ritsumeikan University

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I am glad that I have a lot of friends from Japan and Canada. Everyone studies different areas. It was a great stimulus, because my university has only the department of education, and my friends in my university have almost the same thinking. I am a junior, so I have to start job hunting if I do not become a teacher. The experience in this Forum was a good experience for me to think my future.

I have not experienced so much group work in English, so it was difficult for me to discuss some topics with students from Canada most of who speak English as their mother tongue. Because I am a student at Kyoto University of Education, I am interested in cooperative/collaborative learning in teaching English to Japanese students. Group work in this Forum impressed me and I got some points I should pay my attention to when I think about cooperative/collaborative learning in teaching English. In Japan, because we can live using only Japanese, we do not have a lot of opportunities to speak English, and we study mainly English grammar for entering high-level and well-known universities. That's why Japanese are not good at, or not used to listening to and speaking English. I think teachers should give students more opportunities to speak and listen to English in the class. According to the students' skill of listening and speaking, teachers should make groups, give each student each role they can take, and give them as many opportunities to speak and listen to English as they can. I think a group discussion in English is the best learning style in which students get more opportunities to speak and listen to English.

In this Forum, I realized my poor skill of listening to and speaking English. I have confidence in English grammar, that is, reading and writing, but I do not have so much confidence in speaking and listening. Because I want to speak English more fluently and listen to English more correctly, I try to get more chances to speak and listen to English, for example, take more English conversation classes at university, and I want to go abroad to study English if I have some chance. I was only one student at Kyoto University of Education, and only a dozen of students in Japan could join this Forum. I really appreciate this opportunity. I want to join the next year Forum, and I brush up my English skill.

- Yuri Mizutani, *Kyoto University of Education*

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First of all, I would like to thank everyone involved in this program, especially to Ritsumeikan University who hosted and to the organizers who supported us during our stay. Although it was my second year to participate in JACAC, I have gained new discoveries and eye-opening experiences as if it were my first time.

Our first day started with an impressive lecture that encouraged us to get off to a flying start. It was about intercultural communications and group dynamics, which included hints for better group work, particularly applicable for groups like ours: constituted of members from different backgrounds and countries, such as Japan and Canada. Followed by a class on nonverbal communication and other profound speeches, we acknowledged our diversity, which enabled our groups to have a lively discussion with every one of the members taking part. However, of course, with only 6 days of work which included plenty of programs, time was certainly not enough to come up with a satisfying topic for the last day's presentation, and there was a period of time when my group struggled with anxiety and melancholy.

The days passed in a blink, and now I am back to my ordinary school life in Tokyo. Thinking back, I am seized by the feelings of regret from not doing this and that or that I should have done better. Needless to say, there were several matters and my acts that still please me, and each of these experiences taught me a lesson which I can make use of hereafter.

One thing that changed my views toward this year's forum topic, Cooperation and Mutual Understanding between Canada and Japan in Post-Disaster Era, before and after the participation, is that, regardless of whether it is a post-disaster era or not, the basics of mutual understanding are universal. Mutual understanding, which I thought was meant to be taken place by the difference of each person's nationality or cultural backgrounds, turned out to be more low-dimensional, relying on individual characters and thoughts.

Once again, I feel grateful to the people who gave me this wonderful opportunity to join the forum, not only once but twice! I may have not lived up to the expectations during the period, but in a long-term view, I hope my experiences acquired will contribute for a better relationship between Japan and Canada, and to the principles of JACAC and the Prince Takamado Japan Centre.

- Saika Nagai, *Sophia University*

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During this program, I could socialize with many participants both Canadian and Japanese. Moreover, interaction among students was not only a daily matter but also had an academic level. One of the most interesting topics was cooperation between Canada and Japan after the earthquake; the main theme of this program.

Before this consortium, I focused on the influence of the Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami within the country. Although we can see how overseas media have reported about the earthquake, we did not have the opportunity to talk about it on a personal level. I wanted to know the real opinions and feelings from the students from Canada. Many Canadian students seemed worried about the fear of

the radiation and earthquake before they came to Japan. Same as other foreigners, the number of tourists from overseas decreased about 60% compared to that of the year before the earthquake. I realized that the media is the only tool to know the real situation in Japan. It is difficult for people overseas to get the information except media such as TV, newspapers, and magazines.

What I learned in this consortium is that we can be the media and we can improve the relationships between countries. The government and media usually influence on economic and politic ideas. Of course that is the main stream of international relationships. On the other hand, the individual level of relationships more closely impact the image of the country and motivate action. Individual relationships are strong and they can take action to contribute to the societies. Through discussion with Canadian students, I learned that Canadians also have a strong feeling that they want to do something for victims in the north part of Japan, but the distance can be an obstacle to take actions such as doing volunteer work in Japan. Still, this consortium helps us to think about what we can do in cooperation to improve our relationships after the earthquake. Then we took action to present our idea of improvement of cooperation between two countries.

Our group focused on how Japan can be an international friendly country. Through discussion with other students, I can see the problems from both sides. We can share ideas and see the problems more objectively. I realized how much I see our problems from a narrow point of view. The different cultural backgrounds helped me to accept and understand other people's ideas. They Canadian students also made me realize how amazing Japanese culture really is. I usually respect different cultures, but I forget to notice the importance of our own culture. Kyoto is one of the best places to learn about Japanese culture since there are many historical places. I was happy to see Canadian students were impressed with Japanese culture and I was proud of it in a way that I have never been before. In addition, I also was impressed by the Canadian identity. Although, some people may think that it is hard to explain Canadian identity, I learned Canadian identity from Canadian students. It is the identity which accepts all cultural differences and variety in their lives. Canada is famous for cultural diversity and students from Canada seem well accustomed to other cultures.

I would like to make use of this opportunity to learn more about culture, history, tradition of our countries and I can be the media to contribute to Japan and Canadian relationships on a personal level. I believe that this individual level of communication becomes a huge power to connect countries and can definitely improve Canada and Japan relationships in the future.

- *Hitomi Okano, Hosei University*

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I had a wonderful time at JACAC. Though we had only a week, it was full of something interesting and inspiring. The most impressive thing I had in this program was that our group received the best presentation award and got a chance to give a presentation in front of the special guest, Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado. It was a very memorable moment in my life. The group work was not easy at some points, like language barriers or the broadness of the topic to be discussed, but all members had very good consideration for others. We even created an easy way to pull everyone's opinion out by passing a plastic bottle from one to another as a sign of the person to talk. We used this way a lot in the beginning and I think it actually relaxed our tension and made atmosphere more comfortable.

I like to take part in this kind of international exchange very much because I can learn an international way of thinking and sensitivity directly and naturally by getting to know one another through the

program. To make friends with people from different backgrounds is absolutely a great motivator for international understanding. Often we focus on the differences and difficulties, but actually I always feel we also have things in common as humans. What we need is not perfect language skill. The most important thing is our mind that simply tries to respect each other and wants to have good time together. It is not special at all, just the same as when we communicate with familiar people. However, we can notice this only by experiencing, not by reading or listening to others' stories. I believe that to get into the international environment and to feel something on my own is an essential step to live in this global community. Now I'm more interested in Canada than before. Canada is a very diverse country compared to Japan, which fascinates me deeply. And moreover, I have friends there. I really want to visit Canada in near future.

It was very meaningful for me to visit Kobe in the field trip. I realized that how much I didn't know about Hanshin-Awaji earthquake until now. After I visited The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Memorial Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution, beautiful and neat city Kobe looked different. It reflects the heavy damage and the big effort people made.

Personally, I was very pleased to see Dr. Horie again. Actually we have known each other before this program. She helped me a lot when I went on a study abroad program four years ago. My study abroad experience broadened my view of things and I became more active to new challenges. This was a big change for me but now is a part of me, like what I think or how I decide things.

I am really grateful that I had the opportunity for such a fantastic experience. I want to keep trying harder in applying what I have learned to my future and keep the bonds with all friends I met here.

*- Tomomi Shimmura, Nagoya University*

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This forum gave me an interest in international exchange and studying abroad for the long term. Because it was first time for me to discuss and build collaboration with people brought up in different cultures, education and environment. Through this experience, I learned and realized four things as my challenges.

I have to take more interest in my country: environment, culture, population, education, government, finance and so on. In this forum, I was always asked about these things by Canadian students. I was not sure about them, though they taught me about the same aspects from a Canada perspective. I was embarrassed by my indifference and regretted losing the opportunities I had to introduce Japan to them.

What I say, is more important than English skill: The more we have English skill, the smoother we can communicate in the international exchange. But I realized that is not all in this forum. My English skill was low, but my group members paid attention to what I said without regard to my English ability. I could cover for my lack of it with my research, preparation and opinion.

To keep Japanese-ness is vital for me to convey Japanese opinion and attitude: Many people regard Japanese as passive, but I thought I do not have to change myself since I could express Japanese way of thinking by keeping modesty and a sense of respect in this forum. In the international exchange, it is important to have a balance between letting go of the passivity, is cited as one of the characteristics of Japanese and to keep one's Japanese-ness.

I should possess and assert more individual opinions about many things: As well as Canadian students, Japanese students who have studied abroad not only are aware of, but also possess and assert their opinions about domestic and international problems, events and information all the time. I had looked them over in the newspaper and over the internet, but I did not consider these matters. That is why it took me a while to give my opinions in the group discussion.

In this forum, I was faced with my many challenges as noted above. And through my effort, there was a lot to gain. For one, I have become interested in studying abroad. Because I had been able to absorb much including the challenges, while I lived, discussed and prepared for a presentation with Canadian students. As soon as I overcome the challenges I experienced in this forum, I would like to try for the international exchange again through studying abroad for a long term in the foreign country there are people from a variety of background like Canada.

In addition, I could build friendship with many people. From now on, I continue to maintain it beyond border between countries or prefectures to come up with ways together so that Canada and Japan will cooperate more and be more active in the international community.

Finally it was a great honor for me to attend such an amazing forum. I would like to thank the organizers and supporters, The Prince Takamado Japan Center for Teaching and Research, University of Alberta, Ritsumeikan University, Meiji University, Canadian government, Japan Foundation, Embassy of Canada, Government of Alberta, Japan Canada Oil Sands Limited and JACAC for planning this wonderful opportunity. I greatly appreciate the lectures of guest speakers who provided the useful and interesting information, and the wonderful topics of our discussion. Also I am grateful to the professors, staff and assistants at Ritsumeikan University for a lot of their supports and effort.

- Sho Tsujimoto, Meiji University

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The days I spent with the members of JACAC were very precious. Meeting and becoming friends with students, who are from all over Canada, all over Japan, and have completely different majors, specialties, or experiences made me have the “cross-cultural experience” of Canada and also Japan. The most surprising thing I learned on the first day was how different “French-Canadians” and “English-Canadians” are!! Also, I realized I have a more narrowed view of the world than I expected.

Hearing comments and thoughts by many students from Canada made me re-realize the importance and the value of the Japanese culture. Translating and explaining what we saw during city tour, field trip, or even during lunch or dinner time, to students from Canada especially those who were visiting Japan was their first time, was very tough for me, definitely not only because of my low English skills but also the pooriness of my knowledge about Japanese history and culture. As a student from the school of Global Japanese Studies, this experience increased my motivation a lot.

Speeches and lectures by guest speakers were interesting and gave me a chance to learn a lot of things from both Canadian and Japanese points of view. Having discussions and time to talk to guest speakers after the sessions were very helpful to understand the topic more deeply.

The topic of our group presentation was “Go and Experience”. We focused on how we can increase the exchange students between our countries, by considering “why not?”. Researching situations from both sides made us learn a lot of problems both countries have with international societies today and think about what we can do to help these problems. In addition, since I have lived in the United States, it was

surprising how similar but different Canada and the USA are (even though I have been to Canada many times, it was still very surprising), and how difficult to differentiate these two countries for many people around the world, and even for Canadians and Americans. I also found many interesting attractions of Canada, which made me consider one of my top destinations to “go and experience” in the future to study abroad.

To sum up, JACAC was such a great opportunity that I will not forget, and I hope to do something related to what I gained in this short term experience to keep up the “cooperation and mutual understanding between Canada and Japan”!!

- Kana Yamase, Meiji University

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Before joining this conference, I also took part in a conference where American and Japanese students came together and discussed for one whole month. Compared to that, I was nervous and worried if we could really reach a consensus in only a week. Despite to my worries, our group discussion went very well. Although we didn't have time and couldn't go into each topic, we could wrap up with a great presentation. Throughout the conference in only a week, we had valuable lectures from people in several departments, went on a field trip to Kobe, went sightseeing to Kyoto city to see many temples, and what is more, we Japanese and Canadian students made a strong tie between each other by discussing, having fun, eating and spending time together.

At first, we had some problems even when we tried to have discussions because we differed in how we brought out a solution or how we presented our ideas. However, telling the Canadian students that we don't understand what they were saying and why we were doing this or that, they kindly explained. We also told them the Japanese way of thinking or doing presentations. Since then we were able to say our ideas without hesitating and were able to build up our own idea. This really made me happy because I felt included in the process and I also realized that the Japanese and Canadians meeting up in Kyoto, discussing about a topic and giving out a suggestion together was a great opportunity.

During this conference I could really see the picture of Canada as a cosmopolitan country. I knew that there are many immigrants and many Asian people in Canada but I couldn't really imagine. One time we had a lecture about identity, and when people were asked what is the identity of Canada, they just laughed. If the same question was asked to Japanese people, we would have said being Japanese is speaking Japanese, behaving like a Japanese person. I realized that Canadians are very open-minded and have a welcoming attitude towards immigrants. This was quite a new insight for me. Another time, we were discussing about how Japanese people try to avoid interacting with foreigners and we came into many interesting examples of them in a week. Getting along with them helped me to know more about Japan and Japanese people.

- Risa Yoshimoto, Nagoya University

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## FORUM EVALUATIONS AND SURVEY RESULTS

An online survey was conducted to get student evaluations of the forum. Below are some of the results.

**How do you rate the following arrangements made by the organizers?**

	Outstanding	Above average	Average	Below average	Poor	NA
Pre-departure orientation	4	7	6	4	1	2
Flight arrangements	5	7	6	0	1	5
Ground transportation	8	6	10	0	0	0
Accommodation	10	10	4	0	0	0
Meals	6	7	5	4	1	1
Forum venue	10	12	1	0	0	0

**Please explain your ratings:**

- The only thing I would change is the pre-departure orientation. There were some last minute details that were asked for and I was lucky that I actually checked my email before I hopped on my plane or else I would have left without submitting important information.
- If you can pay for an apparently expensive opening party with 飲み放題, it's apparent that JACAC isn't starved for funds. Thus, maybe it would be more logical to cover our lunches or breakfasts instead of buying alcohol. The party was fun, but it seemed a strange way to use funds.
- Everything was absolutely wonderful. I checked "above average" for meals because I would have liked the coffee to be served every day, and to be somewhat stronger.
- Everything was prepared so that we could be comfortable : concentrating on the forum and on tying bonds with the others. Great arrangements.
- I wanted lunch arrangements.
- I expect the organization cover our meals as well.
- Accommodation was outstanding. It close to university and comfortable. I'm also happy to have roommate from Canada.
- The organization was well above my expectations. The staff was dedicated and very professional.
- I was impressed by how well organized the forum was. As for the flights, pre-departure orientation, transportation, hotel, everything had been planned, so I appreciated how easy it was. The room was also great. The size of the room and the arrangement of the table we well organized to do group work, while allowing to interact with the students from the other teams.
- The organizers of the forum made an incredible job, everything was great, especially the closing ceremony.
- I wish we could have had more details about the conference schedule before arriving to Japan.
- Things were great in general, but I do have a few suggestions. The rooms should have wifi access, especially since there were 3 people sharing. Transportation back to the airport could have been arranged, especially because the flight was so early it made us pressed for time

after the first airport shuttle.

- I was disappointed to discover we needed to find our own way to the airport - it's stressful after working all week. As well, if we didn't have Japanese students willing to take us around we would have had no way to tour the city. The meals provided were great! The flight arrangements were easy to follow.

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**Please rate the following aspects of the JACAC Forum program:**

	Outstanding	Above average	Average	Below average	Poor	NA
City tour	2	8	<b>11</b>	1	0	1
Afternoon orientation	8	<b>10</b>	6	0	0	0
Presentations by researchers	9	<b>13</b>	2	0	0	0
Group discussions	10	<b>12</b>	2	0	0	0
Field trip	<b>10</b>	9	3	2	0	0
Group presentations	<b>11</b>	10	3	0	0	0
Closing ceremony	<b>15</b>	9	0	0	0	0
Final Reception	<b>15</b>	9	0	0	0	0

**Please explain your ratings:**

- The city tour was great, but we only saw a castle, not the city in itself. The presentations by researchers were, for the most part, fascinating. This being said, one of the presentations was not really a scientific presentation : we were shown cool pictures of Canada on a PowerPoint. This presentation was the least interesting.
- Quite impressed by the speakers and the different ceremonies. The tours were planned so both Canadian and Japanese participants could enjoy : it was a good compromise. For instance, I would have spent more time in Kobe than visiting Glicopia, but still it was fun!
- I cannot understand why we did not have any program to walk around in Kyoto.
- I don't know it was good idea to choose the best presentation out of us.
- All of the JACAC Forum was great.
- I enjoyed the program of the forum and I really appreciated the visit of Princess Takamado.
- I thought the city tour wasn't that interesting. I was disappointed we only had time to see a temple. It would have been nice to know a little about the city and its history. As for the afternoon orientation, I thought the exercises were very interesting. The fact that we had to present a teammate in small groups also allowed to spend more time on each person, but it would have been nice to at least everyone just say their name in front of the entire group, which did not happen. Of course, we all ended up meeting each other, but I was surprised we didn't do a very short presentation of each other in front of everybody. The presentations by researchers were quite interesting. Some were a little long. I appreciated the fact that they were very diverse. The group discussions were very interesting and it went well, although cross-cultural group work is always a challenge. I felt that the Canadians in the team (including me) were always "taking charge", even though we knew Japanese students had a different way of interacting and taking part in group work. We simply had a hard time of

integrating everybody as equal participants. The field trip was fun, but I would have preferred something more "Japanese". The Glico part was not very interesting, I felt the tour was made for kids. The earthquake museum was interesting, but we had so little time to go around that I feel I didn't really see it. I rated the group presentations "above average" rather than "outstanding" simply because in a normal context, they could have been better, but in the context of such a short time frame, they were very good. I was very impressed with the closing ceremony and the final reception, especially with the quality of the guests. It was fun that the food and setting was very nice, but informal at the same time. It was great to get to talk to the princess!

- The lectures were underwhelming.
- The visit of the Glico factory was not so much interesting...The one from the Canadian tourism commission was too marketing-oriented. We would have benefited from more academic presentations.
- I wish we could have had more field trips. Also, I wish we could have more activities involving all participants.
- The city tour could have been utilized better to include more helpful information. For example, showing Canadian students how to buy train tickets, a list of nearby restaurants that are recommended. Going to Nijo castle was nice, but they should have set a meeting time to make the trip more efficient and leave enough time for lunch.
- The city tour was a bit disappointing. We did get to see a historical site, but we didn't really get exposed to what the city held, what the culture was like, how people lived, etc.

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**Please rate the difficulty of conducting the student presentations:**

Extremely Difficult	0
Fairly Difficult	<b>16</b>
Average	8
Fairly Easy	0
Extremely Easy	1
NA	0

**Please explain your ratings:**

- Creating a presentation is never an easy task, but so much effort was put into us working together and getting to know each other that everything flowed smoothly.
- In a very short period of time it was difficult to delve into a topic and prepare a professional presentation. Skills from business competitions and such really stood out and made a difference here.
- We had little time to prepare, little time to present and little in common with the other members of our team. Therefore, the presentations were fairly difficult to conduct.
- English is not my first language, and since I'm doing great in casual speech, the technical vocabulary was a bit troublesome for me.
- Although it was difficult to summarize each member's opinions, we got strong relationship through those discussion.
- It was a little bit difficult because we did not have enough time to ready for it.
- The timing was difficult.

- It was quite difficult to find a topic, do research and organize a presentation in less than 6 days. I feel we could have used 1-2 additional days. In our case, it took time just to find a subject all the team members were interested in, and we had little time left to do research and prepare the presentation. It was also quite difficult to include everybody of the team in all the discussions. The Japanese students were more discrete and the Canadians automatically led the discussions, which is kind of a shame.
- Group work is always a challenge
- Because my English is so poor.
- Since we have so much to do (visit the city and all), time is quite an issue for the quality of the presentations.
- Presenting in front of the Princess and Ambassador was difficult, but an extremely rewarding experience.
- When you have a strong group of students it is not a difficult task, however, it would have been nice to have a little background on the previous year's main topic and the presentation topics
- It took a lot of work to finish the presentations. More guidance as to what to present about would have been helpful.

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**Please let us know what you liked most about the JACAC Forum.**

1. That the students were always interacting with one another
2. JACAC forum was a really great opportunity to meet people from all over Japan and Canada, which isn't something I get to do very often.
3. I really enjoyed the format of the forum, which allowed us to work AND to see a bit of Kyoto. It also allowed the students to bond more easily I believe. I loved most of the presentations by researchers, and I was very impressed by the final reception. I also have to say that the students and the professors we worked with at the forum were wonderful.
4. group discussions, city tour and field trip
5. To promote international exchange
6. I liked everything we experienced the entire week.
7. I can know about the kindness through the world. Both students were so graceful, that is why I can cooperate easily.
8. Presentation by researchers Group work and presentation
9. Sharing a week with motivated and open-minded Japanese student. Everybody was so kind, and the environment was so prone to stimulate discussion through respect and friendship!
10. I liked the lectures. However, at the same time, I was surprised that none of them were focused to the issue 3/11 but more on cultural understandings.
11. Group discussions
12. Having discussions over and over again with new friends was fantastic. In Japan, there's not many opportunity to discuss with friends because of its closed culture. However, in this time, it was great to have arguments many times with both Japanese and Canadian friends in order to achieve high goal. I learned lots of things from this kind of communication.
13. We were separated into groups and discussed about the relationship between Canada and Japan. I like how we discuss about the topic with variety of ideas. We are from different background and country, so we could think in many ways to approach those problems.
14. Interaction with both Canadian and Japanese student. Especially, field trip (Kobe, Kyoto) was

great opportunity to learn about earthquake and Japanese culture.

15. I liked the high level of organization and meeting Japanese peers.
16. Getting to know each other, being able to work and have leisure time which sure a diversity of interesting people.
17. I liked touring Kyoto, obviously. I also enjoyed the field trip, the closing ceremony with the "special guest" and how the days were divided.
18. discussing in a group really helped me to know more about each other.
19. I was able to get to know many unique people and exchange our ideas.
20. The closing ceremony, the hotel, the meals provided were exceptional. The hosts teachers were incredibly kind and dedicated to us.
21. The participants were outstanding and the hosts were very kind and generous. It was well organized.
22. The guest speakers. There was a good variety of topics, which kept the forum very interesting.
23. The people were great, the attractions were amazing, and the food!

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**Please let us know what you liked least about the JACAC Forum.**

1. The thing I liked least was the internet access. It took a lot of time to get our wifi access working at the university, and we didn't have wifi at the hotel.
2. I think the time we could have more time (maybe one more day) not to feel "rushed". Also, I felt students from Canada could not have enough time to see or learn Japanese culture since many sightseeing spots in Kyoto closes early and working on projects during daytime made us difficult to hang out and "experience".
3. I want to discuss more. Moreover, There is only one presentation for each member, but we can do more by mixing more groups.
4. Orientation before this forum (because no one contacted me about the orientation!)
5. It is sometimes hard to progress in a small group project, since we always need a consensus before carrying on. However, it was part of the forum to face these difficulties!
6. The lenght of period the forum was held. 7days were too short.
7. Field trip
8. We went to Gulico Factory and China town in Kobe. I didn't understand why we went there. China Town is not Japanese, and Glico Factory is nothing to do with this year's topic. I would rather prefer to go to historical places in Kyoto.
9. It was sad that we could not take much time to go around for exploring Japanese culture. Most of time, we discussed in the cafeteria or class room.
10. I would have been happy if I could get the information more earlier. I got the detailed information about this forum couple days before the forum starts. Though I got a general information, I prefer to get more information before the forum.
11. Everything was perfect but in the communication before the forum we were told that the lunch would be provided but it the end it was not.
12. The only things I can think of is the Glico field trip and of course, that the forum was so short!
13. The quality of the food in Kyoto was a major disappointment but apparently Kyoto is known for not having very good food.
14. I wish we had some more time to further our discussion.
15. We couldn't get information beforehand. I thought I'll stay hotel by myself. We were told to

bring suits just before few days of departure. Didn't you think there are some people who don't have suits? Actually, I hadn't had it until last autumn when I bought it just for my part-time job! In addition, we were told that we would be paid our travel cost at Kyoto, but it turned out to be that we have to wait two or more weeks till we get that.

16. It was too short!
17. I felt the Canadian students offered a good well-rounded view point because of their varied backgrounds. Some of the Canadian students had studied in Japan and spoke conversational Japanese, while at the other extreme some of the Canadians knew very little about Japan. This offered great insight at a variety of levels. On the other hand, most of the Japanese students had studied abroad or traveled abroad for an extended period. While this contributed to excellent English skills, I often found their views varied from that of a typical Japanese person. Thus, the students should be encourage to share their personal views, AND those of the general Japanese population.
18. It was fairly well coordinated. Very little to complain about, except maybe WiFi access.

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**If you have any Student Forum can be improved in the future, please let us know below:**

1. Only complaint is the pre-departure communication, especially between our host universities and JACAC
2. Email communication from the organizers to the Canadian students, and from the Japanese organizers to the Canadian organizers could be improved. For example, the Canadian students were all told that business formal would be required. When traveling for a week this was troublesome for many, and especially awkward in a place where we all stand out already. The Japanese students, however, received no such message and we were all told on arrival that the only day with a dress code was the presentation day.
3. A wifi network should be available from day one at the university and at the hotel. Furthermore, I think it would be great if the students were grouped by related fields! It would be easier to work on the presentations that way.
4. I felt we need more time to do group work.
5. I would like to take a Field Trip after the presentation
6. Time (see 8), and transportation. When some students from Canada had a departure early in the morning I had to figure out the way to get there and also reserved taxi. Due to this, I could not really enjoy the last day...
7. There are two things. First, I want more times to disucuss. Actually, Those lecturers are important, but It can be shorten. I want to talk more and discuss, for example, by mixing more groups. Next, our lunch need to be prepared. In this forum,It cost too much because we have to buy some lunch outside the campas. If our luch were organized, I could eat lunch with all of our members smoothly.
8. To build a stable contact network
9. This year's best presentations were those with the least technical and political details. Just keep in participant's mind that the simpler the idea, the greater the presentation. It's hard for unexperienced students to comment on topics such as international policies in 15 minutes... Participants should be reminded that the forum is an intent to hear what students think !
10. Accommodation In this time I shared room with other two students. Each student belonged to different group, therefore each room mate came back to our room different times. Some student came back very rate, rate enough when other student was already sleeping. In the morning as well. Each student left their bed in different time. Sometimes, therefore, my sleep

was distracted by other's noise and snores. And so I couldn't exercise my ability as much as usual because of the lack of my sleep. Also, when the presentation gets close, I had to work with my computer until 2 or 3 am. In this situation, since I didn't want to wake other room mate up, I tried to work with my laptop in corridor. It lasts for two nights. I tried to do my work in outside of hotel, but none of cafe or uni facilities open later than 9 or 10, so I had no choice but to proceed it in cold corridor. In the last day, I caught a cold getting a fever of around 40 degrees, and I couldn't get a shinkansen to go back to Tokyo. So what I want to say here is that we were in Kyoto not for sightseeing, but for study, for 7 days. We needed our personal space to study and to work. If we were there only or 3 nights, we could share the room with others, but when we stay there for 7 nights, we need individual room for study and taking a enough rest.

11. After presentation done, we would like to get 1 days off for sight seeing, so that we could completely get ourselves into Japanese culture and feel Japanese spirits. Till the day we had the presentation, we were always thinking about our presentation so.
12. For Canadian students, one week in Japan is very brief. I heard that last year Japanese students had a week to visit Canada after the Forum. Maybe something could be done about that.
13. I've heard that the forum in Edmonton was 10 days last year and I think that for the group work, that would be better. It was difficult to do group work and cross-cultural group work, but we felt pressed to move quickly forward. If we had had more time, I think it might have been easier to do the group work.
14. Having wifi in the hotel rooms would have been very helpful, particularly in terms of doing individual research. With three people to a room and the campus building closed, it was hard getting enough time on the internet.
15. exchanging group members might help making more friends.
16. We need more information beforehand. You should require participants to bring one's laptop computer.
17. This forum was amazing.
18. Please make the conference longer and have more field trips and group activities!
19. Improve wifi access and transportation ease.

\*\*\*\*

#### **Please Include Additional Comments Here:**

1. Reminder emails are okay, but don't ask me where something is the day before the deadline. Many of us have busy schedules and may not have access to the same resources, ie scanners etc that others do, so to be asked where my scanned copy is the day before it is due and the day before I have scheduled access to a scanner is extremely frustrating. If I'm late let me know. If you want to remind me, remind me. Don't email me asking for things before the due date.
2. Overall, a very positive experience! All the negative points that were underlined in this survey were minor things that should not overshadow the fact that this forum was a brilliant success, and that every student were amazed by this experience.
3. I really enjoyed the time.
4. Anyways, the days I spent in Ritsumeikan were amazing and I hope I can go to Canada someday!!
5. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.
6. Thank you for this great opportunity to get those friends. It was life changing experience for me. I feel Japan and Canada are getting close more and more in near future through this such

a program.

7. This was wonderful experience in my life and I would like to say thank you to all the people who helps me to give me such a great opportunity. I'm sure that this forum keeps improving Canada-Japan relationships in the future.
8. Thank you very much to the JACAC team in Japan and in Canada, and to Ritsumeikan University for their hard work to make this 3rd Forum possible and a unforgettable experience to me.
9. What a wonderful experience! I thoroughly enjoyed myself and would do it again in a heartbeat.
10. I loved last day's dinner!
11. I loved it. This is truly an experience of a life time.
12. Thank you for a wonderful week, I only wish I could have stayed longer!
13. AMAZING TIME. THANK YOU!!

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## PHOTOS



Student participants from Japan and Canada working on group presentations in the afternoon.



His Excellency Jonathan Fried, Canadian Ambassador to Japan giving an address at the closing ceremony.



Students and guests listening to final group presentations.



All of the female students on the final day of forum.





The winning group for best presentation.



All of the student participants in the 2012 JACAC Forum.



Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado with JACAC student participants, guest speakers, and organizing committee

## **IN APPRECIATION**

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