

**Japan-Canada Academic
Consortium Student Forum**
on
**Current Economic Dynamics and Challenges between Japan
and Canada and the Implications for the Youth of Today**

February 16 - 24, 2013

Hosted and Organized by
York University
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

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

Final Report

INDEX

MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZER	2
ABOUT THE FORUM.....	3
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE.....	4
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.....	5
FORUM PROGRAM	6
GUEST SPEAKER PROFILES.....	7
STUDENT GROUP PRESENTATIONS.....	9
Group 1	9
Group 3	14
Group 4	15
Group 5	17
Group 6	20
Group 7	23
FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS.....	28
CANADIAN STUDENTS.....	28
JAPANESE STUDENTS	35
FORUM EVALUATIONS AND SURVEY RESULTS.....	43
PHOTOGRAPHS.....	51

MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZER

It was a great honour for York University to be invited to host the fourth annual Japan-Canada Academic Consortium (JACAC) Student Forum in February 2013.

The Forum, organized in cooperation with the Prince Takamado Centre at the University of Alberta, brought together twenty-eight students from Japanese and Canadian partner universities in the Consortium for a week of lectures, discussions, and project development on a topic of interest and importance to students of both countries. This year's topic, "Current Economic Dynamics and Challenges between Japan and Canada and the Implications for the Youth of Today," was especially relevant given the dimensions of the economic challenges confronting the world today, and their implications for youth employment. The students addressed three questions:

- What do the youth of today need to do in order to make themselves more competitive in this global world?
- How can the youth of today work together to meet the economic challenges facing our world?
- Will Japan and Canada being part of economic partnership agreements (EPAs), either bilateral or multilateral, provide opportunities for the future of the youth today?

The ability of the twenty-eight students, fourteen from each country, to quickly come together as a team and connect at the personal and intellectual levels was truly impressive. So was their capacity to rise to the challenge of preparing group presentations on the three questions by the end of only one short week together. Their presentations at the Japan Foundation in Toronto were thoughtful, coherent and informative, and showed teamwork at its best.

The immense success of this year's Forum was due to the efforts of a great many people who deserve our most sincere gratitude: the distinguished speakers, the judges who evaluated the final presentations, the staff of Meiji University, Prince Takamado Centre and York International. We also thank Consul-General of Japan Eiji Yamamoto and his staff for organizing a reception for the JACAC participants and the Japan Foundation Toronto for hosting the final day of presentations, closing ceremony and reception. Special thanks to Dr. Kaori Kabata and Bronwyn Best for their academic leadership of the Forum.

York University is committed to providing international experiences to as many students as possible. The JACAC Forum shows why we believe in the value of these experiences. The students left the Forum with expanded horizons, fresh understandings, and new connections, all of which will undoubtedly contribute to their ability to live and work in the globalized world of today.

Dr. Marilyn Lambert-Drache
Associate Vice-President, International, York University

ABOUT THE FORUM

The Fourth Annual Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum was held in February 2013 at York University in Toronto with a theme of *current economic dynamics and challenges between Japan and Canada and the implications for the youth of today*. Fourteen students from eleven Japanese universities as well as fourteen students from eight Canadian universities were brought together to share and learn from each other's experiences.

As Canadian secretariat to the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium, it has been a great pleasure for the Prince Takamado Japan Centre at the University of Alberta to watch the growth and evolution of the JACAC Forum over the years. Every year we find better and more innovative ways to partner with our fellow JACAC institutions and as such, deliver a better experience to our participating students. The 2013 JACAC Student Forum was a great success. Our goal of uniting students from Japan and Canada to consider the economic diversity, similarities and issues faced across the globe was expertly achieved due the vision and considerable thought put forward by each and every student. The ability of our student participants to come together and cooperate throughout the demands of this week-long forum speak volumes towards the future of cooperation between Japan and Canada.

The current economic environment made this year's theme particularly noteworthy. Receiving special lectures from industry professionals and academic leaders in the field of business gave students unique insight into the global economic markets and their local and international impact. Reinforced by lectures on the importance of cross-cultural awareness, students worked alongside their peers from different cultural backgrounds and a myriad of academic disciplines. It is our hope that the intercultural initiatives begun here at the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum will help to guide our participants in the cooperation of Japan and Canada and support them in the future on the way to becoming leaders of the global community.

We look forward to the future prosperity of our partnership and the continued development of the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium.

Dr. Kaori Kabata, Director
Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Chair

Dr. Marilyn Lambert-Drache
Associate Vice-President, International, York University

Program Coordinators

Ms. Bronwyn Best
President, Heiwa Business International

Ms. Carol Irving
Policy Analyst, Office of the Associate Vice-President International, York University

Dr. Kaori Kabata
Director, Prince Takamado Japan Centre, University of Alberta

JACAC MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

Canadian Universities

University Of Alberta
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
Josai International University
Sophia University
J.F. Oberlin University
Tsuda College
Kwansei Gakuin University
Hosei University
Ritsumeikan University
Kyoto University of Education
Nagoya University
Hokkaido University
Waseda University

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Canada

So Young Chang, *University of British Columbia*
Gabriel Chen, *University of British Columbia*
Jean-Christophe Dumont, *Université Laval*
Peter Dyloco, *Queen's University*
Takayuki Fukada, *University of Waterloo*
Emily Fung, *University of Alberta*
Mario Gebrayel, *Université de Montréal*
Megan Hood, *University of Prince Edward Island*
Brett Huestis, *University of Prince Edward Island*
Christian Laubman, *University of Alberta*
Benjamin MacDonald, *University of Prince Edward Island*
Dahron Martin, *York University*
Anne Sophie Roussel, *Université Laval*
Joanna Wreakes, *University of Alberta*

Japan

Tomoka Arai, *Ritsumeikan University*
Masaya Aso, *Nagoya University*
Mayato Hattori, *Meiji University*
Tomohiro Ikeda, *Ritsumeikan University*
Moemi Ishimaru, *Hokkaido University*
Kento Kosaka, *Hosei University*
Yuri Mizutani, *Kyoto University of Education*
Tsuyoshi Nakajima, *Sophia University*
Kouichi Sugimoto, *Hosei University*
Moet Takahashi, *Josai International University*
Yuto Terauchi, *Kwansei Gakuin University*
Saki Tezuka, *Tsuda College*
Su Qin Yan, *J.F. Oberlin University*
Daisuke Yanagishita, *Meiji University*

FORUM PROGRAM

Date	Time	Schedule Event
Sunday, February 17	14:00 - 15:30	Self Introductions and Schedule Review
	15:30 - 17:00	Cross-cultural Awareness with Bronwyn Best President, Heiwa Business International
	17:00 - 19:00	Welcome Reception
Monday, February 18	09:00 - 10:00	Review of Question 1
	10:00 - 12:00	Presentation by Christopher Janca , Business Development Specialist, Hatch <i>"What do the youth of today need to do in order to make themselves more competitive in this global world?"</i>
	13:30 - 15:00	Presentation by Joe Fayt , MBA Marketing Instructor, Schulich School of Business, York University <i>"How to work effectively in teams"</i>
	15:30 - 17:00	Group discussion of question 1
	17:00 - 18:30	Question groups
Tuesday, February 19	08:30 - 09:30	Greetings from Dr. Mamdouh Shoukri , York University President
	09:30 - 10:00	Review of Question 3
	10:00 - 12:00	Presentation by Steve Rodgers , President, Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association <i>"Will Japan and Canada being part of economic partnership agreements (EPAs), either bi-lateral or multi-lateral, provide opportunities for the future of the youth of today?"</i>
	13:30 - 15:00	Group discussion of question 3
	15:00 - 16:30	Question groups
	17:30 - 19:00	Reception at Japanese Consulate General
Wednesday, February 20	09:00 - 10:00	Review of Question 2
	10:00 - 12:00	Presentation by Lorna Wright , Associate Professor, International Business, Schulich School of Business, York University <i>"How can the youth of today work together to meet the economic challenges facing our world?"</i>
	13:30 - 15:00	Group discussion of Question 2
	15:30 - 17:00	Question groups
Thursday, February 21	09:00 - 17:00	Question groups: Presentation preparation
Friday, February 22	09:00 - 11:00	Question groups: Presentation preparation
		Group presentations
	13:00 - 17:00	15 minute presentation; 5 minute Q & A
	17:00 - 19:30	Closing Ceremony and Reception
Saturday, February 23	All Day	Explorioner Day Toronto, Ontario

GUEST SPEAKER PROFILES

Bronwyn Best

Bronwyn holds an MA in Japanese Studies from The University of Toronto, and an MBA from the Schulich School of Business, York University. Fluent in Japanese, Bronwyn spent ten years in Japan, including a stint as Manager of the Canadian Pavilion at Expo 85 in Tsukuba, under the auspices of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. In 1986, Bronwyn joined The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Ottawa as Director, East Asia, responsible for Taiwan, Korea, China, Japan and Hong Kong. In April 1990, she opened the Ontario office of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APFC), where she served as Programme Director - Ontario for the APFC and Director General for the Canadian Committee of the Pacific Basin Economic Council, until September 1995. In 1996, Bronwyn set up her own consultancy, Heiwa Business International, in Canada-Asia cross cultural awareness, management, negotiation and mediation, and international business ethics. She serves a number of clients, including Transparency International Canada. Bronwyn taught International Culture and Ethics at Sheridan College and Cross Cultural Management at York University's Schulich School of Business and served as Project Manager, Canadian Business Ethics Research Network (CBERN), from 2006 - 2009. She has published a number of articles, including "Useful Arts of Japanese Management," in Japanese Studies in Canada.

Christopher Janca

After graduating from York University with a Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science in 2006, Chris joined the JET Programme as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) and moved to Toba in Mie Prefecture, Japan. He quickly developed a distinct affinity for the Japanese way of life. After one year of teaching Chris moved back to Canada to pursue his Master of Business Administration from the Schulich School of Business, but he could not be kept away from Japan for long. During his last semester of studies, Chris attended Keio University in Yokohama, Japan as an international exchange student. Chris currently works in business development at Hatch, a professional services firm focused on delivering engineering, procurement, construction management and technologies to the mining, energy and infrastructure sectors.

Joe Fayt

Joe spent twenty years in the corporate world specializing in sales and client servicing, working with leading Canadian marketers in the industrial, commercial and retail sectors. He now teaches marketing classes in the MBA program at Schulich, serves as faculty chair for 601 projects, and coaches Schulich MBA teams competing in external case competitions. He will speak about working effectively in teams.

Steve Rodgers

Steve Rodgers is the President of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association, a national association of original equipment producers of parts, equipment, tools, supplies and services to the worldwide automotive industry. The association was founded in 1952 and has over 400 members which account for 90% of independent parts production in Canada. In 2012, the auto parts industry had over \$C24.8 billion in sales and 83,000 employees. A 22 year career with leading automotive parts supplier Magna International and a 7 year career with General Motors of Canada have provided Steve with a very comprehensive and wide-ranging insight into the global automotive industry. After departing from Magna in 2006, Steve founded GS Global Solutions, focused on assisting automotive suppliers, governments and partners to find solutions in dealing with the rapidly changing automotive industry. These challenges included issues such as global integration, supply chain transformation and changing technology including hybrid technologies and powertrain evolution. At the time of his departure from Magna, Steve was Vice President, Global Business Development covering the Asia-Pacific region focused on the countries of Japan, Korea, China, India and Thailand.

Lorna Wright

Dr. Lorna Wright is currently the Director of the Centre for Global Enterprise and Associate Professor of International Business at the Schulich School of Business, York University. She was Associate Vice President International of York from 2009 to 2012. She is an academic entrepreneur, being the founding director (1992-2000) of the Centre for Canada-Asia Business Relations at Queen's University and also the co-founder (1997) of the Asian Business Consortium, which included Queen's University, York University, the University of Toronto, and Ivey School of Business. She spent fifteen years working for various organizations in Thailand, Indonesia and Japan before returning to Canada. She speaks Thai and Indonesian fluently, has a working knowledge of Japanese and Spanish, and a basic knowledge of several other languages. Dr. Wright has a PhD from the University of Western Ontario (now Western University). Her research interests are in the areas of cross-cultural management, international negotiations, and conditions for SME business success internationally. Her geographic area of interest is the Pacific Basin region.

STUDENT GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Group 1

Masaya Aso, *Nagoya University*

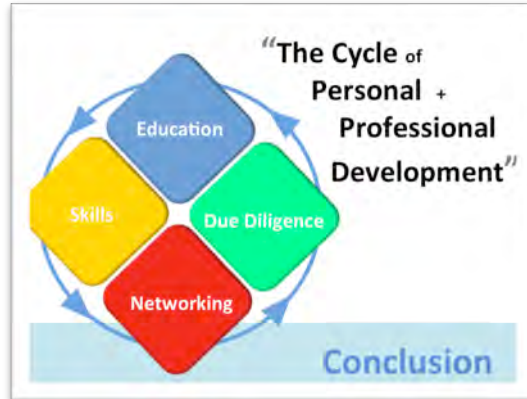
Megan Hood, *University of Prince Edward Island*

Kouichi Sugimoto, *Hosei University*

Joanna Wreakes, *University of Alberta*

In this presentation we will be examining the question, "What do the youth of today need to do in order to make themselves more competitive in this global world?" Defining *youth* as individuals under thirty years of age, and *today* as a timeline starting after the financial crisis in 2008, we are able to address this question, offering our suggestions for what the youth of today can do in order to gain a competitive edge in a global marketplace. We identified that key areas of education, skills, networking, and due diligence make up the "Foundations of Global Competitiveness". In delving deeper into each level of these foundations, we can examine not only how they work on an individual level, but also work together to create a continuous cycle of personal and professional development. This cycle can be employed by today's youth, not only now but also in the future, to avoid complacency and allow them to maintain a highly competitive edge in the global world.





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Group 2

Tomoka Arai, *Ritsumeikan University*

Gabriel Chen, *University of British Columbia*

Peter Dyloco, *Queen's University*

Yuri Mizutani, *Kyoto University of Education*

In our increasingly globalised and information-driven world, we believe that having a high level of specialisation in terms of industry knowledge and cultural understanding are the key drivers behind competitiveness for the youth of today. We firmly frame and support our argument through empirical research, with sources taken from government publications concerning the evolution of human capital and the changing needs of global markets. On the cultural front, our presentation takes a closer look at Japan, a country with a unique culture that requires a strong sense of cultural understanding for successful market penetration.



Agenda

- › Parameters
- › Thesis
- › Global context
- › Industry-Specific Specialisation
- › Culture-Specific Specialisation
- › Q&A

Defining Question 1

Youth: <35 years old

Today: framework of concerns facing current generation

Competitive: maximising chances of success in chosen career

Global world: in context of globalisation

Parameters Thesis Global context Industry-Specific Specialisation Culture-Specific Specialisation Q&A

Thesis

Industry and **culture-specific** specialisation are necessary to remain competitive in our global world.

Parameters Thesis Global context Industry-Specific Specialisation Culture-Specific Specialisation Q&A

Global Context: The Knowledge-Based Economy

"Employment in the knowledge-based economy is characterised by **increasing demand** for more **highly-skilled** workers. The knowledge-intensive and high-technology parts of OECD economies tend to be the most dynamic in terms of **output** and **employment growth**. Changes in technology, and particularly the advent of information technologies, are making educated and skilled labour **more valuable**, and unskilled labour less so. Government policies will need more stress on upgrading human capital through promoting access to a **range of skills**, and especially the **capacity to learn**."

Source: OECD, "The Knowledge-Based Economy"

Parameters Thesis Global context Industry-Specific Specialisation Culture-Specific Specialisation Q&A



Global Context

- Cost efficiencies have led to major job outsourcing
- Jobs outsourced based on wage & labour productivity
- Labour productivity dependent on:
 - Investment in physical capital
 - New technology
 - Human capital**

Source: "Globalisation: The Great Unbinding", Secretariat of the Economic Council, Finnish Prime Minister's Office



Human Capital: Definition

"A measure of the economic value of an **employee's skill set** ... concept of human capital recognizes that not all labour is equal and that the quality of employees can be improved by investing in them. The **education, experience** and **abilities** of an employee have an economic value for employers and for the economy as a whole."

Source: Investopedia



The What: Remaining Competitive in a Global Context

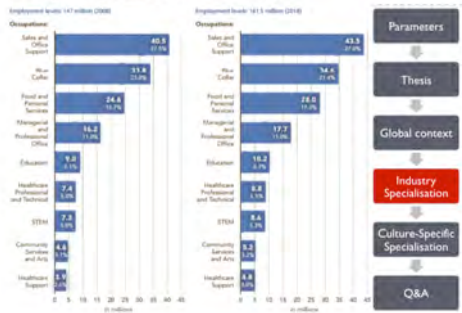
"(Professions in) the elite skill level are **largely resistant to automation and offshoring technology permits**...high-skill workers have gotten richer...saw their median wage rise 37% between 1980 and 2010. The strong wage growth for high-skill workers reflects their **increased productivity** as technological advances and globalization have served as a complement to the tasks they perform."

Source: Wall Street Journal, "Middle Skill Jobs are Lagging"



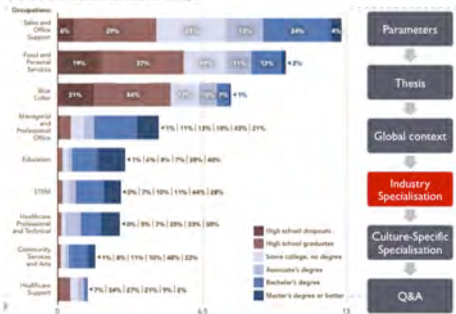
The Influence of Education in the Job Market

Occupations with lower productivity requirements are declining as a share of total employment.
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2008. Data on Education: median number of years of schooling in 2010



The Necessity of Education in the Job Market

Total job openings and the distribution of educational demand within occupations.
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Bureau of Economic Analysis through 2010



Japan-Specific Context

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN ESTABLISHING/CONDUCTING OVERSEAS BUSINESS OPERATIONS



Source: METI, グローバル人材育成に関するアンケート調査 [Survey on the development of global human capital], 2010, p. 4.



Group 3

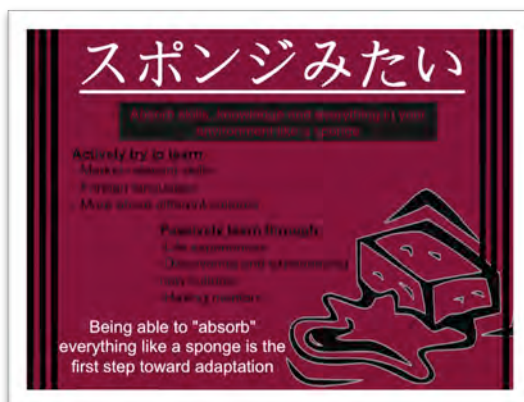
Benjamin MacDonald, *University of Prince Edward Island*

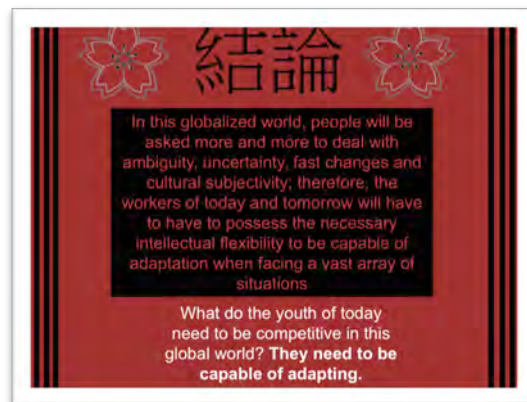
Anne Sophie Roussel, *Université Laval*

Yuto Terauchi, *Kwansei Gakuin University*

Daisuke Yagishita, *Meiji University*

Globalization is a process that is ambiguous and hard to predict. We will argue that, in order to make themselves competitive, the main ability the youth of today need to possess is adaptation. Four areas in which this all-encompassing notion can be used to help youth improve their competitiveness will be explored. First, youth have to be "sponge-like" to absorb skills and adapt to their work environment; they also need to adapt to the global realities of the job market, such as the preponderance of cross-cultural interactions; moreover, youth need to adapt how they present themselves and their skills in order to fit the specific profile of the companies they apply to; finally, they need to change their attitude and the way they see themselves to be able to achieve their goals. For the youth of today everywhere, those different forms and processes of adaptation can become keys to being competitive workers in this ever-evolving global world.





Group 4

So Young Chang, *University of British Columbia*

Kento Kosaka, *Hosei University*

Christian Laubman, *University of Alberta*

Moet Takahashi, *Josai International University*

In the globalising world, the youth of today are facing unique economic challenges such as navigating an increasingly competitive job market. While the difficulties are real, cooperation among youth across cultural borders can bring about positive change that turns crisis into opportunity. In this presentation, we introduce the concept of International Integration of Identity (I cubed), which synthesises and encapsulates the benefits of intercultural awareness. With our own definition of what constitutes a cultural border, we look at case studies of Japan and Canada and argue that increased interaction both between and within the borders can lead to a productive synergy that benefits all parties involved. To emphasise the need for face-to-face exchanges, we propose a model for cross-border collaboration which will bring together Japanese and Canadian university students in a "pitch contest" setting, which can serve as a forum for fostering innovation and network building.

International Integration of Identity

How can the youth of today work together to meet the economic challenges facing our world?

Outline

- Misconceptions of Cultural Identity
 - Issues of Cultural Borders (Japan/Canada)
 - Why Japan and Canada Should Cooperate
 - What Has Already Been Done
 - Our Pitch
-
- Culture -> People
 - People -> Economy

Misconceptions of Cultural Identity

- Cultural Borders \neq National Borders
 - East vs. West
 - Kanto vs. Kansai
 - Field of Interest

Issues of Cultural Borders The Case of Japan

- Insufficient Exposure to Culture
 - Education
- Lack of Interaction
 - Between Fields

Issues of Cultural Borders The Case of Canada

- Canada = many immigrants = multicultural identity?
- But our demographics are constantly changing
- Multiculturalism is a commitment, not a given

Benefits of Japanese and Canadian Cooperation

- Cultural Interaction
 - Between and Within
- Innovation
 - Expansion of Knowledge
- Network Building
 - Relations

What Has Already Been Done

- U21 (Universitas 21)
 - Consortium of research-intensive universities
 - Research collaboration, student mobility, course development
- AIESEC (International Association of Students in Economic and Commercial Sciences)
 - 113 Countries and territories
 - 2, 400 Universities
 - 86, 000 Members
 - 1, 000, 000 Alumni

Our Pitch

- "International Integration of Identity"
 - "I Cubed"
- Provide opportunities for all students
- Fostering innovation and network building
- Experience for the future
- Cultural awareness

Group 5

Takayuki Fukada, *University of Waterloo*

Brett Huestis, *University of Prince Edward Island*

Tsuyoshi Nakajima, *Sophia University*

Su Qin Yan, *J.F. Oberlin University*

Presentation titled, "Solutions to Economic Issues Through Youth Initiatives: From the Individual to the world", the presentation focuses on cross border teams and how the youth of today can form teams in order to face the economic challenges which the world offers. The matter was discussed from how each individual can contribute to the team to how the cross border team will be effective in this current world. It was mentioned that at the individual level, one can improve him/herself by participating in various international programs. Also, the effectiveness of a team is described in this presentation with examples and personal experiences. Understandings from lecture of 2013 JACAC Student Forum, were incorporated in order to support the ideas and examples of successful cross border teams.

JACAC Student Forum 2013

Solutions to Economic Issues Through Youth Initiatives: From the Individual to the World


Takayuki Fukada
Brett Huestis
Tsuyoshi Nakajima
SuQin Yan

Agenda

- Question
- Individual
- Teamwork
- Cross-Border Teams
- Conclusion

Question



'How Can the Youth of Today Work Together to Meet the Economic Challenges Facing Our World?'

Individual

- What can each of us do?
- How can we develop ourselves?

Training
 Knowledge
 useful ability
 backbone of co
 quired for a tr
 today

Individual

By Understanding we can:

- Avoid conflicts,
- Enhance productivity,
- Become more empathetic,
- Increase creativity and flexibility.




Individual

Encourage people to participate in the following:

- Exchange Program
- Internships
- Co-op Programs.




Team

Sub Arctic Survival Exercise

- An insight into effective decision making.




Source: Dr. Wright, Lorna



Team

So, what are these results telling us?


- Teamwork provides informed decisions
- Teamwork aligns interests, which is likely to result in mutual gain.
- Members' strengths will outweigh other members' weaknesses.



Team

Challenges

- High VS low context,
- Linear VS circular reasoning,
- Different methods of interaction,
- Different leadership roles,
- Task VS relationship-oriented work,
- Decision making,
- And goal alignment.



Source: Dr. Wright, Lorna

Team

Starbucks in Japan Case Study

- Joint-Venture
- Effect of teamwork




Source: Global Business Today, 3rd Edition

Cross-Border Teams

- Consist of members with different backgrounds.
- Each member has a different matters.
- Highly adaptive.




Thank you for your audience

ご清聴ありがとうございました



Appendix

Cross border:
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Group 6

Jean-Christophe Dumont, *Université Laval*

Mayato Hattori, *Meiji University*

Dahron Martin, *York University*

Saki Tezuka, *Tsuda College*

Our team presents the thesis that the instalment of an EPA between Canada and Japan is a good thing overall. Through an analysis of both countries' actual economic situation, as well as the current trade balance between them, it is made clear that Japan and Canada have complementary strengths in terms of major industries. We support our argumentation through two major points: the mutual economic benefits inherent to the EPA proposition and the need for resources, especially because of the decline in farmer workers in Japan. Obviously, downsides exist as well, like questioning the necessity for an EPA while other measures exist to facilitate exchanges. Here again, EPA would help to lower many barriers and stimulate the exchanges to provide, in the future, a better quality of life and high quality jobs for the youth of both countries.

Potential of EPA between Canada and Japan

Will Japan and Canada being part of economic partnership agreements bi-lateral or multi-lateral, provide opportunities for the future of youth today?

Dahron Martin
Mayato Hattori
Saki Tezuka
Jean-Christophe Dumont

CANADA JAPAN
Student Forum

Table of Contents

1	Introduction
2	Comparison of Japan and Canada
3	Argument 1
4	Counter Argument
4'	Argument 2
5	Conclusion

Introduction

Let's start with a little example...

1st scenario : no exchange between the two of them

	CD Players	Maple Syrup
Mayato	2000	500
Dahron	4000	2000
TOTAL	6000	2500

Introduction

2nd scenario : exchange between the two of them

- Mayato has an advantage in producing CD players
- Dahron has one in producing Maple syrup
- Each person specializes in what they're good at.
- Economies of scale generated, allowing a greater outcome in total

	CD Players	Maple Syrup
Mayato	4000	0
Dahron	2400	2800
TOTAL	6400	2800

Introduction Comparison of Japan and Canada Argument 1 Counter-Argument Argument 2 Conclusion

Comparison of Japan and Canada

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full name: Canada Population: 34.3 million (UN, 2011) Capital: Ottawa Largest city: Toronto Area: 9.9 million sq km (3.8 million sq miles) Major languages: English, French (both official) Major religion: Christianity Life expectancy: 79 years (men), 83 years (women) (UN) Monetary unit: Canadian dollar GNI per capita: US \$43,270 (World Bank, 2010) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full name: Japan Population: 126.5 million (UN, 2011) Capital: Tokyo Area: 377,864 sq km (145,894 sq miles) Major language: Japanese Major religions: Shintoism, Buddhism Life expectancy: 80 years (men), 87 years (women) (UN) Monetary unit: yen GNI per capita: US \$45,180 (World Bank, 2011)
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Introduction Comparison of Japan and Canada Argument 1 Counter-Argument Argument 2 Conclusion

Comparison of Japan and Canada

Trade balance

	Exports of Goods			Imports of Goods			Goods Balance
	2011	2011 share % growth over 2010	2011	2011 share % growth over 2010	2011	2011	
World	457,549	100.0%	13.0%	456,129	100.0%	10.2%	1,419
U.S.	230,472	22.3%	11.8%	281,108	61.8%	8.1%	49,566
EU	42,388	9.3%	16.3%	45,778	10.0%	13.3%	-3,390
Japan	11,356	2.5%	16.9%	9,799	2.0%	-7.0%	2,038
ROW	73,122	16.0%	18.0%	119,947	26.3%	15.9%	-46,825

	Exports of Services			Imports of Services			Services Balance
	2011	2011 share % growth over 2010	2011	2011 share % growth over 2010	2011	2011	
World	74,845	100.0%	5.0%	99,465	100.0%	5.8%	-24,620
U.S.	39,384	52.6%	2.9%	56,666	57.0%	5.1%	-17,082
EU	12,937	17.3%	2.2%	15,318	15.4%	2.9%	-2,381
Japan	3,255	4.3%	2.9%	1,519	1.5%	6.0%	1,663
ROW	21,069	28.2%	11.4%	25,963	26.1%	9.2%	-4,894

ROW = Rest of World
Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 376-0001

Introduction Comparison of Japan and Canada Argument 1 Counter-Argument Argument 2 Conclusion

Comparison of Japan and Canada

Trade balance-Category of products

Canada's Merchandise Trade with Japan, 2011

Canadian Imports from Japan		Canadian Exports to Japan	
Merchandise Classification	%	Merchandise Classification	%
1 Motor vehicles; tractors, bicycles, motorcycles	36.51	Mineral fuels, oils	21.29
2 Bakers, mechanical appliances, etc.	24.15	Oil seeds and misc. fruit, grain, etc.	15.80
3 Electrical machinery and equipment	11.61	Ores, slag and ash	12.21
4 Optical, medical, scientific, technical instrumentation	9.45	Used and scrap articles, miscell.	9.39
5 Rubber and rubber articles	3.71	Heat and electric metal ores	8.17
6 Iron or steel articles	2.73	Cereals	3.73
7 Aircraft and spacecraft	2.26	Woodcuts; paper or paperboard scraps	1.42

Introduction Comparison of Japan and Canada Argument 1 Counter-Argument Argument 2 Conclusion

Comparison of Japan and Canada

- Canada and Japan possess strengths at different places:
 - Canada focuses on primary resources, with a low level of transformation and technology.
 - Japan on manufactured products, with medium and high level of transformation and technology.
 - COMPLEMENTARITY of major industries**
- Both countries are already close partners in exchange of goods and services

Introduction Comparison of Japan and Canada Argument 1 Counter-Argument Argument 2 Conclusion

Argument 1

① An EPA will yield economic gains in terms of income and production gains.

- Estimates of GDP gains will be...
- Japan:** between US\$4.4 billion and US\$4.9 billion
- Canada:** between US\$3.8 billion and US\$9.0 billion
- (based on 2010 GDP data)

Introduction Comparison of Japan and Canada Argument 1 Counter-Argument Argument 2 Conclusion

Argument 1

② An EPA will yield economic investment ties

- Both countries' economic growth rates are likely
- To increase by an expansion of investment rate.
 - EX) A dramatic increase in FDI flows was witnessed shortly following the implementation of NAFTA.

Introduction Comparison of Japan and Canada **Argument 1** Counter-Argument Argument 2 Conclusion

Argument 1

- Canada-U.S FDI flows

Source: Trade and Economic Analysis Division (TEAD), DFAIT
Data: Statistics Canada

Introduction Comparison of Japan and Canada **Argument 1** Counter-Argument Argument 2 Conclusion

Argument 1

- ③An EPA will guarantee stable access to resources.
- EX) energy, minerals, and foods.

Canada: a reliable supplier of raw and processed energy, mineral and food products

Japan: one of the principal investors in Canada in the areas of mineral production and exploration and offering important export opportunities to Canada

Introduction Comparison of Japan and Canada **Counter-Argument** Argument 1 Argument 2 Conclusion

Counter Argument

Introduction Comparison of Japan and Canada **Argument 1** Counter-Argument **Argument 2** Conclusion

Argument 2

- Taxes on Canadian goods are far too high.
- Japan requires Canada's agricultural products to replace the declining Japanese agricultural sector.

- Tariffs on Canadian wheat is 22.5% compared to 2.6% on non-agricultural products
- Canadian Beef face a 38.5% tariff

Introduction Comparison of Japan and Canada **Argument 1** Counter-Argument **Argument 2** Conclusion

Argument 2

- The number of workers decreased from 14.39 million in 1960 (32.7 percent of the total workforce) to 2.38 million in 2010 (4.2 percent), and the GDP share of the industries fell from 12.8 percent in 1960 to 1.2 percent in 2010.

Introduction Comparison of Japan and Canada **Argument 1** Counter-Argument **Argument 2** Conclusion

Argument 2

- Declining Farmers

Commercial Farm Households and Commercial Farmers (Thousands)

Year	Commercial farm households					Commercial farmers	Aged 65 years and over (%)
	Total	Full-time	Part-time				
			Mainly farming	Mainly other job			
1990	2,971	473	521	1,977	4,819	33.1	
1995	2,651	428	498	1,725	4,140	43.5	
2000	2,337	426	350	1,561	3,891	52.9	
2005	1,963	443	308	1,212	3,353	58.2	
2010	1,631	451	225	955	2,606	61.6	

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Introduction Contents of Japan and Canada Argument 1 Counter-Argument Argument 2 Conclusion

Conclusion

For the youth of today


- Enhance quality of life for the entire population of both country.
- Access to high quality job domestically as well as across border
- Creation of synergy for managers of tomorrow

Introduction Contents of Japan and Canada Argument 1 Counter-Argument Argument 2 Conclusion

Conclusion

1. EPA between Canada and Japan not only creates mutual benefit in terms of economy, but also provides access to many resources.
2. Considering the situation in Japanese agriculture industry, EPA between Canada and Japan is necessary.

Thank you very much for your all attentions!!!



Group

Group 7

Emily Fung, *University of Alberta*

Mario Gebrayel, *Université de Montréal*

Tomohiro Ikeda, *Ritsumeikan University*

Moemi Ishimaru, *Hokkaido University*

This presentation is about the consequences of an economical partnership agreement (EPA) between Canada and Japan, and the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) on the youth of today in both countries. According to our analysis, the EPA and the TPP do not create opportunities for the youth. Moemi will demonstrate how the EPA does not create opportunities for the youth of Japan, and Mario will discuss the same but for the Canadian youth. Then, Tomohiro will show how the TPP does not create opportunities for the youth of Japan. And finally, Emily will speak from the perspective for the Canadian youth. Our presentation will emphasize on the economical reasons to prove the lack of opportunities creation. In the conclusion, we will propose better ways to create opportunities for the Canadian and Japanese youth of today.

Will Japan and Canada being part of economic partnership agreements provide opportunities for the future of the youth of today?

Group 7: Moemi Ishimaru, Marjo Gabrayel, Tomohiro Ikeda, Emily Fung

Outline

- EPA for Japan
- EPA for Canada
- TPP for Japan
- TPP for Canada
- Conclusion

Fact of Canada-Japan Trade

	Canada	Japan
All Products	4.5	5.3
Agricultural Products	18	23.3
Vehicle	5.6	0

Source: World Tariff Profiles 2012

If Japan-Canada EPA is concluded

Impacts to Agricultural Products

	Japan	Canada
Wheat	-73.6%	20.7%
oilseeds	-20.2%	34.0%

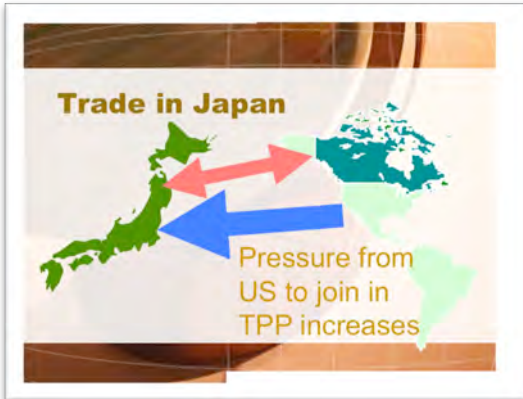
Source: GTAP Database Version 5.4

Trade in Japan

Products	Imports from Canada	
	Value	Share
Pork	1,065	20.7%
oilseed	1,089	20.6%
Wheat	339	6.6%
Total	5,155	100%

Products	Imports from US	
	Value	Share
Pork	1,773	10.6%
Wheat	990	5.9%
Total	18,764	100%

Unit: million US dollars



Youth of Today in Japan

- EPA does not produce more work opportunities for youths today in the mobile industry
- Pressure from US will put Japan in a situation with less food security, threatened by deregulated contents

EPA and Canada

- An EPA with Japan would increase Canada's GDP by \$3.8 billion
- Impression that this is great for the Canadian economy, as well as for the Canadian youths today
- However, it only represents an increase of 0.24% in the Canadian GDP

EPA, Canada and oil

- EPA would be mostly profitable for Canadian oil and agriculture exportation
- Together, they represent more than 60% of the total Canadian exportation to Japan
- Impression that an increase of oil exportation will create more jobs and profits in Canada
- However, more than 30% of the oil producers in Canada are non-Canadian companies.
- Most of the Canadian oil exportation to Japan is produced by non-Canadian companies.

EPA, Canada and oil

- The increase of oil production would create jobs, but not a lot since Canada does not export a lot of oil to Japan (insignificant job creation).
- In addition, the profits of the new oil revenues may not be invested in Canada (foreign companies)
- Therefore, the increase of oil production due to the EPA does not create opportunities for the Canadian youth of today

EPA, Canada and Canola

- The EPA will increase canola exportation to Japan (Low erucic acid rape/colza seeds)
- This industry does not employ a lot of people, hence not a lot of job creations either
- The few job created are not high valued job
- Therefore, the increase of canola production due to the EPA does not create opportunities for the Canadian youth of today

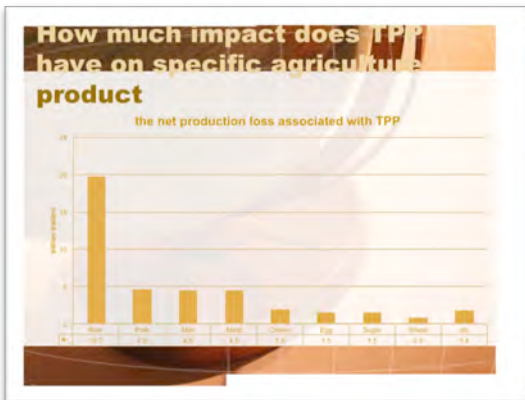


Why TPP is negative for Japan??

- US can take strong initiative to negotiate with all countries of TPP (US can make regulations that draw a great of benefits for US)
- Japan will have to end up compromising with US because of national security (US army bases to secure national security)
- We cannot increase the amount of export under the high Japanese currency rate while US increases theirs.
- Japanese agriculture will be damaged if we lose the tariff.
- Low price imported products is one of the reasons to accelerate the deflation.

Japanese agriculture will be severely damaged

- The total amount of production is expected to decrease by 41 billion dollars.
- Food self-sufficiency rate (based on calorie) is expected to decrease from 40% to 14%
- GDP in the agriculture industry is to decrease by 79 billion dollars.
- 3.4 million people related with agriculture industry will lose their jobs.



Financial policy vs. TPP policy

- Under the high currency rate, Japan cannot take advantage of TPP
- In 2011, when Japanese yen increased by 1% compared to US \$, the net amount of loss from FX was estimated to be 271 million dollars in total industries.
- Financial policy might be more important and efficient, while it stimulates exporting without damaging the agriculture industry.



For youth of today

- Immigrants associated with TPP might get a part-time job instead of students
- Young people lose the chance to work in the agriculture industry by joining the TPP.
- Their health may also be threatened by the imported genetically modified product.

Canadian Youth and the TPP

- According to OpenMedia, TPP meetings are held behind close-doors - alarming
- 120, 000 people in Canada have signed the petition called Stop the Trap
- the dominaion of corporates and governments decision making

- Various reactions from different sectors in Canada

- Internet is one of the major social concerns that is in jeopardy

- UN defines Internet "as a medium by which the right of freedom of speech can be exercised"

- For example: internet service providers V.S. private internet service providers

- Restrictions such as this will limit the accessibility to knowledge and intellectuality of youth today

- In short, both Canadian and Japanese youths will not be provided with opportunities by TPP

Conclusion

There are better ways to create opportunities for the Canadian and Japanese youth of today, but neither a potential Canadian-Japanese EPA nor TPP would be beneficial!

FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS

CANADIAN STUDENTS

The Japan-Canada Academic Consortium 2013 was an unforgettable experience. It gave me better insight into the future of Japanese and Canadian cooperation and more importantly, taught me first-hand how to work in a cross-cultural team. The connections I made at the consortium will be life-long and I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to participate in such a vibrant gathering of youth.

It was fantastic to have such a roster of talented speakers address us! I gained valuable insights from each talk given. I appreciated the effort to reinforce some Japan-Canada connection through the speakers chosen, and it would have been really awesome to have more speakers who spoke directly to that intercultural element.

The most robust learning happened during the group work and preparation for our presentations. Through discussions of the job-hunting process, university environment, and work culture, I learned about the differences between the two cultures, but also came away with the realization that underneath those external comparisons, our generation shares most of the same concerns and hopes about our future. I saw first-hand how interconnected the global economy and contemporary culture are, and felt empowered about the prospect of working with team members from diverse backgrounds.

All in all, JACAC was an unforgettable opportunity to forge special bonds with exceptional people and experience what it means to work in a cross-border team. I have already shared my enthusiasm for the forum with my community and network at UBC and I hope to play a role in increasing the profile of this incredible consortium. Go JACAC!

- So Young Chang, University of British Columbia

Coming to Toronto for JACAC 2013 was definitely the best thing that I have done this year. I have made several new friends from various backgrounds, saw and experienced numerous new things and created unforgettable memories. Even though I knew that I would have several papers and assignments due during the week, I decided to participate anyway and complete them weeks ahead. After experiencing the program, I can confidently say that it was definitely worth coming. I feel that this program has truly taught me more about the Japanese culture by giving me the opportunity to closely interact with Japanese students. Furthermore, the lectures throughout the forum were extremely informative and taught me many new things. I have never really focused on learning about case competitions, presentations, and such so the lectures definitely were useful to me. Also, it was very impressive that most of the people we got to meet had so much experience in what they do. I feel that this experience really gave me the opportunity to meet some amazing people that I would probably never see in my normal life. JACAC truly

helped me deepen my understanding of the Japanese culture and gave me the chance to create new global friendships.

- Gabriel Chen, University of British Columbia

I arrived at the JACAC forum with very little idea of what this week was going to be like. Obviously, I knew I was going to be surrounded with people sharing common passions: Japan and international relations. Meeting with everybody, I rapidly grew very fond of the group I was going to spend an incredible week with. Through different presentations organized to help us during the week, but also in our future lives, we learned concepts of cooperation aiming at helping us work more efficiently in teams and collaborate in a better ways.

It is easy to apply the elements we learned in our little ecosystem to a broader environment. As individuals coming from different backgrounds that had never met before, we found ourselves facing not only regular social barriers, but also the non-neglectable cultural barrier between our two home countries. The activities proposed allowed us to slowly learn to work with each other, while also being quite enriching from a personal point of view. My background allowed me to understand most of the elements presented, although sometimes a few of them were already familiar to me. I understand, however, that given the very wide specter of disciplines all the participants of JACAC are from, we were not starting at the same point in terms of knowledge about the different topics.

In the end, I managed to learn many things about relationships, whether it was with my teammates directly or between Japan and Canada as a whole. Beyond that, JACAC allowed me to meet with a variety of very interesting people through a unique international experience.

- Jean-Christophe Dumont, Université Laval

Overall, JACAC 2013 was an enjoyable and educational experience. Being a car enthusiast, I particularly enjoyed the talk given by Steve Rodgers, the President of APMA. I also found the group exercise conducted by Lorna Wright to be particularly insightful in terms of collaborative teamwork. At the reception hosted by the Japanese consulate, I learned much from those who took time from their busy schedules to be at the reception, and networked with individuals working in a variety of different industries. By the end of the week, I had also made many friends, all of whom I am looking forward to remaining in contact with well into the conceivable future.

- Peter Dyloco, Queen's University

The JACAC Student Forum was one of the best choices I made in my life. Throughout my life, I have only viewed the world from an engineer's point of view and through this forum I have come realize that I was slowly becoming narrow minded. This experience was the most fulfilling, exciting, and was an eye-opening experience.

This year's forum had a theme of youth implication. This topic was so close to all of the participants, it encouraged each student to understand the theme and to contribute to the theme with their own ideas. Personally, I think every second I spent at the forum was a learning experience, as I was able to learn different perspectives by talking with students with different backgrounds and by attending the lectures by researchers, I was provided with a glimpse on why successful people are successful.

Through this forum, each person's time management skill was enhanced due to tight schedule, each person learned new skills and improved on their communication skills as we had no other choice but to communicate, and we gained more understandings about different cultures. I must agree with the fact that this forum was nothing but beneficial to each student who attended.

I was fortunate to have been a participant in this student forum, and I will cherish each experience and piece of knowledge I gained in this forum to further enhance myself. I want to thank everyone who allowed this to happen and everyone who participated for giving me all the interesting insights.

- Takayuki Fukada, University of Waterloo

This is my very first time to participate at a student consortium such as this, so I was a little unsure of what to expect before I came to Toronto. However, now that this wonderful experience is unfortunately over, I am very happy and grateful to say that it was definitely an experience of a lifetime. I did not only learn more about how a youth such as myself can play an important role in many aspects of society, but I also made a big group of friends that I connected with at a very intimate level.

As a non-business major, I found it a little difficult to argue for my position and grasp all the ideas presented by the guest speakers specifically for my own question. Fortunately, I had three teammates who were all very supportive. Though the readings were a great summary of my topic, it was not the most resourceful tool for us to base our presentation upon. I felt that even the readings were favoring our opponents. Nevertheless it was a learning experience to deliver a presentation in a debate style.

As to the best part of my trip, I would have to say it was definitely my fellow colleagues, of whom I call "friends" now. As a Canadian, I am fairly familiar with the concept of multiculturalism. However, I was still amazed by how diverse our group is. For example, one particular colleague was born in Singapore to a Japanese father and Singaporean mother, and grew up in Dubai, another student's Japanese grandfather fought in WWII. If it

wasn't because of all of my friends, I don't think I would have the same experience. On top of that, the staff who organized all of these events and the guest speakers who gave us their two cents also were a big part of my entire experience. Although my second least favourite part of the entire consortium was mainly because of the difficulty of my question (with the least favorite being the cold), I really enjoyed my stay in Toronto and everything I did. So, thank you for selecting me for the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium, and allowing me to have such a wonderful experience!

- Emily Fung, University of Alberta

The Japanese Canadian Academic Consortium Student Forum was, for me, an unforgettable experience. The four speakers we had were real specialists in their respective fields and their presentations were really helpful to make us understand our presentation topics. The diversity in the group of student was excellent: all were smart, ambitious and hardworking students with different but extremely interesting backgrounds. This experience was so interesting that it should last at least 10 days instead of 7 days. It took many days for the Japanese students to get over the jetlag. As well it would be better if we had more than 4 speakers (at least 2 per question should be the minimum, so we could have 2 different point of views to compare). Also, I believe that it would be more interesting if the group discussions would be lead by the students with some help from the presenter instead of only being lead by the presenter. However, these are minor points compared to the excellence of this forum.

What I enjoyed the most was the fact that never in this forum was it about theories or books, but always about young Canadians and Japanese discussing and debating great ideas about really relevant questions related to both groups. We did not only study our respective cultures, but we really understood each other. I believe that meeting the people and discussing about our fears and convictions was the most important aspect in this forum. As Mahatma Gandhi said : "A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people." Therefore, the forum should stay as much as possible about group discussions and activities because this is how we truly learn the most.

- Mario Gebrayel, Université de Montréal

This year was the first that I ever participated in JACAC, but it will also be the last as I'm graduating this semester! I'm very grateful that I had the chance to attend at least once during my university life! It was wonderful to meet so many people from Japan and across Canada. It seemed like right away we were just one big family, working and exploring Toronto together. Even though I'm not at all new to Toronto, I still went to so many new places and got to experience the joy of sharing my favourite places with others. I even got to master the Toronto subway system, although it's a far cry from the maze of Tokyo's train system!

The guest speakers at the conference were brilliant and I learned quite a bit. What I loved about the information the presenters shared was that it was immediately relevant to me – a student about to graduate and enter the working world. My situation also made me very personally interested in this year’s conference topic and researching was really enjoyable. My teammates came from such unique and varied backgrounds, it was a great experience to collaborate and see the points of view of people without a business-centric mindset as that to which I am accustomed. Even though we had quite a bit to do, the atmosphere was very relaxed and amiable, and it was an eye-opening change of pace for me – I’m very used to high stress situations! Being able to produce good work without stress was a unique experience for me, and good for my health!

JACAC was a great opportunity to get out of my comfort zone for a little while and see how amazing it can be. More than a month later and our “family” is still going strong on Facebook! You really do make lasting connections with the people you meet during the forum. York University was a wonderful host, and the coordinators were very attentive and helpful. Thank you for creating such a great opportunity and good luck in the future!

- Megan Hood, University of Prince Edward Island

The 4th annual Japan-Canada Academic Consortium has been a learning experience through and through. The opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals from both Japan and Canada has been incredible, and I have acquired a much better understanding of intercultural business and communication. The presentations throughout the week were informative, and the presenters seemed to be truly motivated about what they were presenting.

However, as good as the presentations were, the majority of learning happened within the social interaction between participants. I consistently found myself having intriguing conversations with the Japanese participants on the culture of Japanese communication and business. I believe that insight provided by peers is the most valuable, because we represent the atmosphere of international business for the future.

I was very pleased with the overall experience of the forum. My fellow participants were very kind, and their knowledge has allowed for very intriguing conversations. The JACAC Forum has increased my desire to travel, study or even work in Japan at some point in the future. I am very grateful that I was able to participate in such an exciting and educating experience.

I would just like to sincerely thank everyone on the administrative side of the forum for allowing me to participate, in only seven days I have made friendships that will likely last a lifetime. I hope that I will have the opportunity to participate again next year!

- Brett Huestis, University of Prince Edward Island

I have learned a lot on this trip and am proud to have been a participant in the 2013 Forum. Being able to meet with intellectual students from all over Canada and Japan, each person from different backgrounds, has opened me up to many new ideas and ways of thinking.

In regards to the forum itself and how it was conducted, I was pleased with the amount of speakers and their content. Anymore and I think it would cause the days to drag on, and any less I don't think the participants would be able to get the most out of the program. Overall I enjoyed my experience here and I look forward to using the knowledge I gained in the future.

- Christian Laubman, University of Alberta

When I received the news that I would be going to Toronto to attend JACAC I was undoubtedly excited - after all, I had never been to Toronto, and JACAC fit in perfectly with my interest in East Asia and International Relations. That said, I wasn't entirely sure of what to expect. One of my friends had attended the conference in Japan a couple of years ago, and she told me that it was an amazing time. So at least I had the expectation that it would be a very good time, but I was even pleasantly surprised on that count.

I was expecting a chance to learn about Japan through the perspective of my Japanese peers, while enjoying the opportunity to visit and get to know a new city. Instead, I ended up meeting some amazing new friends and having one of the best Spring Breaks of my life!

As a group, we were all both very different and similar. We were all around the same age, and thus were all on the cusp of venturing out into the "Real World". That said, we all came from varying backgrounds, thus giving us the chance to learn from each other, Canadians and Japanese alike. The lectures were also very enlightening, as it was great to hear from people who had "made it" after having gone through many of the same problems we are facing today. I believe that my group owes quite a few of our ideas to them.

Working with said group went more smoothly than I could have hoped, as we all kept an open mind and helped each other build our ideas. The cultural differences between us did not stop us from working as a team but on the contrary, I think we all learned from them to make our points even more "globalized".

Of course, the time we spent together outside of class was awesome as well. While I love Toronto, I think it wouldn't have been nearly as fun without all the great friends I made during the trip.

It is for these reasons and many more that I am extremely grateful for the opportunity granted to me in February. I won't be forgetting the people I met or the memories I made anytime soon!

- Benjamin MacDonald, University of Prince Edward Island

I can not put into words how relevant this conference has been to my academic experience. I have always been fascinated by Japan and this conference has provided the perfect opportunity to build relationships with some of Japan's future leaders. I thought the presenters really knew their material very well and they provided the right insights into how youth can be successful in Japan. I truly feel that I have been given the right tools to be successful as I venture out into the world and try to find my place. My favourite speakers were Christopher Janca and Joe Fayt. I thought Chris' presentation helped to reassure me that Japan is a place where I can learn a lot and gain exposure to a culture that prides itself on discipline and innovation. Listening to Joe Fayt I could tell he knew his material better than anyone. He skillfully presented facts and numbers about Japanese manufacturing that I thought was one of the only presentations that was adequately supported with evidence.

The reception at the Japanese Consulate was one of the highlights of this experience. The chance to meet so many important representatives of Japan and to learn about what other opportunities there are for me was really great. Of course the ultimate experience during this conference was meeting all of these really cool people. I have never felt more confident about my ability to speak Japanese. I will definitely formally pursue some kind of language program. I love the Japanese language. Thank you very much for hosting this forum. It has played a critical role in shaping my future experiences.

- Dahron Martin, York University

I am glad I decided to apply to participate in this fourth edition of the JACAC Student Forum and consider myself lucky to have been chosen to represent Canada. I found this experience to be particularly enjoyable and unique - it is not often that students from Canada get to interact so closely with students from Japan in such a way. Simply having this opportunity is, in itself, priceless. We were also lucky to have very knowledgeable and interesting speakers who came to see us. I believe it was a good idea to pair us in groups that are comprised of both Canadian and Japanese students.

Overall, I deeply enjoyed my participation in this fourth edition of the JACAC Student Forum and consider that this experience gave me a vast array of learning opportunities.

- Anne Sophie Roussel, Université Laval

Participating in the 2013 JACAC Student Forum has easily been one of the most rewarding experiences of my university career. While there have definitely been some frustrating moments, as can be assumed when working in such close proximity with other individuals, they did not overshadow the positives of participating in the forum. During my week here I have been challenged intellectually over and over, and learned a lot about not only economics, but also the cultural complexities of Japan and Canada. Japan and Canada may be different countries, with different cultures, but in today's global world, these differences are becoming less and less, as this forum has shown. Students from various disciplines and various areas can work together to solve problems effectively, these shrinking cultural differences were not a deterrent. Through all of this close collaboration, I have developed academic and professional relationships with all of my colleagues. However, more importantly, I leave Toronto with many new lifelong friends. I would recommend that any student, regardless of discipline, apply to participate in the JACAC Student Forum.

- Joanna Wreakes, University of Alberta

JAPANESE STUDENTS

It was a great ten days and I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and experience many things through this forum. Since I am now job hunting now in Japan, the topic "*What the youth of today need to do in order to make themselves competitive in the global world?*" was exactly what I was wondering for my future. In that point, this forum was quiet interesting. I especially found the lectures by Christopher and Lorma to be the most interesting for me because the topics were more familiar to me and I could learn useful things for my future career. Not only the lectures, it was great to build a new network with twenty-eight great youths from all over Canada and Japan. It was a good opportunity to see students who share the same interests on Japan and Canada and to discuss our world. Overall this forum was excellent, but I wanted to learn more specific things about the economic relationship between Japan and Canada because I felt some of the lectures were interesting, but not directly related to our two countries.

- Tomoka Arai, Ritsumeikan University

The economic condition of the world is getting worse, many companies all over the world face a financial crisis and the climate is changing year by year. I think it is getting more difficult than it was in the past to keep a good relationship between other countries. But markedly the relationship between Canada and Japan keeps going well. I had wondered that what was going on between Canada and Japan that made this relationship special. This was one of the reasons why I came, even though I major in engineering which is unrelated to the forum topic.

During the forum, I noticed a difference in the personality of Canadians comparing them with Americans. In my opinion, Canadians strive to be separated when they define themselves and think about their relationship of the world. I think this is the main point why we have a good relationship with Canada even though many differences exist on us because America is a big key point for Japan in the global world.

I am now interested in the relationship between America and Canada. Although they look alike physically, I really want to see how different they are. For instance, I come up with one idea that participants from three countries discuss about the international economy. I think it is a better way to recognize diversity of people and countries because it is more difficult to have a conversation with three countries than two countries.

If I have a chance, I really want to take part in this forum again.

- Masaya Aso, Nagoya University

First of all, I am so grateful to have joined this forum and would like to thank all of those involved in its administration. I was quite inspired from all the lessons that provided us the opportunity to think deeply on our focal theme about the contemporary youth facing the economic challenges in both Canada and Japan. I was amazed by how great the JACAC participants were with whom I could exchange dozens of intriguing ideas, not only during presentations, but also throughout our personal time. Since this was my first time to visit Canada, everything I did was a new experience for me. Although Canadian weather is quite cold and dry and I never really got used to it, it was great to experience something so different from my past experiences. The Canadian traditional food, poutine, was so tasty that I would even want to import it to Japan. Not only these points, but the people I met in Canada were so kind and really nice to foreigners like myself. Once again, I was so happy to participate in this forum and would like to thank for all staff at York University.

- Mayato Hattori, Meiji University

The JACAC student forum gave us a great opportunity to learn about the issues between Japan and Canada and exchange our experiences with each other. Many students understood about both Japan and Canada before joining this event and that is why everyone easily got along with one another. In addition to that, I appreciate that JACAC gave us special lectures, of which I had never taken during my undergraduate life and exciting debates throughout the forum.

In the presentation, our team had to disagree with the idea of TPP and EPA between Japan and Canada. That was the only bad part of the forum for me. I had to disagree with the idea of TPP and EPA between Japan and Canada, which was difficult for me since I strongly support and agree with the TPP and EPA.

Nonetheless, the greatest part of JACAC was working on our projects with our teammates which filled me with a sense of achieving an important goal during our exchange experience. That will always be a precious experience for each of us to look back on in the future.

I looked forward to participating in JACAC student forum since I studied at University of Alberta. This forum definitely passed each of my expectations. Having returned to Japan, I am continuing to keep this network going and to promote the relationship between Japan and Canada. Thank you all!

- Tomohiro Ikeda, Ritsumeikan University

Before the forum started, I had been nervous because of the fact that I would meet people who I didn't know at all. However, the kindness of fellow participants made me comfortable and quickly our group developed a good friendship.

I attended the University of Alberta from September to December, 2011, and at that time I was very sorry that I didn't get the chance to talk with Canadian students about my research on the Japan-Canada EPA. Fortunately in this forum I could join in many discussions about it. The discussion was fun and I learned a lot about the Canadian perspective. Since the quality of the lectures was also very high, I could understand the details of the other student presentations, and for that, I am very thankful. The most memorable class was about how people could survive in the plane crash. Because of this class I learned the importance of having self-confident. I'd like to make use of this experience in my career. Lastly, I want to say thank all of the people who organized this forum, the professors, and the participants.

- Moemi Ishimaru, Hokkaido University

It was a great pleasure to participate in the JACAC Forum. Since this was my first time in Canada, it was really nice to live in this environment and interact with students from Canada. In my personal view, Canadian people were really nice because people tend to listen more carefully when others speak. I think people in Canada are really interested in learning about outside cultures because they have an such mixed culture.

About this Forum, we Japanese students have had a lot of time to interact with Canadian students and hear about their views and what they think about Japan. I was really satisfied with the presentations because our discussions involved many different cultural aspects. I found that many students' majors were related to culture, and therefor the subject matter involved more about culture than economy and this gave me a lot of chances to think in a way related to my major. I was really happy to have this group experience because

everybody was active and proposing a lot of their different opinions, not only within our individual groups but all of the participants in this forum were awesome. Therefore, I had a lot of fun and stimulation spending 10 days at York University.

Again, I really appreciate to have this wonderful experience with great people. This April I am going to start working in the global field, so I hope to utilize this experience as a driving force in my career.

- Kento Kosaka, Hosei University

The theme of JACAC 2013 is about business and economic, and my major is English education. These two areas are interrelated with each other partly, I think. Recently, the world has become very globalized and in order to communicate with people all over the world, we should speak a common language, which is usually English. As an English teacher, I can teach English and what the globalized world is to children who will take an active role in the future.

The lecture I was impressed the most with was about group work. In order to work together in the global world, we should understand different cultures, different communication styles, the different decision making steps, and so on. Misunderstanding other backgrounds leads to miscommunication and conflict. During question group work, there as a difference in the view of our discussion question between the Canadian students and the Japanese students. In order to solve this problem, we talked a lot with each other.

Thank you for inviting me to this forum and giving such a great opportunity to work with people from both of our two countries.

- Yuri Mizutani, Kyoto University of Education

I had a great experience in the JACAC Forum. Thanks for everything, particularly to Meiji University and York University. I arrived in Toronto on February 16th and was surprised to find the road covered with snow.

The participants from both Japan and Canada were high motivated, thoughtful, and friendly. We all worked together to make progress for a stronger, economical relationship between Canada and Japan. My group challenged the question: How can the youth of today work together to meet the economic challenges facing our world? Firstly, we talked about cultural differences between Canada and Japan. For example, Canadians definitely go home after their work done, while Japanese tend to work after their work is done to build a relationship with their co-workers and their bosses. Our group members had different backgrounds, so group discussion was very excited. I was born in Japan, while another member was born in Prince Edward Island, Canada and Shanghai, China, and Dubai! In Japan, we often discuss things on

the assumption that all of members share a common sense. However, the JACAC experience let me think about what I consider to be common sense. How can people coming from different backgrounds have the same common sense? And what is common sense? Actually, we have a lot of similarities as well as the differences. We are not same, but not totally different. That is why we should understand each other deeply if we implement cooperation.

The word “global” is almost becoming buzzword in Japan. Japanese tend to think that the condition of a global person is the ability to speak a foreign language. I think that the most important point to the adoption of globalization is the attitude and that there will be regional differences, and we must try to understand others’ cultures patiently and endure through cultural and linguistic barriers.

All of the people I met during JACAC were impressive. All of the things that happened during JACAC were memorable. Once again, I am grateful for all of the JACAC staff and participants. I had the privilege to meet a large number of nice people and to learn a lot from them.

- Tsuyoshi Nakajima, Sophia University

I participated in JACAC for 10 days. I have two points to tell you about JACAC for me.

My first point is that JACAC gave me the motivation to further study English. I have been interested in English for a long time; I studied English very hard until I became a high school student, however, I did not study English in university and when I applied did not pass the required examination to qualify to study abroad. To have had the opportunity to participate in this exchange experience, I was elated. It is like a frog in the well knows not of the sea. At the JACAC Forum, most of the students can speak English a lot more fluently than me. They have experienced a study abroad for six months to one year, which made me lose self-confidence at the time. As a result, this experience motivated me to begin studying English and to try my best to take the exam for study abroad again.

The second point is how important international communication is between countries. In this global world, it is essential to understand different cultures and their peoples’ thoughts. I communicated with Japanese students and Canadian students. In particular, I learned a lot about Canadian culture. I knew little about Canada before. Canadian culture is so different from Japanese culture. Understanding different cultures make me more competitive for working and competing against other businesspersons in the future.

In conclusion, I had a good experience by joining in the JACAC Forum. Furthermore, I would like to participate in the JACAC program again. Until then, I will practice and improve my English skills for discussion and speaking so that I am better prepared to express what I want to say. Lastly, I want to thank JACAC, Canadian students, and my fellow Japanese students.

- Kouichi Sugimoto, Hosei University

It has been an honor and great pleasure to be able to participate in this year's JACAC forum. I never would have expected just nine days to make such a great impact on my life, or become so close to so many amazing people in such a short period of time. Every day was productive and every moment was precious. I have been able to learn from the lectures and discussions throughout this program, and much of it is something I would like to keep forever.

Although the program was great, and I had an unbelievable time, there are some minor things that I would like to have changed. The lectures were all very interesting and very informative, but I would have liked more guest speakers if it were possible. I think that more guest speakers with shorter lectures and shorter days, possibly a 2-week program instead of a week and a half would have been better. I also would have wanted the question reviews to be lead more by the participants.

Overall the last 10 days have been very productive and definitely unforgettable. It is a great honor to have been able to be part of this with so many incredible people. It has made me realize that there are so many people like those who I've met in the world, and that although subtle, we can all make a difference.

- *Moet Takahashi*, Josai International University

First of all, I am extremely grateful to everyone involved in this forum and especially York University which hosted it. It would not be an exaggeration to say that this JACAC student forum is the most fulfilling and fantastic experience in my life. Through this forum, there were so many opportunities to meet incredible people.

Last year, I studied International Business in Seattle for one year. What I learned both studying abroad and at my Japanese University are that discussion is indispensable to understand each other deeply. It is also important to observe the different situations, think, read materials, discuss, exchange knowledge, and make a presentation. At that time, however, I could not tell my opinion very well because of my English abilities, so I would like to take this opportunity in order to improve my working ability in transnational teams and also, I would like to expand my understanding of the relationship between Canada and Japan through this program.

Thanks to a wonderful program, I could learn how to work with people who have different cultures, backgrounds, and values, through lectures and group work. There are three points that I have learned from this forum. One is that communication is important to understand people from different backgrounds. Communication is also affected by culture, for example, high context culture and low context culture. The other thing is that it is important to keep being yourself. I used to try to hide my identity in order to adjust to other cultures. However, this might not be the

best way to work together. Third, finding differences in transnational teams is easy, on the other hand, similarities are difficult to figure out.

Next April, I will begin to work for an automotive parts manufacturing company. I would like to use the elements I have learned in JACAC to extend the range of products in my company, for example in welfare, energy and houses. Again, I really appreciated this JACAC Student Forum. Thank you very much. It is hard to say good-bye. I am looking forward to seeing everyone again.

- Yuto Terauchi, Kwansei Gakuin University

At this forum, I was satisfied with three main things.

First, the chance for us to attend lectures by people who have different academic backgrounds was very helpful to more deeply understand each topic. Even though there were several lectures in this forum, every lecture gave me a different impression. Also, the lectures were all interactive which made a nice atmosphere to participate in and ask questions.

Second, the theme and three questions of this year were interesting and important ones for all of our futures, even though each of us was different from one another. Now, a lot of countries make an effort to have strong relations by free trades and economic development. Therefore, it was a great opportunity to be able to think and have discussions about these topics.

Lastly, the fact that I could meet varieties of students from different places was the most important experience in this forum. Even though basically this forum is for Canada and Japan, we could meet people who have diverse backgrounds. When I spoke and discussed with them, I was able to get interesting points of view and sense of each person's values. From these experiences, I came to learn how to accept and know our differences and diversity.

I appreciate the kindness of all of the people whom I met at this forum and this eventful and fruitful time.

- Saki Tezuka, Tsuda College

Firstly I want to thank JACAC for giving me the opportunity to take part in the JACAC Forum. It was really great to meet so many fantastic friends. Although it's only about 10 days, I learned a lot from JACAC and the other students. I think we did a great job in this forum. Through group discussion, I learned about co-operation and teamwork, by the lectures, I learned a lot including what we young generation should do in globalization. The

youth of today are the hope of the world, no matter where we are from or what we are majoring in, we gathered in Toronto for the 4th JACAC Student Forum. We talked, we learned, and we enjoyed all the while. Our group did the topic about how we should work together to face the changing economy. We did a lot of research, trying our best to explain our ideas. In our free time, we went to the CN Tower, downtown and had fun with in this amazing city. I really felt JACAC was a good platform for the young Japanese students and Canadian students, which increased the communication, the friendship and the knowledge beyond our own nations. I hope this forum can be better in the future.

- *Su Qin Yan*, J.F. Oberlin University

In the JACAC Forum, I had great experiences, gained a lot of knowledge and met many new friends. I attended this forum because I thought this opportunity would help me to achieve my goals in near future. I think through this forum mainly I learned 3 things. First, I learned about how I what to do and how I can achieve my future goals. In this forum, we had many lectures from many specialists. In the first day of forum, we had a lecture from a person who is working in HATCH which is international company in Canada. From his lecture, I learned about success in the global world.

Second, I learned about how we can manage multicultural groups. We spent a lot of time to make a group presentation for the finale of the program. From this group work I learned about the differences between cultures. For example, decision making was really different and so was the way of making a presentation from what I was used to doing. I thought these cross culture experiences were really important for me to work in international business world, because we always face these differences when working with other cultural groups.

Third, through this forum I had great friends. In my opinion, this was the most important thing for us. Friendship always helps a lot when you face some difficulties. I wish this friendship will last forever and in someday we can cooperate to make better relationship between Japan and Canada.

- *Daisuke Yanagishita*, Meiji University

FORUM EVALUATIONS AND SURVEY RESULTS

An online survey was conducted to get student evaluations of the forum. Below is a summary of the results.

How did you rate the following arrangements made by the organizers?

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	N/A
Accommodation	34.62% 9	50% 13	11.54% 3	0% 0	3.85% 1	0% 0
Flight arrangements	46.15% 12	30.77% 8	3.85% 1	3.85% 1	3.85% 1	11.54% 3
Forum venue	34.62% 9	46.15% 12	15.38% 4	3.85% 1	0% 0	0% 0
Ground transportation	23.08% 6	11.54% 3	57.69% 15	3.85% 1	0% 0	3.85% 1
Meals	23.08% 6	42.31% 11	15.38% 4	11.54% 3	3.85% 1	3.85% 1
Pre-departure orientation (international students)	19.23% 5	26.92% 7	7.69% 2	3.85% 1	3.85% 1	38.46% 10

Please explain your ratings:

- Good arrangement of the organization.
- All things were GREAT.
- It would have been more productive if we did not have to meet every morning to receive our bus tokens and go together - some people wanted to leave earlier than others.
- We had a really good time staying in Canada!
- Transportation from the Hotel to the venue could have been organized better, however accommodation was great. Meals were not often provided but when they were provided it was definitely a good meal.
- Hotel is a little bit far from the university.
- The commute to and from the venue was taxing, and it was an unpleasant surprise that there was no budget for alternate transportation in case of weather or emergencies.
- It would have been nice if the hotel was more in the center of the city, though I understand the cost would be high. Second, I was quite surprised that there was no fridge in the hotel rooms. It would have been nice to be able to store some grocery, because that would save me a lot more money from dinning out all the time.
- Flights: everything was very smooth :). Ground transportation: it was nice to have the ride from the airport to the hotel covered. I didn't mind taking public transport to the airport, but it was an unexpected cost and change of plans. In this regard, I wish we would have had better information ahead of time. Accommodation: the hotel rooms were very comfortable. However, the location was very isolated, not to mention very distant from the main venue. I wonder if dorm rooms are a better option for this kind of event. Forum venue: the venue was kind of far from the hotel. Also, the room was kind of small and claustrophobic.
- Both Forum venue and Accommodation were good and convenient, however, Flight arrangement was not convenient especially students who are not from Tokyo.

- Everything was great! The meals were actually better than last year's in Kyoto and everything else went really smoothly.
- Everything was great. Riding the subway was a new experience, so I enjoyed that. The hotel was very accommodating. The meals were delicious, and the venue was exemplary.

Please rate the following aspects of the JACAC Forum program:

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	N/A
Afternoon Orientation	26.92% 7	46.15% 12	19.23% 5	7.69% 2	0% 0	0% 0
Presentations by Researchers	50% 13	34.62% 9	15.38% 4	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0
Group Discussions	42.31% 11	26.92% 7	19.23% 5	11.54% 3	0% 0	0% 0
Group Presentations	65.38% 17	23.08% 6	11.54% 3	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0
Closing Ceremony	69.23% 18	11.54% 3	19.23% 5	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0
Final Reception	92.31% 24	0% 0	7.69% 2	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0

Please explain your ratings:

- Good image of the last group presentation.
- I am totally satisfied.
- "Cross-Cultural Training" focused too much on generalities, and was somewhat unnecessary as the majority of the participants had international experience prior to the forum.
- Good to have lots of interaction!
- The content of JACAC forum was just marvelous. We had great speakers, great team and it was just wonderful how everyone worked together and produced great presentations for the JACAC forum.
- Presentations by Researchers were excellent. I learned and enjoyed a lot.
- The conference was very surprisingly time-intensive. If I had known beforehand that I would have no time to work on University assignments and my jobs, I would not have applied. I think perhaps the conference schedule was a little unrealistic and unforgiving of students who must complete assignments or study for exams. It would be great if group discussions of the questions were optional: for example, individuals doing question 1 did not have to attend the discussions of questions 2 and 3. This would give students more opportunity for University/Conference work balance. Also, while I loved the presentations by researchers, they were incredibly long. No matter how interesting the material, I noticed myself and others starting to get distracted. If presentations could be limited to an hour at most, students may be more likely to remain engaged and interested and absorb the material better, which would be better time spent for both the students and the presenter.
- Although the last day was the most nerve-racking because we all had to present, I also thought that it was the best day out of the entire forum because all of our hard work paid off. The food was great, and I feel confident to say on behalf of everyone else as well that we had a great time.
- I wanted to comment on the first workshop we had on Sunday - I found the lecture on cultural differences a bit counterproductive to the spirit of an event like JACAC. We began by formulating and solidifying stereotypes about both Japanese and Canadian cultures; some aspects were informative,

but I think the presentation's approach missed the point and failed to resonate with the participants. The presentations by researchers, while informative, were also only vaguely pertinent to the forum itself. The one exception was the 'Sub-Arctic Survival' challenge seminar which included a group work component. I found the most value in talking with and working with other participants - if there were a way to facilitate that kind of teamwork-building interaction in a somewhat instructive and structured setting, that would be most ideal. For me anyhow, the teamwork bonds and friendships are what made JACAC so amazing.

- Most of the programs were outstanding.
- I really want to say that I was thoroughly impressed by the speakers because they had so much experience and were very knowledgeable.
- Morning session might be better if its begins not too early.
- The group discussions were sadly done in a way that many participants didn't feel like they could share and discuss.
- I thoroughly enjoyed everything. The group discussions would have been better if we weren't worried about sharing our original ideas for our presentations.
- Everything for the final day was amazing!

Please rate the difficulty of conducting the student presentations:

Extremely Difficult	7.69% 2
Fairly Difficult	42.31% 11
Average	34.62% 9
Fairly Easy	11.54% 3
Extremely Easy	0% 0
N/A	3.85% 1

Please explain your ratings:

- All presentations were very well delivered.
- The presentations were not excessively difficult, but definitely were thought provoking.
- The subject was too hard to manage in the allotted time.
- It was a challenge, as we had to form a team with 3 others who we just met. We did not know each other's strength or weaknesses or how we should coordinate. In that sense, I believe it was a great experience which was challenging too.
- It wasn't so difficult for me because my research is related to the theme.
- I found it extremely difficult to argue against something that has already been proven to be beneficial (the free-trade agreements). Although I feel that I have a lot from the question assigned to me and other questions as well, I would not do this type of debate-style question again if I can choose.
- I truly enjoyed the teamwork process, but the difficulty stems from the vagueness of the questions that we were given. I think it'd be helpful to assign the questions with a consideration for how the team brainstorming might unfold around the topic. It would have been nice to have some concrete

topics that allowed some quantitative research as well as the opportunity to share our personal opinions and experiences.

- Each member had a different background, so communication was difficult.
- It was very stressful, but I guess it cannot be helped!
- The questions were a bit vague, but I think that was intentional. I'm glad that they were difficult, because it allowed for more discussion about what aspect of the question was truly important to focus on.
- I am a business student, so this was standard stuff for me.
- As a native English speaker, it was easy to give a presentation on a rather general topic. I do believe, however, that the Japanese delegation had a more difficult time with it.

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

1. The time that we shared each other in hotel and York university.
2. Group discussions.
3. I think the most outstanding point was to gather students from different backgrounds together and that we still keep in touch with each other.
4. Every event, such as an orientation, lectures, final presentation, and closing ceremony was well organized and made me feel satisfied. But more than that, I liked the experience of this forum itself since I could get a chance to meet interesting people having a variety of backgrounds.
5. The communication with other participants.
6. Working with students from all over Canada & Japan, meeting a number of interesting guest lecturers, making lots of new friends & learning lots.
7. The students. They are the main reason why the experience was so memorable.
8. I really liked the students from both Japan and Canada. We each had a different background and it was interesting to interact with them.
9. What I like most is that people and friends in this forum.
10. The greatest part of JACAC was working on the project with our teammates and achieving something during our exchange experience. That will be precious experience for our future careers.
11. I particularly enjoyed the researcher's presentation. They definitely broadened our horizons.
12. The presentation by Ms. Lorna Wright.
13. Intercommunication.
14. Presentation content by Researchers, the group arrival dinner and the formal reception dinner.
15. I enjoyed meeting new people and understanding different points of view.
16. The quality of the students involved was superb and everyone was so confident. I always felt like I was surrounded by extremely intelligent people.
17. Definitely all of my fellow student colleagues of whom I call great friends now. I really didn't expect that all of us could bond at such an intimate level, because there were 28 of us from so many different backgrounds and history. I think all of us got so close to the point that we felt like we had known each other not just a week but at least three years. I can foresee all of us staying in touch for a long time.
18. The people. The point was that we were there to meet each other and I am so thankful to have had that opportunity. The experience of having worked with and communicated with each other is so much more real and tangible than being fed words like "intercultural cooperation" or "cross-border teams". I think the focus should shift from "content" and "theory" to facilitating team building.
19. It was nice that I could know great students.
20. The most favorite program was the presentation by Dr. Lorna Wright because I have never taken such a stimulating class.
21. I really liked how we had the freedom to work wherever we wanted. It gave us a chance to explore the city a bit while working!
22. All of the participants were awesome.
23. Spending time with amazing people. The people who took care of us and the forum organizers were also very nice and friendly. The presentations were also interesting.

24. What I liked most about the forum was the interaction between fellow student participants and myself. Even when we were on free time, we were still discussing topics mentioned within the academic portion of the forum. My favourite event throughout the week was the reception at the Japanese Consulate, very cool.
25. Gathering at the Japanese consulate and final day.
26. Interacting with the participants, the guest speakers and the reception at both the Japan Foundation and the Japanese consulate.

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

1. The hotel is far from the university.
2. I wished that the hotel was much closer to the university because every day we had to leave the place early in the morning and come back there late at night.
3. Meals (Canadian food is not so delicious).
4. Cross-cultural training, the academic advisor really tried to impose her own agenda onto our large group discussions. We also had some issues with a group member not caring about our presentation.
5. The fact that the hotel location was far from Downtown.
6. We should've had more discussion and experience outside the class.
7. Transportation, because it is hard to get to university and also downtown.
8. In our presentation, our team has to disagree with the idea of TPP and EPA between Japan and Canada. That's the only worse part for me in this forum. I have to disagree with the idea of TPP and EPA between Japan and Canada, which makes me harder to prepare presentation. (Actually I would like to support and agree with TPP and EPA though).
9. Transportation, and some difficulty getting a meal.
10. Time intensive - no university/forum work balance. Length of commute to and from the venue. Length of researcher presentations. Competitive nature of student presentations.
11. I didn't like the group discussions as the leader of the discussions seemed to be biased with her own opinions and frequently cut off students.
12. The everyday commute was quite tenuous.
13. I feel that it would have been nice if the forum organizers could give us more liberty and control over the group discussion. I think they were very knowledgeable and experienced business people, but I feel that this is a student forum, and we should be able to direct the discussion. However, while I feel I can speak for everyone else since all of us students also talked about this afterwards, many of us feel that discussion was dominated instead of guided.
14. I felt that the spotlight should have been on the students, not the person standing at the front of the class. I would have appreciated someone who was more sympathetic to the students' concerns and less concerned with "finding the right answer." The discussion should have felt more organic and spontaneous, not so scripted and constricted.
15. The lectures were not really related to Canada-Japan relationships, but more general things. I expected that we would be able to learn about Canada and Japan through the lectures.
16. I thought that going to the university was a bit of a hassle since it was so far and required transfers. I don't really want to complain about this because the time that it took from the hotel to the university is actually less than the time that it takes me to get to school from my own home.
17. The early morning session that is made for preparing, because it was not really related to the lessons.
18. The accommodations, the group discussions that didn't foster communication in the end.
19. What I liked least about the forum was that there was only one presenter for each question, as in the first three days. The presenters were very good, but they only represented one aspect or opinion on the questions we had to answer. It would have been nice to have a bit more variety.
20. Transportation between hotel and campus.
21. The vagueness of the first two topics. The distance from the hotel to the university

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

1. I hope that there are more advertisements about this forum at universities because this is less known by students even though it is worth participating in (but probably this is a comment just for each university).
2. Lectures are able to improve.
3. Making sure all participants are serious before accepting, making sure discussions aren't focused on generalities.
4. It would be great if the JACAC forum was a little bit longer, lets say 10-12 days instead of 1 week. For the first 2-3 days, some Japanese were still on a big jet lag.
5. It would be better to manage the time more flexibly so that we don't have to be intense about everything.
6. If next JACAC does competition for presentations, I think we should have the same theme, because in JACAC 2013 theme is different, so it may not have been fair for the judges.
7. Candidates who were selected from universities in Canada should understand about Japan and speak Japanese at least a little bit. Some participants didn't try to speak Japanese or don't know about Japan at all and seemed not to be interested in Japan and had just come to this forum for opportunity and fun. In order to understand more about both Japan and Canada through this forum, students (including Japanese students) are required to know issues or basic knowledge for both countries.
8. Maintain the level of researcher's presentation, provide a better method of students to get to know each other better before hand and possibly provide breakfast, as during tight schedule, it is hard to get breakfast while rushing.
9. The schedule is so tight that I think students need time to take a rest or stay at a closer hotel.
10. Allow students to have more time to do University work/study. Limit Researcher presentation times to 1 hour. Have some sections of the schedule set as optional attendance. (ex. Group discussions of questions) Hotel: Two people per room instead of three. Closer venue to hotel or both hotel and venue in a more central Toronto location to reduce travel time.
11. It would be great if Canadian students were given some opportunity to learn some Japanese. I'm not sure how you would do that, but maybe a crash course in Japanese.
12. It would be nice to see the scheduling more organized, for example, on the 18th which was a public holiday, we were told to meet in the lobby at 8am so we can make it to York University for 9am. However, as we got to the bus terminal to transfer, we found out that the buses don't start running until 9am. Though it was nice to hang out and get to know my fellow colleagues, I felt that one hour could have been contributed to other things.
13. The organizers were definitely superstars. Pre-conference communication was excellent, as was all the logistical planning. I mentioned this in answers above, but I think it'd be useful to think of this forum as an "incubator" of teamwork building exercises instead of a rigid structure with prescribed outcomes. People learn best by doing, and more hands-on exercises like the "Sub-Arctic Survival" are the way to go. Especially considering the relevance of the lectures, it'd be great to have a dynamic MC who could synthesize lots of interactive material into the theme of the conference. Instead of talking about "communication barriers" or "cultural barriers", give us the time and space to simulate those team environments and work through them ourselves!
14. In my opinion, presenters should explain or save some time for focusing on reading materials. I thought that they would use these materials. It was not true, so it was hard to keep up with understanding. In addition, if possible, please prepare for presentation notes like Dr. Wright's presentation.
15. I think having the venue closer to the university would make everything run smoother. Also, I believe that it would be better to have more time for group work and less lecture/discussion time.
16. Students are so motivated not only during the academic part, but in their relationships, so I would suggest the place they stay should be accessible to the downtown.
17. Two speakers per question would be a terrific addition.

18. Find a hotel closer to the campus of the forum.
19. Improve the website!

What would you like to see covered as a potential Forum Theme in future years?

- Tokyo Olympics, Canada and Japan's education systems.
- I would like to see some themes which are more focused on cultural aspects of each country because every participant must have different and unique culture beyond countries and ethnicity.
- Agriculture, Education, or Environment.
- The liberal arts.
- I think everything around Defense, Politics and Economics are good subjects.
- How Japanese domestic culture can interact with outside culture.
- Energy, environment, nature, immigration and multicultural issues.
- How can a government contribute to the growth of economy, youth and culture?
- Cultural understanding between Japan and Canada
- How can universities encourage more cultural awareness and encourage study abroad?
- I quite enjoyed the theme of "youth", so I think this should be covered again next year.
- Tackling climate change; cooperating for environmental protection, human rights (maybe re: international conventions), immigration/migration (e.g. the policy of multiculturalism, and whether or not it could work in Japan, with its changing demographic), social welfare policy, what should be the responsibility of government in taking care of its citizens? (particularly interesting, with the concern over the aging demographic in Japan), diplomacy simulation.
- Culture difference, language, art, what are the differences and similarities between Canada and Japan?
- I think it would be interesting to discuss international opportunities (such as exchange/internships/coop) between Canada and Japan.
- Something relating to culture or something related to media.
- How intercultural media affects economic or social ties between the two countries.
- Concrete experiences to work in Japan as Canadian and vice-versa.
- More in-depth topics; ex. Japanese sovereign debt; Japanese immigration.

Please include additional comments here:

- JACAC was so great!
- I would like to thank everyone for every chance I got at this forum and for the people I met. It was one of the most amazing times in my university life.
- Thank you for this amazing experience. I think that everybody enjoyed it.
- It was a great pleasure to have this experience. Thank you so much for all of the cooperators who helped us out!
- I think this forum is a really good opportunity to understand both countries and promote our relationship. I would like JACAC staff to continue JACAC every year. Also we JACAC alumni will try to keep this network going.
- It was simply, a mind-blowing experience. I had a great time!
- It was very valuable experience in my student life ever.
- The whole forum was a great experience.
- All in all I was totally impressed by the speakers in the conference. I also cannot express how great the participants were. We built friendships. I think this conference serves a meaningful purpose.

- Although I have never been to any other student forums or conferences, I would have to say this is the best experience I have ever had as an undergraduate student (and I find that sad, because I am graduating in two months). I would like to extend my gratitude to all the individuals who made this possible, because I did not only improve academically, but I also have made many great friends. So, thank you!
- I would like to thank all the organizers of JACAC for providing me with the opportunity of a lifetime. It was one of the most enjoyable weeks of my life, and I can't wait to see how this experience will impact me in the future. I sincerely hope that this program will continue to grow and thrive. Go JACAC!
- I am extremely thankful to everyone involved in this forum and especially York University which hosted it. It would not be an exaggeration to say that this JACAC student forum is the most fulfilling and fantastic experience in my life. Thank you very much. I really appreciate it.
- Everything was great! I really appreciate all the time and effort the organizers put into this forum.
- I thoroughly enjoyed the forum, and I had great difficulty in coming up with ideas for future improvements.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Christopher Janca, Hatch, speaking to students on February 18, 2013.



Lorna Wright, Schulich School of Business, during her presentation to participants on February 20, 2013.



Students diligently preparing for group presentations at York University.



All student participants in the 2013 JACAC Student Forum, including winners of the group presentations with their awards, Mayato Hattori, Saki Tezuka, Dahron Martin & Jean-Christophe Martin.



Participants, special guests, & organizing committee of the 2013 Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum at the closing ceremony.

IN APPRECIATION

The gathering of students and researchers at the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Forum would not have been possible without the significant contributions of the following organizations:

The Japan Foundation

The Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto

York University

Meiji University

Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund