

**Japan-Canada Academic Consortium
Student Forum
Youth, Work, and a New World in the Making**

March 1 – 7, 2015

Hosted by

Université Laval, Québec, Canada

in cooperation with

Prince Takamado Japan Centre, University of Alberta

and **Meiji University**

FINAL REPORT

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REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

The *Japan-Canada Academic Consortium* (JACAC, in its current form, began its work in 2010 and its student forums have taken place each year since then, alternating between Universities in Japan and Canada. This year, for the first time, the JACAC student forum took place in the heart of French-speaking Quebec and Canada, in Quebec City at Laval University. Laval was honoured to have been chosen and engaged itself fully to make this a memorable occasion.

For positions in the final group, composed of 14 Japanese and 14 Canadians, final year undergraduate female and male students competed from a total of 12 Japanese and 10 Canadian universities in a rigorous selection process. They were then divided into seven teams, each composed of four members, two from Japan and two from Canada, for the work to be accomplished during the forum.

The choice of Quebec City is interesting for it provided an additional twist to what was already a fine intercultural exchange. Of course, Japanese students were already working in a second langue according to the linguistic guidelines of the forum, while most Canada students were working in their first language. The choice of Quebec City meant that both groups found themselves suddenly in another cultural and linguistic setting altogether, with many students discovering French Canada for the first time. This already very multicultural experience was augmented by a visit to Wendake, north of Quebec City, for a guided visit to a Huron Longhouse, an outdoor campfire and a delicious supper of Huron culinary specialties at the first nation's hotel and visitors' complex.

The forum itself lasted an entire week, from the 1st to the 6th of March, organized around the central theme *Youth, Work and a New World in the Making*. However, previous to the forum itself, it was considered that there was preparatory work to be done by the participants. The organizing committee, in view of the different national experiences as well as the fact that the student delegates were from a full variety of disciplines, set about creating a measure of common ground. The idea was to propose a series of four pre-forum assignments over a period of several weeks to accelerate

the integration of the group and provide an opportunity for team members to interact with one another on forum-related issues. The first assignment involved exploring the OECD website in search of statistics on the two countries involved, particularly regarding the age distribution of the two populations, as well as employment and unemployment trends, particularly among youth. The second dealt with the issues of globalization and free trade through specific readings of authors such as Stiglitz, Guillén / Ontiveros, and Krugman. The third targeted recent financial crises, such as the Asian financial crisis of the 1990's and the 2007-09 U.S. mortgage debacle against the background of the idea of uncertainty with specific reference to texts by Taleb and Makridakis et al. The fourth involved identifying the roles of the various instances involved in the labour market: business, government, other social institutions and the youth themselves.

During the subsequent forum, the speakers tackled a series of relevant inter-related subjects from various viewpoints: *Japanese Business Culture: "Sogo-Shosha – International General Trading & Investment Enterprise* by Tetsuo Komuro, President, Mitsui Co. (Canada) Ltd; *Contemporary Employees' Relations in Quebec: An Employer's Perspective* by Guy-François Lamy, Directeur - affaires juridiques, Conseil du patronat du Québec (CPQ); *The next Generation in an Organizational Setting*, by Christina Lazarova, Coordonnatrice du Comité consultatif Jeunes (CCJ), Commission des partenaires du marché du travail; *An Interactive Lecture on Creativity, Problem Solving in Groups and How Universities Can Help Their Students to Better Tackle These Challenges*, by François Bernard Malo, Associate Professor of Human Resources Management, Department of Industrial Relations, Laval University; *Canada/Québec and Immigration: Issues about Cultural Changes in the Workplace*, by Michel Racine, Associate Professor, Department of Industrial Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, Laval University; *Konnichiwa no more, A Declining Trend of Japanese/Canadian Exchange*, by Hirotoishi Takeda, Assistant Professor, Department of Information Systems, Faculty of Administrative Sciences, Laval University; *Dealing with Certainty and Uncertainty in a Global Framework : Orientations for Future Management Training* by James Douglas Thwaites, Full Professor, Department of Industrial Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, Laval University.

Two films were also presented to focus on certain aspects. The first, « A World on Edge / Un monde dans tous ses états », by Pierre Oscar Lévy et al., Paris, JEM Productions (2011, 77min.), is a multi-lingual audio-visual document, concentrating on economic and financial issues associated with the strengths and contradictions of globalization. The film adaptation of Belgian writer Nathalie Nothomb's book « Stupeur et tremblements », by Alain Corneau (2003, 1h47 min, with English subtitles) dealt with cultural differences between occidental and oriental approaches within a large business/organizational setting in Japan. At the same time, a local theatre presented an adaptation of another of Nathalie Nothomb's books called « La fiancée japonaise / the Japanese Fiancée » on relations between young people from both cultures.

The work of the student participants themselves was to integrate and interpret all of this material within the framework of the forum theme and to work within their teams to prepare formal team presentations for the Friday event. The abridged instructions they received were as follows:

- The 'new world in the making' referred to in the theme of the forum will be, in large part, the result of the efforts made today and in future to deal with fundamental problems and to define the role of the various social institutions in the preparation and integration of each successive generation of the young into the workforce, where they will occupy positions in those very social institutions: business/industry, government, education, the health sector, and so on.
- At the same time, the young themselves must play an active role in defining and defending their own vision(s) of the future, both individually and collectively, and make appropriate demands of society to make certain they are realized.
- But what should be the goals of all of these actors? What is the degree of responsibility of each of them in this process? And how should they be interacting to ensure credible results?

- You can tackle these questions from any angle within your team. The important thing is to clearly define your vision and to be coherent and consistent in defending it.

The final presentations took place at the end of the week on Friday afternoon before the entire group, invited guests and an international and pan-Canadian panel of four judges. Invited guests included the Consul General of Japan in Montreal, Tatsuo Arai, and Thierry Belleguic who represented the Rector of Laval University, both of whom presented well received speeches to the audience on the same occasion. Following the student presentations, the judges went to work to identify the first and second place teams and, once the results were announced, each member of the first and second-placed teams received a personal gift. Awards were also presented to two participants, one from Japan and one from Canada, elected by their peers as the two outstanding forum leaders. Individual «Certificates of participation», prepared for the occasion by the secretariate of Laval's Industrial Relations Department, were presented personally to each participant, by the Consul General of Japan and the representative of the rector's office of Laval University.

It was evident during the presentations that the students had participated well in both pre-forum and forum activities. The level of discussion was very high indeed and many important observations and recommendations were made by them. A few examples will suffice. At a general level, there was a call for better coordination between universities, government and the business community and constant monitoring for new ways of dealing with educational and societal questions. A specific proposal was made regarding an innovative form of social internship aimed at both countries' aging population as well as other social groups. This was to be made possible through combined government-university collaboration. Other suggestions involved a better framework for both workplace internships during studies and new employees within firms. Additional language training and international sensitivity were also referred to. The overall result, of which this is just a sample, was a virtual checklist of the needs and proposals of these representatives of the current generation who are directly positioned to enter the labour force or undertake advanced studies. As I pointed out in the closing remarks, it would be very important for all social

partners to take account of these reflections and recommendations and look into ways of implementing them.

The organization of this event involved substantial work and coordination among all the members of the administrative group. Activities at Laval University were organized primarily by James Thwaites of the Industrial Relations Department and Monique Généreux of Laval's International Office with the helpful collaboration of several services at Laval University. Overall coordination at the pan-Canadian and international level was very ably provided in Canada by Kaori Kabata and Aya Fujiwara of the Prince Takamado Japan Centre at the University of Alberta and in Japan by Ayako Minami at Meiji University. Members of the administrative team and speakers seconded as judges and were helped greatly by Etsuko Katsu, vice-president international at Meiji University, who arrived especially for the occasion. The forum speakers themselves contributed strong professional-level discussions on the themes they presented, adding substantially to the success of the event. Finally, toward the end of the Friday session, an exchange took place from the floor during which several of the participants themselves commented very favourably on their forum experience and its impact. It should be noted as a final note that the participants also contributed artistically during their stay at Laval by collectively painting of a huge permanent mural with an imaginative combination of the Japanese and Canadian flags, reference to the JACAC, the Japanese symbols for «Friendship» and the students' own signatures.

Bernard Garnier, Vice-recteur aux études et aux activités internationales, called the forum "un évènement phare à l'Université Laval." Richard Poulin, Directeur du Bureau international, indicated that it was "un évènement à la hauteur de la réputation de l'Université Laval ... [qui a] établi de nouveaux standards pour ce type d'évènement."

James Thwaites
Laval University, Quebec
April 21, 2015

ABOUT THE FORUM

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 again co-organize this exciting program and be part of the further growth and evolution of the JACAC Forum. Every year we find better and more innovative ways to collaborate with our fellow JACAC institutions, so as to deliver the best possible experience to our participants.

The sixth annual Japan Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum was held at Laval University in Quebec with a theme of *Youth, Work and a New World in the Making*. The theme was very much related to the university students, who are preparing themselves to head into the global society.

The goal of bringing students from Japan and Canada to meet and exchange opinions and ideas about a common topic of interest to students today was expertly achieved, and it was extremely rewarding to observe our student participants to come together and cooperate throughout the demands of this week-long forum.

Receiving special lectures from industry and governmental professionals and academic leaders gave students unique opportunities to deepen their understanding of the current situation regarding employments and, at the same time, to raise cross-cultural awareness. It is our strong hope that the consortium will continue to provide many more students with opportunities for cross-cultural interaction and discussions with peers from a different country, gaining valuable insight from a multicultural viewpoint, and to support future leaders of the global community.

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

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Academic Director

Dr. James Thwaites,
Professor, Department of Industrial Relations, Université Laval

Program Coordinators

Dr. Aya Fujiwara
Research Associate, *Prince Takamado Japan Centre, University of Alberta*

Mdm. Monique Génereux
Responsable des relations internationales, Bureau international, Université Laval

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

Prof. Etsuko Katsu
Vice-President, International, Meiji University

Ms. Ayako Minami
International Collaboration officer, Meiji University

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
Seinan Gakuin University

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Canada

Chizara Anucha	York University
Mercedes Dominique Bautista	University of British Columbia
Pryangka Rao Batumalay	University of Waterloo
Felix Bourret	University of Montreal
Michaela Calderwood	University of Manitoba
Marie-Michelle Cartier	Laval University
Andrea Da Silva	York University
Khrystyna Lazar	University of Manitoba
Ryan McCarvill	University of Prince Edward Island
Julia Prince	Queen's University
Erika Rodning	University of Alberta
Dylan Rose	University of Prince Edward Island
Jason Matthew Schleifer	University of Manitoba
Charles Sharam	University of Alberta

Japan

Ikuya Ashida	Hokkaido University
Hidetoshi Hara	Sophia University
Tatsuya Honda	Kwansei Gakuin University
Mari Matsumoto	Tsuda College
Natsumi Mitsuke	Tsuda College
Mio Nakago	Kwansei Gakuin University
Miki Saito	Hosei University
Hakuko Sha	Ritsumeikan University
Mikihiko Tachi	Meiji University
Arisa Ueno	Seinan Gakuin University
Yuuka Ueno	Ritsumeikan University
Takayuki Yamada	Nagoya University
Mayu Yamamoto	Josai International University
Kenta Yogo	Meiji University

FORUM PROGRAM

Saturday, February 28th

Arrival

Sunday, March 1

Orientation

- Overview of the week and introduction
- Presentation of Quebec City and Campus Tour

Monday, March 2

Opening Remarks: Lyse Langlois, Director – Industrial Relations Dpt.
James Thwaites, Industrial Relations Dpt.

Morning Session

- *François Bernard Malo* CRHA, Associate Professor of Human Resources Management, Department of Industrial Relations, Université Laval. "Youth, Work, and a New World in the Making: An Interactive Lecture on Creativity, Problem Solving in Groups and How Universities Can Help Their Students to Better Tackle These Challenges"
- *Hirotooshi Takeda*, Assistant Professor, Department of Management Information Systems, Faculty of Administrative Sciences, Université Laval. "'Konnichiwa' no more, A Declining Trend of Japanese/Canadian Exchange"

Film "A World on Edge"

Team-based work session on presentations

Tuesday, March 3

Morning Session

- *Tetsuo Komuro*, President, Mitsui Co. (Canada) Ltd. "Japanese Business Culture: Sogo-Shosha" – International General Trading & Investment Enterprise"
- *Guy-François Lamy*, Avocat, Directeur -affaires juridiques,

Conseil du patronat du Québec. "Contemporary Employees' Relations in Quebec: An Employer's Perspective"

- *James Douglas Thwaites*, Professor, Department of Industrial Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, Université Laval. "Dealing with Certainty to Uncertainty in a Global Framework: Orientations for Future Management Training"

Team-based work session

Visit and supper in Wendake (Huron Village)

Wednesday, March 4

Morning Session

- *Michel Racine*, Associate Professor, Department of Industrial Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, Université Laval. "Canada / Québec and Immigration: Issues about Cultural Changes in Workplace"
- *Christina Lazarova*, coordonnatrice du Comité consultatif Jeunes, Commission des partenaires du marché du travail. "The next Generation in an Organizational Setting"

Team-based work session

Movie "Stupeur et tremblement"

Thursday, March 5

Team-based work session

Friday, March 6

Student presentations

Reception/Closing session

Saturday, March 7

Visit of Québec City (Open)

Sunday, March 8

Departure

STUDENT FORUM GROUP PRESENTATIONS: ABSTRACTS

Group 1: ZombieMMT

- *Chizara Anucha*, York (C)
- *Tatsuya Honda*, Kwansei Gakuin (J)
- *Jason Matthew Schleifer*, Manitoba (C)
- *Mari Matsumoto*, Tsuda (J)

A Whole New World (Role playing – skit)

Introduction

- Introduction of group members
- Overview of presentation

Explain Japan’s “job hunting” process

- Rules set by Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) and students apply at the same time
- Average students apply about 50 companies at the same time.
- Everyone wear black suit. This “recruit suits” have come to be regarded as a kind of uniform for job-hunting in Japan.

Explain Canada’s “job-hunting” process

- No set starting point
- Summer internships for some and after grad job hunting for others
- Less pressure on students

Present thesis

- We should respond to the aging society, globalization and uncertainty, by creating policies and giving youth the tools to be competitive in the “New World.” By focusing on increasing skills, international experiences, language abilities, and softening borders, governments, universities and global institutions can give young people the opportunity to thrive within a rapidly changing world.

Age Pyramid

- Aging Society
- People are living and working longer

- Young people are having a harder time finding employment

Globalization

- The world is changing and becoming more interconnected
- Challenges for young people in Canada
- National, Regional, and Global competitiveness is more important
- Give young people from the knowledge and skill base to compete in the global economy

Uncertainty and The “New World in the Making”

- The global financial meltdown and recession has led to a worldwide youth employment crisis. World
- Youth unemployment is a pressing issue for governments and states.
- Despite “recovery” the stability of financial markets and economies remain fragile and delicate. The uncertainty and unstableness of world markets has become normalized and integrated within the global economic landscape.
- Youth should be given the skills to adjust to the economic uncertainties of our world
- Youth today should also have a more global outlook and be willing to work abroad.

Four Proposition

Skills base

- Hard skills development
- Historical preference in Canada and Japan for university over technical schools
- Skills in growth areas should be emphasized

International Experiences

- Business culture
- Exchange programs
- Job search standardization
- Role of Governments, Students, Educational Institutions

Language Base

- More money for language training more emphasis on language acquisition.
- More immersion programs, Spanish Immersion,

- Erase tuition for language courses.
- Difficult languages can take years to learn

Softening Borders

- Open borders between Canada and Japan to encourage mobility
- Open borders between other countries to allow workers to move to where their skills are necessary

Conclusion

- Restate the differences between Canada and Japan
- Restate thesis and propositions
- Thank audience

Group 2: Maple-zoku	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ikuya Ashida</i>, Hokkaido (J) • <i>Khrystyna Lazar</i>, Manitoba (C) • <i>Mio Nakago</i>, Kwansei Gakuin (J) • <i>Charles Sharam</i>, Alberta (C)
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Building Global Leaders

Contemporary businesses practices, social structures, and our daily lives are heavily influenced by globalization and multidirectional flows of people, objects, and information that are making the world a much more cohesive and singular space. In order to effectively adapt to this process of change, we must develop strategies to foster globally-oriented thinking at the commercial, governmental, and individual levels.

Moreover, today's young workers will be the driving force behind this new, globalized world as it emerges in the coming decades, and there would be considerable value in a program designed to help these youths hone their cross-cultural skills and create value for their respective organizations as well as broader society.

We would like to propose a Cross-Cultural Training System between Canadian and Japanese companies to facilitate the exchange of ideas between organizations while giving young employees the opportunity to grow. This program would involve establishing partnerships between companies in Canada and Japan to allow young workers to go on secondment to the partner company's facilities for a period of time. Canadian and Japanese employees would also be sent overseas together in groups to work in diverse teams within

foreign partner companies. The program would be closely aligned with governments to secure support and funding for small and medium-size enterprises that would not have the resources to initiate this kind of exchange on their own. Participants would not only bring valuable skills and perspectives back to their home country organizations, but also produce video blogs, articles, or other content to promote cross-cultural knowledge and mutual understanding to the world through the program’s social media and web platforms.

The program requires businesses, government, and young individuals to play a role in its execution, and yields considerable benefits to the parties involved. By fostering global mindsets, our program is intended to increase the competitiveness of participating organizations and help to shape the new world in a positive way.

Group 3: The Dream Fighters

- *Andrea Da Silva*, York (C)
- *Dylan Rose*, PEI (C)
- *Yuuka Ueno*, Ritsumeikan (J)
- *Takayuki Yamada*, Nagoya (J)

Becoming a Global Citizen – Claiming Success in the Global World

During our presentation, we will be focusing on one central concern: “What can today’s youth do to ensure the success of a new, global world?” This question will be addressed in terms of the “Global Citizen Model,” an idea that we have constructed based on information presented throughout the JACAC presentations over the course of the week. This model emphasizes the importance of viewing all aspects of one’s socioeconomic reality – education, work, and employment – in a global rather than situational context. By considering the global implications of governments, businesses, universities, and schools, youth may acquire “global citizenship,” or the capacity to see opportunities beyond one specific cultural context.

We will begin by defining the concept of the “Global Citizen” and we will demonstrate how this concept acts as the “missing link” bridging the divide between the economic realm and today’s youth; specifically, with a focus on youth in an academic context. As the goal of this conference addresses the role of youth in the future success of global systems, we will not address the positive aspects of these models; rather, we seek to identify negative constructs to propose solutions to these issues. We will therefore examine the negative aspects of Japanese and Canadian educational and employment systems, and use the Global Citizen Model as the basis of our comparison. Finally, we will conclude how the negative

aspects embedded in Japanese and Canadian social structures can be challenged by developing ways to allow students, universities, and businesses to flourish in a global context without sacrificing the qualities that make up their own unique cultural environments.

Group 4: Bukikaken



- *Felix Bourret*, Montreal (C)
- *Erika Rodning*, Alberta (C)
- *Miki Saito*, Hosei (J)
- *Kenta Yogo*, Meiji (J)

Canada-Japan: Education leading to the work industry

The new world we live in is now more interconnected than ever and this new situation calls for changes at different levels in our society. Youth should have a role to play in this changing world, as we will have to involve through those new paradigms. Changes in the world force changes in everyone's society, work industry and education. If one does not follow the other, the system becomes unbalanced and we feel that this is one of the problems we are facing right now. Education is an institution that is hard to change, compare to the work industry that has this capacity to shift to answer the world market. Our group will present three aspects of education that we believe are problematic, comparing Canada to Japan, and propose our ideas to improve the system to first rebalanced it and also to improve it based on the strong point. We will first take a look at what we call the « specialization ». For university students in Japan, changing their major is not something that is encourage and so it allows a certain specialization and focus. If they do transfer, they might face problems when they will start looking for a job. As for the situation in Canada, it can almost be placed at the other side of the spectrum. Canadian students can easily change their field but might also get lost in the multiplicity of choices. The second issue is related to employment after graduating. The Japanese system offers a relatively efficient system for new graduate student to find a job, but if one's miss this chance, it might be really hard to get another one. As for Canada, new graduates might struggle since the lack of work experience can be their obstacle to find a long-term job. Third and last topic will be addressing the generational differences, how both Japanese and Canadian society and companies work with different generations and minding in term of values, expectations, innovation, etc. Our team will try for each point to set the framework, the background, in each country, identify the good points and problems and will

give our idea of how the situation can be improved by seeing how youth and institution can work together to achieve it.

Group 5: PRHM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pryangka Rao Batumalay</i>, Waterloo (C) • <i>Ryan McCarvill</i>, PEI (C) • <i>Mayu Yamamoto</i>, Josai Kokusai (J) • <i>Hidetoshi Hara</i>, Sophia (J)
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Generation Screwed to Generation Improved

Generation Screwed, Millennials, Freeters, NEETS - there are many terms defining our generation. Many of these terms are narrow, negative, and suggest the promise of a brighter future is an empty one. We face uncertainty, unemployment, and social unrest. However, the challenges facing the Millennials do not need to define us. What will define our generation are our actions to navigate and establish a positive legacy in an increasingly complex world.

On the surface, the future seems bright. Canadian schools provide opportunities for students to gain valuable experience outside the classroom with co-op programs. In Japan, companies search for the best and brightest graduates to help usher in a globalized world. And yet in both countries, more and more Millennials are not working. Perhaps the root problem lies not with the systems in place but within ourselves: all of us, from the graduates to employers, schools to government, and even to society itself. The bottom line? We need an attitude adjustment.

Our presentation will address the need for such an attitude adjustment from all points along the spectrum of youth employment. First, we will briefly define youth employment problems unique to Japan and Canada and also discuss similarities between the countries. Next, we will offer our solutions including but not limited to :

JAPAN	TOGETHER	CANADA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school and university co-op programs • Introduction of flex-time work schedules • Provide opportunities for non-regular workers to find gainful employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the stigma of technical education vs. university education • Adapt to changing attitudes regarding work-life balance • Ensure current and future strategies include regular evaluation and, if necessary, contingency measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote entrepreneurship and free enterprise • Fusion of technical training and academic training • Focus on future opportunities and challenges in the workplace

There is not just one solution for such a complex issue. However, our group offers these solutions with an underlying message to all of us to address the problem of youth employment in a constructive way. We look forward to delivering our presentation and hope it provides new insight. Change your attitude. Shape the future.

Group 6: Roku Rocks

- *Mercedes Dominique Bautista*, UBC (C)
- *Natsumi Mitsuke*, Tsuda (J)
- *Julia Prince*, Queen's (C)
- *Hakuko Sha*, Ritsumeikan (J)

Educational Systems as a Vessel for Work and Training Opportunities

For our presentation, from the youth perspective we will be considering mainly the institutions of work and education, discussing their mismatched needs, and proposing possible solutions to bridge the gap between these highly connected areas of society in the context of Canada and Japan. We begin by noticing the similarities in the educational set up between Canada and Japan, then presenting solutions that respond to the unbalanced societal value that deems non-traditional post-secondary options (such as technical facilities) as lesser and deviant in comparison to pursuing academia.

Current Education Models: Japan vs Canada

Both systems:

- Kindergarten: Age 3-7
- Compulsory Education:
 - Age 7-12: Elementary school (6 years)
 - Age 13-15: Junior High school (3 years)
- Age 16-18: High School (3 years)
- Age 19-22: University (4 years)

Japanese System:

- Standardized testing to get into college
- Fixed classes in high school

Canadian System:

- No standardized test for college
- Chosen high school classes

Needs:

What employers want:

- Qualified employees (with experience) to fill the labour market needs
- Employees who will stay at their company

What youth, as future employees want:

- To be recognized for their academic qualifications in the work force
- To have experience in a field they are interested in pursuing
- Employers that support professional growth

→ *These needs are not aligned!*

Possible Solutions

A. Educational Institution

- Work and experience opportunities through education
 - Co-op
 - Internship
 - Project-based courses
 - Volunteer requirements in high school (Japan)
- Interdisciplinary exposure
 - Promoting exchange programs
 - Qualitative “training”
 - Promotion of equality between post-secondary options
 - Action plan: elementary school curriculum that is well-rounded, ‘elective’ options throughout grade 8→12

B. Work Institution

- Implementing Yoi- Shigoto mindset
- Increase employee training programs
- Employers who place greater value on volunteer opportunities
- Work that supports professional growth
- Offer internships
- Rotation system for new employees
- Participate in education
 - Seminars

- Career fairs
- Project clients

A New World in the Making

- Globalized world
 - promoting exchange between countries
 - globally minded individuals → cross cultural interactions
- Hands-on, visual new generation
 - Students can engage in hands-on learning
- Quickly evolving technology
 - Creative Destruction: In order to move forward to improve existing framework, need to re-evaluate and re-create the system
- Training methods in response to new generations needs
- Technology incorporated into training
- Yoi-Shigoto mindset shifts away from a traditional mindset
- Can shift the way society defines success

Conclusion:

- What kind of society do we want to live in? What kind of people does society want to create?
- Hatarakigai (働き甲斐)

<p>Group 7: A3M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Michaela Calderwood</i>, Manitoba (C) • <i>Marie-Michelle Cartier</i>, Laval (C) • <i>Mikihiko Tachi</i>, Meiji (J) • <i>Arisa Ueno</i>, Seinan Gakuin (J)
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Taking Care of Our Future Selves in A Global Framework

If there is one idea we can pull out from the film “A World on Edge,” it is that our global boat is headed straight for a destructible storm. It is up to us, the youth, to steer that boat in a safer direction. Our presentation is to be viewed through the lens of globalization, (defined by the collection of definitions on the JACAC discussion forum website). We decided to focus on the specific problem of the aging population in Japan and Canada, as depicted by age pyramid’s

from populationpyramid.net. We propose a triangulated network of solutions between government, enterprises and universities/students to deal with this upcoming issue of aging population and job shortages.

COMMENTARY BY JUDGES ON THE PRESENTATIONS

Highlights of Team «A3M»: BEST PRESENTATION PRIZE WINNERS

- Importance of the idea of the « social enterprise »
- Importance of the « social responsibility of firms » and « corporate responsibility »
- Promotion of links between university and business
- Promotion of the paradigm of dealing with the labour shortage in areas of social intervention through the recourse to youth volunteers with business support and government encouragement
 - Rethinking internships
 - Linking youth and the aged in society

Highlights of Team «Maple-zoku»: RUNNERS-UP FOR THE BEST PRESENTATION PRIZE

- Importance of development in global thinking for young managers in restructuring management in a global environment
- Promotion of linking government and business support
- Importance of openness to new paradigms
- Reference to examples from KPMG and Toyota

Overall remarks to entire group

- A fine group of young people
- Good intercultural dialogue
- All spoke well
- Groups were well integrated in their presentations with full participation of all team members
- Evidence of research very clear in presentations
- Good respect of time-frame permitted

FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS

1. *Has the participation of the forum changed your motivation to study or given new insights?*
2. *How was the experience throughout the program?*
3. *What was most impressive in this program*
4. *How has this program influence your career stage?*
5. *Other comments*

Chizara Anucha, York University

My time in Quebec as part of the JACAC forum was one of the best experiences in my life. I had an amazing time and got to learn and experience new things with awesome people. As an English only speaker this forum has motivated me to learn another language. Before this forum I had never been to Quebec. In the future I would like to work on improving my French language skills. I would also like to work on learning Japanese. This forum has also enriched me academically and has given me many new insights. I felt that through the pre-forum discussion, lectures and group discussion I was able to receive a larger grasp on the factors impacting youth and work in our globalized world. In the future I would like to go to grad school, so the academic portion of the program was very relevant towards working towards that goal. Researching about the topic and attending lectures was very interesting and I felt that I learnt a lot.

The most impressive part of my experience was our trip to Huron village. The trip to Wendake was a very fun and educational experience. As a Canadian we are not often exposed to the cultures of Aboriginal and indigenous peoples. The trip to Wendake allowed me to learn more about my nations first peoples. The trip was also great experience for the Japanese students who were able to learn about English, French and Aboriginal Canada. Another part I found impressive was the guest lectures. I felt that the guest lectures helped clarify the theme and provided knowledge which we applied to our group presentations. This forum and program will also impact my future career aspirations. In the future I would love to work in a cross-cultural environment. Attending this forum and working with students from Japan was a great learning experience and will help me if I end up working in a diverse environment.

I am so grateful that I was able to attend two JACAC forums in both Canada and Japan. The people I have met, the experiences I have had and the knowledge I have gained will last me a lifetime.

Ikuya Ashida, Hokkaido University

I had a good experience in this forum. I realized there are many culture in the world. The reason I wanted to take part in the program is to exchange my idea with people who have different background. So, I am satisfied to the forum. This is my first time to visit Canada. I didn't know the culture of Quebec before. I know Quebec is special area in Canada. People in Quebec are originated in France and speak French. So, it could effect on the conscious difference between English Canadian and French Canadian. You cannot experience this situation in Japan. In discussion, I cope with globalization. I am interested in the discussion because I was against it before. In many cases, globalization means adapting western culture. There are many great cultures in Asia. Asia does not need to adapt to Western. However, my friend told me that globalization is processing and no one can avoid it. I realized it is reality and I should think how to adapt to it. This realization will make me more interested in cross culture communication and studying global society and I will benefit from it.

I study biology because I am interested in the amazing system of creature. I also want to contribute to the food program by utilizing my knowledge. So, I should know the politic and social program in the world because the knowledge helps me thinking the world issues. I will enter the graduated school and continue my research. It will be harder to go abroad but I want to keep myself to touch other culture and expand my thinking.

Mercedes Dominique Bautista, University of British Columbia

1. When I first applied for this conference, I wasn't sure what to expect mainly because I didn't think that my area of studies (English, Asian Canadian & Asian Migration, Sociology) was relevant. Still, this year's topic, "Youth, Work, and a 'New' World in the Making" greatly intrigued me: as an arts student graduating from UBC in less than 6 weeks, the topic of employment has great resonance to my current reality. While I have made my post-university plans, I still wish that I would have had more support in the transition from a university undergrad student to a young adult in the 'working world'.

Upon meeting my group mates and fellow conference delegates, it became clear that most of us applied to the conference because the topic was of great interest, or with a desire to deepen cross-cultural relationships. Working with others from other backgrounds has been one of the biggest takeaways from this conference. As an arts student at a North American university, I'm used to working in groups to collaborate on

projects with students who are generally from the same faculty as me. But at JACAC, I was able to converse and work with those who study engineering, physics, industrial relations... the list goes on! It's been interesting to trade ideas with those who think differently than a liberal arts students, and it's been refreshing to hear varied perspectives especially cross-culturally. As the conference topic has led us to discuss educational institutions, as a group we've been comparing the Canadian and Japanese education systems. A lot of conversation amongst Canadian students has been about the different styles in which we approach group projects: we tend to be more actively involved, giving our opinions, asking questions, and generally doing a lot of talking. This is in contrast to our Japanese friends, who tend to be more reserved, and will generally engage in conversation when directly asked. Being more aware of these kinds of cultural dynamics makes group facilitation different: knowing when to speak, when to take turns, when to ask questions... and all of this takes more time (especially as we are speaking in English, which isn't everyone's first language!). I have enjoyed being exposed to a different culture of learning, and hearing about a typical Japanese university student's life. Believe it or not, it's not so different from a Canadian's!

2. Prior to the conference, and especially the days leading up to it, I wished that I had more access to information about the conference. I recognize that there are 28 students involved, which is a large number and requires a lot of coordinating in terms of flights, but it would have been helpful to have access to more information about what the conference expectations were (ie- the way we were supposed to dress: most of us were unsure if we were to be wearing business casual attire throughout the entire week, and so packed only formal wear!). I arrived in the late afternoon the Saturday before the conference began, and am grateful that I was on the same flight to Quebec with a few other conference delegates else I am sure getting to the university would have been tricky. I am lucky that I speak French, but other students who aren't equipped with such language capabilities expressed struggle in communicating basic information, especially when arriving at the residences. It would have been helpful that a representative of JACAC met with us at the airport and subsequently helped us arrive safely at the residences. As most of us had never visited Quebec before, we had to rely on the very few that were somewhat familiar with the area. Additionally, in terms of safety, we were unsure of who was our contact person while we were in transit as no one came to see us settle in or welcome us (luckily no emergencies ensued, but again, for safety, next year it

would be reasonable to have a JACAC organizer meet with the students so they aren't left to guess where to go and what to do). I was however quite grateful to hear that most of our meals were provided by JACAC at the university.

In terms of lectures, the variety in speakers was good. Again, I wasn't very sure what the academic expectations of the conference were, but I enjoyed the diversity in perspectives presented on the forum topic. The presentations definitely engaged us in conversation both inside and outside the classroom, and specific lectures were very memorable. I look forward to the group presentations tomorrow!

I enjoyed the organized trips, perhaps there could be more integrated cultural excursions in the future.

3. Being able to connect with students from across the world proved to be most enjoyable. The exchange of academic ideas and outlooks on the world were always interesting discussion. I was also impressed by the high level of thinking that was cultivated despite English not being every participant's first language, but the ability to break down complex ideas into more palatable simple ideas.
4. Returning to my motivation to apply to JACAC, I didn't think that the conference would be directly relevant to my studies, but I was to gain and improve my soft skills: working in a group, adapting to new situations (and cold weather!!) and being flexible, and cross-cultural communication. In any career, these kinds of skills are incredibly valuable to both one's personal and professional develop, and I look forward to sharing stories and experiences about the conference to employers and friends.
5. In the future, it would be helpful to promote this conference more as at my own university, I stumbled upon the application by accident. This kind of social, cultural, and academic exchange has proven to be valuable to any individual regardless of discipline or background.

Thank you for inviting me to be apart of JACAC 2015; it's been a memorable experience!

Pryangka Rao Batumalay, University of Waterloo

1. Before attending the forum, I was nervous if I could keep up with everyone's pace as my knowledge on the topic was very limited. With the help of communiqués that were sent to keep us in par with the topic together with the readings, I was able to grasp the importance of the topic of the consortium. I have become passionate about youth employment, and as a result, I intend on exploring this new interest further.

2. It was AMAZING! I still cannot believe the experience I had in just one week. From day one, everyone interacted as though we have known each other for ages! Everyone, including participants, professors and even the people of University of Laval, has been fantastic. The lectures were informative and the events held, such as visiting Wandake, were a lot of fun! I have learned a great deal in terms of academics, friendship and myself.
3. The program was well-organized. Everything was top notch, including the organization of flights, meals, and rooms provided for example. On top of that, University of Laval was gorgeous and so were the people there. I was also amazed by how accommodating the employees were to make our stay at Laval more comfortable.
4. Part of the reason why I participated in the consortium was to expose myself to the Japanese culture. I aspire to go to Japan for further education and potentially work there after graduation, since I have always been interested in Japanese culture. The consortium was a good way for me to learn and educate myself about the system through the participants as well as the lectures held.
5. The event has been educating and an amazing experience all in all. I definitely would recommend JACAC to anyone who would like to experience something new and make awesome friends.

Félix Bourret, University of Montréal

1. To be honest, it does not change my motivation. I already am fully invested in my studies and try to get as many experience and grab as many opportunities that I can. That is exactly what I did with this program, seeing this program as a great opportunity to have a meaningful experience in a multi-cultural environment and a great chance to network with different students, lecturers, school staff, etc.
2. Overall it was a great experience. This year participants were really interesting people and we quickly mingled. The theme was a big challenging at first, giving us so many possibilities ways to tackle it, but at the end with the help of the different lecturers and teachers, we could make, I believe, a decent presentation.
3. The ease we had to all become friends really quickly. I feel that even more shy people open to the group and that we could have great exchange. That easiness has been translated to our discussions either they were for our presentation (with more specific conversation and examples) or in our informal discussions (cultural differences, etc.).

4. I am sure this program will have a great impact on my resume for my future studies or projects in Canada and probably as much or even more if I apply to jobs or projects in Japan. This program is getting bigger by the year and I am sure the recognition from different groups, association, university, etc. is following the growing of the project.
5. My only comment will be about the leadership award. My comment will maybe feel pretentious, or maybe I only write it because of my current disappointment, but I still feel there is some point to considerate. Also, please take in consideration it has nothing to do with the person but with the situation itself. I just wanted to mention that I feel that the leadership award maybe should be review. I feel like the student of the host university has advantages compare to the other students that might as hard to help the students, to listen, and try to ease the conversations, someone else who try as hard. Furthermore, I feel like the « race » to this award was a bit unfair as some people automatically give responsibility and task to this student putting this person ahead of us from the beginning. Once again, it has nothing to do with the person and it does not change at all my overall experience.

Michaela Calderwood, University of Manitoba

1. I think having this forum here in Quebec has motivated me to do better in the French class I am currently taking. It was so inspiring to be surrounded by French speakers. I often found myself listening to the French around me as a way to practice my vocabulary and realize how much French knowledge I already had. I had one interesting experience where a group of three of us were speaking three different languages in one conversation. It really demonstrated the importance of learning language and made me consider learning a few more during my lifetime.
2. My experience was exceptional! The lectures were very thought provoking. I felt I was challenged a lot in my ways of thinking throughout the week. The lectures guided us nicely in thinking about our presentations. Each lecture provided a new puzzle piece in creating a picture of the new world in the making. They provided a great background context for setting up our presentations and what we think the new world in the making might include.
3. A few pieces of constructive criticism I would give this program would be the arrival to Laval. I think it would have been nice to be welcomed by someone upon arrival to Laval. I felt the first night many students did not know what was going on or what the plan was.

Additionally, I believe the campus tour could have been more organized than it was. It would have been great to get a full, more comprehensive depiction of the campus. I also think the time scheduled for group work on Tuesday was very unrealistic. We finished the discussion in our lectures by about 3-3:30pm and then were suppose to work on our presentations with our group but had to be at the residence for 4:15pm for the bus to Wendake. I think maybe on that day, lectures should have been shorter to give us more time or the coordinators should have given us more time on another day to make up for the lack of time on Tuesday. Perhaps the coordinators could have coordinated another touristy activity, in addition to Wendake, and we could have left earlier and then given more time on another day, for example on Monday afternoon, for group presentations. This suggestion would mean we would get another opportunity to explore the beautiful Quebec City, which I think would be nice.

4. I think one of the most impressive things about the program was the diversity of the students. It was a wonderful and a challenging experience to collaborate with other students who study a wide variety of disciplines. It was great to be apart of such a diverse group that got along so well. I also thought the final presentation venue was impressive. It was very formal and elegant and made the day very special. The accommodations were great and exceeded my expectations. Laval's food services staff was also very accommodating throughout the week. I believe Laval did an excellent job hosting this year's forum.
5. This forum has freshened my outlook on careers. It has opened my eyes to many different areas of study that I was unaware of previously. It's also put in to perspective the ways careers have differed from the last generation. In today's world we are more concerned with work life balance and it is more common to have more than one career in ones lifetime. It's also interesting to see that in Japan, job hunting is very different. Recognizing these differences truly illustrates that there are more than one way to achieve something and this illustration alleviates some of the stress that often follows job hunting. It demonstrates that we are all in the same boat of trying to find a career in this challenging labour market. For example, listening to Monique's account of getting her counselling degree later on in life was very comforting because it demonstrated that there isn't one path to get to a career you love. I appreciate this opportunity to be a part of a group that is so diverse in their educational backgrounds. Before this forum, I believe I was a bit frustrated with my potential career; being in a sort of gap year

between university and work. JACAC has made me realize that our careers do not just happen all at once, but instead are a series of jobs and volunteer experiences that when strung together make up the career you are proud of. I often found myself reflecting throughout the week on qualities that make me a good employee and my desire to become a social worker to help youth who are having trouble fitting into the current systems. I am so glad the theme of this week was youth and work and the new world in the making because it has instilled in me the enthusiasm to create a new world for the future generations.

Marie-Michelle Chartier, Laval University

1. The Forum gives me more motivation for my study. The topic was really relating to my school program. It was easier for me to make links between the lecture and my studies. The Forum gives me more confidence in my skills. English is not my first language. It was a big challenge for me! I'm proud of me!
2. What a great week! I will never forget it! I met the most kind and smart people. It was an intense week! I did not sleep a lot! I worked a lot! I organized activities for the participants. I wanted them to be comfortable, feel in security and be glad to be here.
3. The organization of the lecture was really impressive to me. Every participant work a lot and wanted to discover Quebec City! Japanese learned a lot about Quebec's realities and Canada's realities. It was a great pleasure being with team, learning all together and having so much fun.
4. After my bachelor degree, I use to think to study public's relations (communication). But, after this amazing week, I think that changed my mind about it. Migration topic was really interesting, specifically in adaptation to a new country. The Forum gives me opportunities. I will work more and more to follow my dreams.

Andrea Da Silva, York University

As a highly motivated student I always seek new opportunities to broaden my knowledge and to enhance my experience in the field of my study. This is why I was absolutely thrilled when I found out that I got selected to be one of the participants in the JACAC student forum.

This school year 2014/15 I have been already involved in a year – long project related to Japan called the Glendon International Studies Symposium. The Symposium is a project entirely run by 9 York University students that do an in-depth study on a country of their

choice. This year we selected Japan. As a result, an academic conference is organized where we invite many academics across the country and abroad to speak upon topics ranging from pop culture to foreign policy (for more information please visit our website japansymposium.com).

I saw the JACAC forum as an opportunity to not only gain more knowledge on Japan but more importantly as an opportunity to actually interact with my peers from Japan in order to understand their culture and to take part in further encouraging the flow of ideas between Canada and Japan. But the experience as a JACAC participant took me far beyond my expectations.

My experience began few weeks before even attending the forum that took place in Quebec this year. This was mostly thanks to Aya and her very helpful emails. I had a chance to connect with my team beforehand, which was very nice. We even arranged for few Skype meetings and discussed few ideas on our presentation. I was also quite impressed with the arrangements for our arrival. Few of us were on a same flight and managed to share a cab to the university. (thank you Aya!) The warm welcome the next morning from Ms. Kaori, Mme. Monique and Mr. James was only a beginning of a very fulfilling and rewarding journey.

Not only the organizers, but all the participants inclusively were extremely helpful, keeping positive attitudes towards each other and handling themselves in a very professional way, which contributed to the very friendly, enjoyable, and proactive atmosphere throughout. One of my favorite parts of the forum was working with my group. Initially, I was a bit concerned about this aspect of the program as not only did I not know my group mates but more importantly, two of them were from another background with a limited knowledge of English. Well, to my very own surprise, I proudly confess that this was the best study group I have ever worked with. It is just like professor Kaori said and James pointed out; it is mostly the groups of people with different or even opposite types of personalities and skills that often compliment each other and achieve the greatest results or reach their highest potential. Through working with my group I discovered different, new ways of approaching a team work, I learned that someone's weakness can be other persons strength, that a person from different background can offer a new fresh insight on old theory.

Furthermore, presenting our findings and sharing the hours of hard work with the rest of the participants, our professors and the panel was the most rewarding experience of the program. It was absolutely intriguing to see how far we all have gone in just a week's time. To see students not only from different provinces in Canada but from two countries with such a

distinctive customs deliver such an outstanding presentations was truly impressive.

JACAC program inspired me in many different ways and I would like to thank all the organizers and participants for this wonderful experience.

Hidetoshi Hara, Sophia University

I enjoyed a lot discussing with Canadian students. They have different ideas about the issue. The way they think is also different. Sometimes it was hard for me to follow the idea and the thinking they told me. But, they never gave up continuing to make me understood. I am very impressed by their effort. I appreciated their idea and the thinking style. How to give a present also is different from Canadian student. They used gesture a lot. Furthermore, Canadian student always questions and have critical thinking. I think it is very useful to persuade people and think good idea. Not only student but also the professors in Quebec are impressive. They were very friendly and have good idea. I learned many things about Canada. Both student and professor in Canada taught me a lot of things about Canada. This experienced is very precious. I also learned body language Canadian student often uses. I have leaned what the gesture means. For example, when they say some words in different meaning, opposite or with irony, they bend their forefinger and second finger. The most impressive thing is the presentation. Each group had different perspective. Some presentation gave me new insights. For example, the gap in the attitude of job hunting between Japan and Canada. Aging issues the both Canada and Japan have faced. I want to learn more about this. Not only in academic field, but also in other field I spent precious time. In the all night, I talked with many things like Canadian's popular songs, entertainment. We play games of Canada, danced with them. All these experiences were very interesting to me! Lastly I am very glad to be celebrated my birthday with both students and professors in this forum.

Tatsuya Honda, Kwansei Gakuin University

1. We took a lecture in the morning related to the future youth work. After that, we watched movies, and then prepared for the presentation. There are a lot of professors, in the field of business, economy, counselor, and so on. Actually some information is going to be useful to my exchanging program. Then here are a lot of good students. Therefore I was stimulated by them.
2. This is the second time to come abroad. Last time, I came here as just a sightseeing but this time I did many things to use English like discussion and lecture. Therefore I felt that

- I took a mastery class in abroad. As a prospect of life, it was really cold and amount of food are too much. Living with Canadian students result in making my eyesight broader.
3. This forum is really useful for me because I am studying business at my university. I also learned many things from the senior people, professor, senior students. I sometimes can't understand what they say, so choosing people to this program should be conducted carefully. However the people of this forum will contribute to our world.
 4. I am going to study abroad from this August as far as my future plan does not change. However regarding of my career, I could have many opportunities to hear the interesting experiences. The way of Canadian employing is really different from Japan. I envy that kind of working so changing job in foreign countries might be good in my career. Therefore I can have a new aspect of working.
 5. It will be a good experience to do a business with foreign countries in the future. The group discussion and presentation is really difficult for us. It is because Japanese people think how should we do to complete this task on the other hand, Canadian people don't care about time and talked about unrelated things a lot. However it will happen in the future. Therefore I remember the time difference of Japan and other countries to be succeed in the business field.

Khrystyna Lazar, University of Manitoba

I would like to express my gratitude for organizing such an amazing forum. This has been an unforgettable experience. When I initially decided to participate, my knowledge of Japan and its culture was very limited, I have since gained an incredible amount of information. Through our well planned lectures, I became more familiar with the school system in Japan and the situation requiring youth employment, as well as how they are similar to and different from our Canadian systems. This has provided me with a different view point and insight in how the Japanese government tackles various issues, such as youth unemployment. I am very grateful for the opportunity to grow as a global citizen.

I found the lectures to be the most interesting, as they provided us with information on globalization, Japanese business structure, and how to adapt to a constantly changing society. These topics are very relevant to our daily lives and will be helpful in my career. Having time for group discussions and working closely with our international counterparts gave me the opportunity to expand my knowledge of Japan, as well as see situations from a different perspective. I will remember what I learned throughout the forum and implement it in my

future activities.

Once again, I would like to thank you for all your time, effort, and hard work, it has paid off. You have helped instill a more globalized perspective in us and we will take it with us wherever we go.

Grateful for the amazing opportunity and hope that our paths will cross again,

Mari Matsumoto, Tsuda College

The first thing that I learned from this experience is language skills. Also, everyone had high skill and high awareness, so I was impressed by this. My personality has changed a little bit: before I joined this forum, I was a little shy, especially around native English students. But now, I am more relaxed. For example, I was able to ask a presenter a question in English, even though I don't generally do this.

Also it was my first staying in Canada. Before I came here, I thought nobody (Canadians) would have special interest in Japan/Japanese. However, some people can speak Japanese very well, and some have been studying and the other tried to memorize some sentences. I was very surprised and felt moved. I really enjoy each of the days.

The program was very diverse. We had lectures, group discussion, visiting Wendake and so on. Also we had enough free time to get know each other. Even after I begin to work, this experience will be useful. When I start working in April, I want to keep in mind that I am the one of these who are responsible for the future. Also I want to keep this excitement for Canada.

Ryan McCarvill, University of Prince Edward Island

My experience at JACAC can be summarized in one word: unforgettable.

The week was full of positive challenges and forced me to address several obstacles such as navigating language and cultural differences with Japanese students and also with native Quebecois. I certainly benefitted from the lectures and group work which enhanced my knowledge and awareness of global issues. Youth employment is a subject I previously had little experience with, so it was quite eye-opening to learn just how crucial it is to solve this issue with a constructive and holistic approach. The lessons of the academic challenge will continue to echo throughout the remainder of my university education and beyond. I am very grateful to have learned valuable team-building skills especially in a cross cultural context.

More valuable to me than the academic experience were the new friendships I made with my 27 cohorts and others. I think of friends like Matthew, Kenta, Tatsuya, Charles, Arisa and all the others who came together with an open mind. I consider all the participants my very good friends and I learned so much from talking to them about life, school, language, and our shared hopes for the future.

The most impressive portion of the program for me was the final day of presentations. I was pleasantly surprised by the professionalism of all the groups. The presentations revealed new insight into the youth employment question and each of the speakers were engaging.

Originally, I considered my career options to lie in Canada or the United States. I thought I would like to work in a culture I was familiar with and then travel to other countries to and explore other cultures on a vacation basis. However, I am now inspired to look for work around the world and to become a global citizen. Whether I go to Japan or elsewhere, I have a strong desire to learn new languages and understand how other people live around the world.

I will be forever thankful to the organizers and supporters of JACAC. This was a seminal moment in my university experience and in my life. It is not always easy to accept a challenge like this, but I am very thankful I did and I believe I am a better student, worker, and person as a result.

Thank you and arigoto goziamasu,

Natsumi Mitsuke, Tsuda College

JACAC student forum 2015 at Laval University in Quebec City, Canada, was definitely the greatest opportunities in my 3rd year at college. Through this forum, I learned so many things that I cannot count and had a great experience both in academic and intercultural communication.

As for intercultural communication, basically, before this forum, I have never been to Canada, or even out of Asia, and this forum was the second time for me to come to a foreign country. In Quebec City, I had trouble not only with my English in the forum, but French to walk around the city. Thus, I can say that this program was quite hard and tough, and it took so much effort to overcome this difficulty. From the perspective of language, I really struggled with English to communicate with Canadian students as well as participating in lectures, discussion and group project. I could not understand what Canadian students said when we had usual conversation, and I always pretended to be able to understand their conversation, which made me really tired. I could not get their English but at the same time, they could not

understand my poor English, so every time they asked me to say that again, I felt so nervous and I even did not want to say that again. Thus, the first few days of the forum were really hard for me, and I always felt like going back to Japan. However, there was another student from my college, I actually did not know her before, but her attitude toward the forum, and her way of communication with Canadian students inspired me a lot. She was not very good at English, but she told those Canadian students that her English was not good enough, and asked them to speak slowly. I learned the importance of having courage to admit one's weakness, tell the truth that I cannot understand and ask them help. After I realized it, I felt much easier to communicate with the Canadian students and enjoy interacting with them.

In terms of academic, I also had difficulties to get used to the style of lectures, discussion and group work. All of the Canadian students were really smart and intelligent, and they were good at everything from speaking up in the class to making slides for presentation. In particular, all of my teammates were really intelligent, thus it was so hard to catch up with them and I always felt so sorry for not being able to contribute to the group work. However, kindly enough, my teammates helped me a lot not only explaining their opinion in very easy way, but show their effort to understand what I was trying to say. Though all the academic program of this forum, I learned so many things which will be really useful for me next year in the U.S., where I'm going to go for an exchange program. Now I can see clearly what I need to do before going to the U.S., and in that sense, this forum was not just enjoying the moment, but also lead to my latter life.

Overall, though I was feeling like going back to Japan at first, but now I wish to stay here longer and learn more from student participants as well as those doctors. Thank you so much for giving me such a great opportunity and I am sure that I will make good use of this experience in my future career.

Mio Nakago , Kwansei Gakuin University

1. It has been extremely precious for me to work as a group with students from Canada. To be honest, all the students from North America that I meet in Japan are pretty interested in Japan; therefore, the opportunity like this time that I can meet a various kinds of students here including ones that are not interested in Japan at all makes me think about Japanese culture deeply. The lectures are informative too; the ones about youth employments in Canada and immigration policy gave me an idea of studying more about immigration policy in Japan.

Absolutely it has an impact on my motivation to study further about globalization. I enjoyed working with the group. In Japan, we don't have a chance to work in groups a lot and I enjoyed listening to the other student's opinions.

2. I learned a lot listening and talking to Canadian student. For example, learning how to communicate. On the first day, they talked about 'turn giving' and 'turn taking', which I was initially worried about. Throughout the group work or even at lunch, and talking to my roommate, we learned more about communication day by day about how to effectively communicate. This was a very meaningful experience for me. I noticed a caring attitude amongst participants, even though we have cultural differences and it is sometimes hard to communicate with each other because of a language barrier. It doesn't matter if we have cultural differences or a communication barrier, because we are able to talk about and collaborate our knowledge, which I think is the most important thing. We are willing to listen to each other and learn from each other.
3. I am glad that some Canadians here have learned about Japanese culture. I feel happy to be the source for my Canadian friends to be interested about Japanese culture. Also, I am now very aware of importance of group work. Since we overcame the problem solving, we got closer when we finish the presentation task.
4. I am an international relations student, and this year I have to complete a thesis for my studies. My interests are in Canada: I studied here before, I participated in an internship in Canada, and have many Canadian friends. My reason for participating in JACAC was to allow me to gain more understanding about Canada to help me for my thesis. The topic was also very interesting when we discussed work structure differences between Japan and Canada. Throughout the discussion this week, I think I accomplished the goal that I wanted to achieve for my learning for my thesis.
5. Suggestion: I really enjoyed the lectures, but I think for next year it can be improved. There was a lecture about Quebec society and I found it a little difficult to connect directly to our theme. The presentation seemed to be about all of Quebec, and not a specific topic related to our conference theme. Still, it was a good lecture for our knowledge about Quebec.

Thank you for inviting me to participate in JACAC this year. I enjoyed myself very much. Quebec is a nice to visit, and I enjoyed meeting new people and making new Japanese and Canadian friends!

Julia Prince, Queen's University

Before my participation in the 2015 Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum, the theme Youth, Work and a New World in the Making had a certain meaning to me. In my application to the program, I focused on this topic through a mechanical engineering student's lens. I thought mainly about how employers must adapt to a technologically advancing world, and to the new generation's fast-paced and information-driven lifestyle. After participating in this forum, I can regard this topic from a lens of a global citizen, with understanding of how institutions such as education, labour force and government play a role in the interactions of youth employment. These viewpoints can be applied to many fields, and have given me a new understanding and appreciation for international exposure and experience. This forum has encouraged me to continue pursuing new languages, and inspired me to think more globally in my everyday life.

Before taking part in the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium Student Forum, I had little exposure to Japan and its culture. When working in a group with both Japanese and Canadian students, I learned not only about Japanese culture, learning styles and social interactions, but I also had a chance to reflect on Canadian culture and approaches to group activities and discussions. Throughout my group's discussions, we found ourselves unconsciously perpetuating the stigmas and paradigms that we were working to shift. Bringing this to consciousness was something that this forum was able to draw out of my group members and me. I think that the forum had an even balance between academic challenges and support, and social/cultural experiences, which added to the learning that took place throughout the week. However, it may have been beneficial to inform participants about the events and during the forum further in advance, in order for students to be more informed and thus able to prepare for their experience.

I was extremely impressed with the lectures given throughout the week. They were all very relevant in exploring new topics, or shedding new light on topics with recurring themes. I was also captivated by the enthusiasm that each participant shared, for the academic elements as well as the social elements of the forum. The learning that took place this week was not only in the classroom, but also instilled throughout every interaction and meeting of participants.

This forum has inspired me to pursue more international options for work in the future, and to seek out companies that are globally-minded. It has also addressed and validated many relevant topics such as youth unemployment and the misalignment of educational institutions

and labour force needs that aren't often brought to the forefront of discussions in post-secondary education.

Erika Rodning, University of Alberta

I am incredibly grateful to have participated in JACAC 2015. I knew that the forum would be a great opportunity, but actually going through the process has provided me with so much more personal and professional development than I'd anticipated. I have gained knowledge surrounding the topic of this forum, but more significantly, insight into Japanese culture, experience working in an intercultural team, some Japanese language skills, friends that I will keep in touch with in the future, and an inspiration to learn more about Japan.

This experience has reinforced my interest in working in the field of global health. I am drawn to global health, partly due to the interactive nature of the jobs within the field, the inter-cultural interaction it involves, its multidisciplinary and dynamic nature, and the high complexity of topics within the field. This forum, while focused specifically on youth and employment, gave me a chance to experience multi-cultural and interdisciplinary teamwork, put my problem-solving and critical thinking skills to work, and consider problems through a different cultural lens than I am used to using.

The program was diverse, incorporating lectures from Japanese, Canadian and French-Canadian perspectives, large group discussions, team work in groups of 4, final presentations by all groups, a couple of films, cultural experiences and time for social interaction. I really enjoyed the lectures because they gave us a quick look in to many different aspects of the forum topic and got me to reflect. One presenter's mention of the need to include diverse individuals into work teams really stuck with me. People have tendencies toward clarifying the situation, finding new and useful ideas, critically evaluating ideas or implementing action plans. By incorporating all of these styles into work groups, and appreciating the different roles, teams can work more effectively and efficiently. It was interesting to work in groups that were organized by the program, as this forced everyone to work with different types of individuals, rather than gravitating towards other that are like them. The large group discussions were interesting, because all of the participants in the forum had such interesting experiences and knowledge to share. It was great to see everyone's final presentations, because the topics were similar enough that you had a good background to understand them, but all groups had taken slightly different angles.

I was impressed by the social dynamics of our group. It was fun to get to know all of the

Japanese and Canadian participants, and I feel like I have gained a lot of friends through this experience. I am excited to keep in touch with those I've met, and continue to learn about Japan through my connections. Having a Japanese roommate and work teams that included two participants from each country was a great set-up that provided me with a lot of chances to learn and ask questions about Japanese culture.

I would definitely recommend the JACAC conference! I have gained such enthusiasm and excitement to learn more about Japan and the Japanese language!

Dylan Rose, University of Prince Edward Island

The Japan-Canada Academic Consortium exceeded all of my expectations. Despite the fact that we were a diverse array of students from various universities in Canada and Japan, we were all able to connect and bond with one another as if these cross-cultural borders were nonexistent. Participants came from diverse academic backgrounds and experiences, and I think that this also helped in making the forum a success both academically and socially. More specifically, having students from a variety of disciplines, such as English Literature, Microbiology, and Business, made each presentation unique and allowed for energetic and diverse discussions between students.

Université Lavale was an excellent choice for hosting both the academic presentations and the residences. The residence was close to the location of our lectures and was ideally situated on-campus at the university. With that said, one thing that could help for coordinating students in the future would involve having some sort of representative from JACAC to guide us to our residences and introduce us to the campus upon arrival. Fortunately, Félix Bourret, a member of this year's JACAC conference, was of great help in taking on this task for my group. I mention this point, however, as other Canadian students would surely benefit from such support upon arrival.

Another amelioration to the program would be for more active discussion during and after lectures. Although we gave presentations at the close of the conference, I believe that there was a lack of active debate and discussion during the days preceding the final presentation. Having some room for an open discussion, such as "What did you think of the lecture?" between the JACAC participants (and only the participants) with a moderator would have been a beneficial addition.

With these two points aside, the conference was a complete success and I thoroughly enjoyed all of the time I spent partaking inside and outside of the forum. I would encourage

anyone to apply, and I would not hesitate in recommending this conference to classmates at my home university. It is an excellent exchange of culture and ideas, as well as a great way to make new, lifelong friends.

Miki Saito, Hosei University

1. The forum broadened my view to the world. Before joined the forum, I'd been bit nervous toward doing work and staying for a week with people who have different culture. I realized even though we're different, we could break language and language barrier and get along together.

I am a communications student, so learning to speak with other students from different cultures and studies was good. I learned a lot from listening to them when we would talk in class or even just at lunch. There is a lot to learn just from talking with people who are the same age as you but live in a different part of the world. I notice that even though these students live in Canada there are some similarities with us who live in Japan.

2. I enjoyed Québec. This is my first time to visit Canada. Quebec is a great city; it has an interesting culture. Before I came to Canada for JACAC, I expected more English would be used even though I had heard that I would stay in the French part of Canada. In reality, there was more French than English, and I learned more about the French and Quebec culture along with a North American culture. This was really interesting.
3. It is group work. It was a difficult for me to discuss unfamiliar topic in English but my group members took care of me a lot so I could be more opened.

Through group work and discussion, I learned not only cultural difference and similarities but also importance of collaboration with people who have different cultural background. In my group work, I worked on the education differences between Canada and Japan. What I found was that there was a different style of internships. In Japan university they highly value if they are new graduates or not. In Canada, companies expect students to get more experience through internships. Before I came to JACAC, learning liberal arts was important to me. Now it is more important through the work I did here when we talked about technical skills also being important. I learned a lot when we talked about different systems of culture.

4. I learned through this program even if you have different ideas and studies we can collaborate and work together. I am going to start working in the spring for an American

company. This conference can be the first step to prepare for my job. This is a really different experience than what I normally do. In this program I learned about education too. What I learned here is useful for my career when interact with future customers and employees and those with different backgrounds.

5. Firstly, I think there are some room to improve the lectures. For Japanese student, the Canadian culture is pretty unfamiliar so the Quebec culture is totally different from the other part of Canada so it's more difficult to understand it. Speakers probably should announce or give homework to give students information about their speech before the forum.

If Japanese speaker introduces Japanese culture to Canadian and both Japanese student, they should tell more the actual situation in Japan in their company, rather than just saying their company's strong point and what's attractive. I don't think that's useful information for the student and the JACAC forum.

Jason Matthew Schleifer, University of Manitoba

1. I was interested in coming to the JACAC student forum because I wanted an international experience and the chance to discuss globalization. In my program I speak about the effects of globalization, and I was interested in the chance to discuss the issue at the forum and learn about it through lectures. After I am motivated to not only build skills and competencies, but also additional language skills in order to be more mobile internationally as a global citizen.
2. Over the course of the week I had an opportunity to learn a lot from both the Canadian and Japanese students who taught me things about their home schools and cities. The group that attended the JACAC Student Forum was full of students who had travelled extensively and spoke many languages in addition to Japanese and English. Most importantly, everyone was extremely kind and easy to get along with. The best part of my experience at the student forum was meeting so many great people.
3. The student forum was full of impressive highlights. The two things that impressed me the most throughout the conference were the amount of work that we accomplished during the Student Forum, and the quality of the lectures that were given by the professors and professionals. As students we had an immense workload. We attended lectures most mornings and then did group work during the afternoons and evenings. This schedule was demanding, but it also made the conference more rewarding. The

work that we had before the conference was a good indication about what the main themes of the lectures would be about, and the lectures given by the professionals who came in were great at highlighting themes that would be important later.

4. This forum has been a great place to practice teamwork and leadership skills. Working in teams that were chosen for us posed certain challenges because everyone's perspective and way of working was different. At the same time, it was an opportunity to learn to work with people who had different work styles. Being able to work with many people is something that will be very valuable to me in the future.
5. I had a great time working with my group and producing the final presentation. This was an experience that I will remember for a long time.

Hakuko Sha, Ritsumeikan University

Although it was only for a short period of time, the JACAC 2015 provided me with a wonderful experience to interact with students from many different backgrounds and to think about one of the most important issues of today's world, youth unemployment. In this final report, I will briefly summarize the learnings throughout the forum.

1. From the outset of the Japan Canada Academic Consortium, I could gain a lot of unique learning experiences. Here, I would like to describe the importance of one concept that I realized throughout the forum. I came to understand that when considering the issue of youth unemployment, the collaboration is the key. Today, in most countries of the world, the youth unemployment rate is much higher than that of the entire workforce. One of the reasons for the high youth unemployment rate is the mismatch between the skills of the youth and the demands of a company. The mismatch is likely to occur especially when a student does not have experiences at the workplace before entering into the workforce. Thus, there is a growing need for an environment where students can connect themselves to their career from early ages so that they will not suffer from the mismatch later in life. I believe that more collaboration between education and business institutions, through programs such as internships or co-op, can provide a way forward for improving the employment situation of the youth.
2. As of now, I have had a lot of international experiences, and this was the second time to come to Canada. Last term, I studied at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver for eight months. There, I could deepen my understanding on the issues relating to my major, especially on the issue of economic development in emerging economies. The stay

in Quebec City this time was different from the previous stay in Canada in a sense that the period is rather short, and that we stayed at the heart of French-speaking area of Canada. Also, the participants of the forum could spend time together for almost all day beginning from breakfast till supper. During the forum, we got to know each other very well through talking with them over discussions or meals. It was very interesting to know the differences in the view toward issues surrounding youth worldwide. I think I could broaden my perspective thanks to the opportunity provided in the forum.

3. The most impressive event of the forum was the group presentation and the process of reaching it. The discussion of the forum started even before gathering at Laval University. The participants did some background research and shared ideas on the topic by using the discussion forum section online. The views from other members and messages from the professor helped me prepare for the coming lectures and group project.

After gathering at Laval University, we had lectures and group work. As for the lectures, we heard from seven speakers including professors and business people. A variety of topics were addressed in presentations, ranging from the immigration system in Canada to Japanese business culture. They were very useful in preparing for the group presentation on the final day. Starting from the second day, we began the discussion for the final presentation in a group. After sharing our impressions from the earlier lectures, we focused on the approach we would like to take in the presentation. Though I sometimes had difficulty expressing myself in English, the team members kindly helped me understand it. Consequently, my group could make a comprehensive presentation which gives people deep insights into how education and business should behave to secure youth employment.

4. Though I had already secured a job before joining the forum, I could acquire new insights into what I want to achieve through working in a company. From April this year, I will work for a financial company in Japan. One of the reasons for attending the forum was to think about the relationship between education and work. The forum gave me a wonderful opportunity to do so.

I realized that through working for a company, I want to gain personal fulfilment and to make good use of the learning I have had throughout the student life. The presentation by Mr. Komuro, the president of Mitsui Co, Canada, was useful in considering this issue. The mindset that the company expects enabled me to think that I can get satisfaction from the job not only in terms of monetary gains, but also in terms of personal fulfillment,

human relationships, and contribution to society. It would also be desirable if I could put into practice some of the learnings I had in the student life, such as the basics on economics, or writing skills.

As written above, I could find my visions toward work through the forum.

5. The situation of the Laval University also gave us a unique opportunity to learn different cultures in one place. Since we stayed at the heart of French-Canada, we could get in touch with many French cultures, including language, food, and people. Since the official language of the forum was English, it was as if we were experiencing three different cultures at the same time. This was a very valuable experience.

I am very satisfied with all the experiences and gains during the forum. This experience will definitely be one that I would never forget. Thank you so much for supporting this program.

Charles Sharam, University of Alberta

I have been involved in many cultural exchange and international relations events in recent years, but it was not until JACAC that I had the experience of working in a team with such diverse educational backgrounds and different approaches to problem solving. I found it particularly valuable that we were assigned into groups instead of choosing members ourselves. For this type of project, I usually seek out people whose perspectives and skill sets are closely aligned with my own, so it was both a challenge and a pleasure to be a member of a highly heterogeneous team. With areas of study ranging from international business to psychology, and bringing distinct cultural backgrounds to the table, we were able to come together with unique outlooks to create solutions that we could not have developed without this level of diversity. Our presentation was a final product that all four of us played a valuable role in developing. Without a doubt, the new insights I acquired into the advantages of team diversity were my key takeaways from the consortium.

It should also be noted that the lessons learned this week would not have been possible without the continuous support of JACAC's organizers, who did a fantastic job shaping the experience for us. The program structure itself fostered a complimentary blend of engrossing lectures and rigorous group work. I found this style of learning quite useful in that it presented us with a great deal of interesting information upfront and then let us work it out and put together the pieces of the puzzle ourselves. I enjoyed the pacing of our daily schedule and especially cherished the time we had to bond with each other over meals and in the

evenings.

In addition to new insights about team diversity and the great lectures and work sessions, I was very impressed by the cohesiveness of our entire JACAC group. In spite of cultural and linguistic differences – let alone the fact that most of us had never met before – we quickly came together as friends and enjoyed a strong connection. I was so thankful to have the opportunity to meet wonderful people who don't see unfamiliar culture or language as barriers but as rallying points around which we can build deep friendships with one another.

In conclusion, the JACAC forum has only strengthened my desire to be involved in the international community. It was a truly eye-opening week that emphasized our responsibility to each other as global youths who must take care in building a sustainable and harmonious new world to enjoy together. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making JACAC 2015 a wonderful experience!

Mikihiko Tachi, Meiji University

1. This forum helped me acquire patience and leadership skills. We university students tend to work on projects at university or business competitions with those who have similar backgrounds. In this program, every participant comes from different major, different schools and a different part of province or prefecture. It makes it hard to select one idea to suggest on the presentation day. For example, one of my group members majors in Education, while I am Political Science major. Our angle towards definition and problems of globalization were even totally different. In such condition, both strong leadership and compromise were required.
2. This program satisfied every student's needs; Academic and cross-cultural understanding. When it comes to academic aspect, each professor and guest speaker gave us well-elaborated perspective towards Youth and Work, which is this year's topic. Each of them helped me get different angles for our future. As to cultural exchange, every student, especially Canadian students too friendly to try to adapt Japanese culture. I do appreciate their effort to get familiarized with Japanese students.
3. Each program was well-organized and suited to us. If I need to choose one thing, it would probably be the quality of participants. Each of them has fascinating academic and extra-curricular activities records. Not to mention, they also have unique and attractive personality. I am very honor to get to know them throughout this forum. This definitely results from the quality of this program in the past years.

4. I did get interested in studying my master degree at Canadian university in the near future. Throughout this program, especially during working on group project, I realized that the way Canadian think is so much different from Japanese or Asian. I am currently studying in Singapore as an Exchange student, and Singaporean's point of view is relatively similar to that of Japanese since Japan has influenced on Asian countries past 70 years by economic and cultural. On the other hand, Canada and Japan share less cultural background. Therefore, I struggled with integrating our ideas under tight time limitation. It made me feel a kind of achievement, although it was a really tough task.
5. I do appreciate everyone participated and organizers. I have experienced some international activities university provided before. This program is definitely the best in terms of short-term academic program though there are some points could be improved. This program would be perfect if we had one or two more days to prepare the presentation.

Arisa Ueno, Seinan Gakuin University

1. I mainly study education and communication at my university in Japan, so it was really exciting to discuss some issues with others who major in different field like politics or economy. Even if we focus on globalization, the approaches toward the topic is so different. That gave me a new idea and motivations.
2. It was a totally amazing experience. Those who participated in this program are all excellent students. They are not only smart but considerable and nice. The week we spent together was really productive and gave me a lot of motivations. Besides, being selected as a leader and got an award among those people, it was just honor. I really feel I achieved more goals which I expected before I came to Quebec.
3. Every single lecture I took every day was quite informative. It gave me a lot of new aspects. The movies we watched were also interesting. It gave us opportunity to focus on specially the points of job hunting style differences between Canada and Japan. Talking about what we are going to do after the graduation.
4. I'm going to start to work in a month. I'd like to work abroad in 3 years, and in 5 years as a HR position I'd like to contribute for my company. This is what I had already decided even before I participated in this program. However, through experiences in this program, now I feel I can go furthermore. It means this program gave me lots of knowledge, experiences, and confidence. I respect all participants of this program, and I'm amazed by everyone. I am just happy that I am also the part of the group with them.

This means a lot to me and gives me a lot of motivation for my career outlook.

5. I just would like to appreciate all the people who supported for us. Thank you so much.

Yuuka Ueno, Ritsumeikan University

1. Participating this forum has inspired me to study more cross culturally and think outside of the box. Even this was my second time to join this forum, I've learned more about Canadian and Japanese society and people not only by academic perspectives but also practical experiences.
2. This JACAC forum was truly great opportunity for me to discover the culture of Canada, especially Quebec City and exchange many ideas and culture differences with Canadian students. All the lectures were interesting and unique to Quebec or the theme of this year which we are never able to experience in Japan. Also, visiting Huron Village was memorable experience.
3. There were many impressive aspects of this program. Especially I liked the group project because I've learned so many things through our group discussions. Even we got short time to prepare for the presentations, we learned how to collaborate together with people have different back grounds including culture, majors or way of thinking. Also, when I worked on this project, I found that the topic was about us and exchanging ideas with my group members let me think about why I am here and where I am going from here. It was not only to know the differences or similarities between Canada and Japan.
4. Personally I study social welfare and I am interested in international field. This forum reminds me the importance of understanding different culture, systems and values which you are not used to. What I've learned in this forum definitely will encourage me to explore more cross culturally in my field. I know that experiences always give me another new chance and this forum is one of the life changing experiences which let me go further.
5. Finally, I would like to say thank you so much to all the professors, people form Laval University for organizing this forum and helping us to have such a productive time. And I'm really appreciated that all Canadian and Japanese participants to give your all energy to this program and make this week unforgettable.

Takayuki Yamada, Nagoya University

1. I think my motivation to study and given new sights changed thanks to participation of the forum.

2. Since I have never been abroad, this experience of this forum is quite impressive for us. First, I was surprised how smart Canadian student are. Since most Canadian has more one national identities, they are able to think in multilateral. Not only that, when we hear “Global Citizen”, most Japanese visualize that acquiring English skill is most important thing, however Canadian visualize that multilingual skill is more important. This difference is uniquely meaningful for me. Because before I go to the Canada, I thought that it is OK for us to acquire English skill fluently, I feel that I have to change my mind and it is necessary to learn another language after acquiring English.
3. My most impressive point in this forum is that I was able to discuss with a lot of Canadian who has different culture and background for us. Their thought and sense of value are quite unique. For instance, during the session and lesson, Canadian tend to emphasize gender than other things, even they are male. Not only that, they have a lot of different background, therefore they respect their thought and sense of values each other. Of course, in Japan, I think Japanese respect each other, Japanese way is not more remarkable than Canadian.
4. I strongly understand that it is quite important to discuss and work with people with different background for being Global Citizen again. To realize this, Acquiring English skill fluently is quite important. Therefore, after graduation, I’d like to enter graduate school in foreign countries. And there, I want to improve my liberal arts and enhance my skill and my major.

Mayu Yamamoto, Josai International University

1. Through this program, I could learn many things. Not only about Youth and employment, but also Economic, Globalization, Education and culture. Those things do not relate to may major, so it was really interesting for me to have lectures about those from professor, company president or director. I could get knowledge that I had not known before.
2. I could have valuable experiences. I think this is a really nice program to know about Canada and Japan. This is a good opportunity to know what is going on in the other country, in the world. This is the first time to visit to Canada for me. Quebec is the one of the Canada, but they speak French. It makes me more have interests about Canada.
3. For me, it was lectures. Because every lecture was new. I had never had lecture about those kind of topic before. I realized that how I am supposed to be and what I need to do

in this global world by having lectures.

4. Through having lecture and getting know with Canadian and Japanese students, I thought I need to experience more and not focus on my country but also other countries. One of the youth, before getting job, I think I need to have various knowledge in wide area.

Thank you for your help thorough a week.

Kenta Yogo, Meiji University

1. Most importantly, participation in this forum gave me an opportunity to meet many amazing students whose passion, dreams, and attitude inspired me. Discussion throughout the forum has deepened my knowledge in a variety of areas, outside my discipline. Furthermore, I realized this spring is just the beginning of my life. Every time I participate in a certain program, it makes me think about the path I've walked through 19 years. This forum has made me have a sense of crisis so I'll do first things first when I come back to Japan.
2. At the end of the forum, I felt like it took my breath away. However, I would have to say so frankly that it was so tough to live off in foreign country. Just briefly, I was sick from the beginning of this forum and even though I tried to recover from that by using medicines that I brought from Japan, I couldn't get over it since my suitcase that included medicines was missed out in the middle of the transferring in airport. I was sicker rather than before and it was so hard to eat, drink and speak. Nevertheless, I had really wonderful time and experience that I've ever had.
3. The most impressive thing about JACAC is that all participants were so supportive and seriously kind that I was taken care of so much in many ways. One day, Marie brought a special drink, included fruits, with me since I was not able to eat anything at all at that time. Additionally, although I ended up not seeing a doctor, one of the coordinators took me to the hospital near Laval University. I can't thank you everyone enough.
4. The teamwork aspect of the forum is the most valuable asset and has influenced so much that I definitely would like to become more of a global citizen. Furthermore, throughout the discussion, I could know how different others' dreams are so it gave me further different new insights that would be helpful. This experience was a great opportunity to get out of my comfort zone for a little while and has been astonishingly influential in learning how to speak well and how to work effectively in multicultural group.

FORUM EVALUATIONS AND SURVEY RESULTS

Q1: How did you first hear about the JACAC Forum?

Past JACAC Participant	0
Information from the Prince Takamado Japan Centre	0
Information from Meiji University	3
Information from your home University	17
The JACAC Website	0
Total	20

Q2. How do you rate the following arrangements made by the organizers:

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	N/A
Pre-departure information	5 (24%)	9 (43%)	4 (19%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
Flight arrangements	9 (43%)	5 (24%)	4 (19%)	0	1 (5%)	2 (10%)
Accommodation	8 (38%)	7 (35%)	6 (29%)	0	0	0
Meals	7 (35 %)	8 (40.00%)	4 (20%)	0	1 (5%)	0
Forum venue	7 (35%)	11 (53%)	2 (10%)	1 (5%)	0	0
Field Trip (Wandake)	12 (57%)	5 (24%)	3 (14.%)	1 (5%)	0	0

Q3 Please rate the following aspects of the JACAC Forum program

	Out standing	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	N/A
Pre-departure Assignment and Discussions	5 (24%)	7 (33%)	5 (24%)	2 (10%)	2 (10%)	0
Sunday Orientation	4 (120%)	10 (48%)	6 (29%)	1 (5%)	0	0

	Out standing	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	N/A
Lectures	9 (42.86%)	7 (33%)	4 (19%)	1 (5%)	0	0
Movies	5 (24%)	4 (19%)	7 (33%)	5 (24%)	0	0
Group Discussions	11 (52%)	4 (19%)	3 (14%)	2 (10%)	0	1 (5%)
Group Presentations	14 (67%)	6 (29%)	0	1 (5%)	0	0
Closing Ceremony and Reception	12 (57%)	8 (38.%)	1 (5%)	0	0	0

Q4. Please rate the difficulty of conducting the student presentations:

Extremely Difficult	Fairly Difficult	Average	Fairly Easy	Extremely Easy
0	9 (43%)	7 (33%)	5 (24%)	0

Q5. Please let us know what you liked most about the JACAC Forum

- Lectures. All were interesting and well in order. Everything was needed for our presentations.
- I think the diversity of the participants was really motivating and inspiring. I also enjoyed the lectures, they all helped us think about solutions to the problems that face youth and employment.
- JACAC WAS AWESOME! I am so lucky to have had this opportunity and would love to do it again next year! I think the best part was learning so much about Japanese culture, getting inspired to learn more, and making so much personal connections. I had so much fun learning Japanese phrases during the week, and since being home have been learning the writing systems. The week gave me valuable experience working in a cross-cultural work team- it's amazing how you naturally learn about cultural differences just by working in a team and seeing them come up. I think the experience highlights why it's important to understand and tolerate different ways of thinking. I think I'll be more aware (and pay more attention) to cultural differences that may be present, when I work in multicultural groups in the future. It's great to now have a bunch of friends across Canada and in Japan- I definitely think this forum was successful in opening doors between the two countries and developing a relationship. I think that having Canadian and Japanese students paired up as roommates was an awesome idea! Finally, I did gain a lot of knowledge about the forum topic and know that I will be able to apply this learning to my future

career. I am extremely happy that I decided to apply for this forum, and grateful that you have provided me with this opportunity and experience!

- The experience was fantastic. From learning something new based on the JACAC topic to meeting new people, the entire week have eye opening.
- My favorite aspect of the forum were the lectures, they opened my eyes to the diversity and differences between Japan and Canada, our school systems and job hunting standards. - I am very grateful for all the meals that were provided, they were very good! - I am also happy that we were given time to make connections with the other participants and that we were constantly encouraged to talk to someone new. I feel these connections are very important and that it's these types of connections that expand the world and encourage global thinking. Although JACAC forum provided a lot of information on Japan, I feel I learned a lot more by talking to other Japanese forum members. This would not be possible if we were not given time to connect in a relaxed environment. Therefore, having time outside of lectures to speak and connect with others that were not part of our group was very appreciated. - Having small tokens that would remind us of JACAC (water-bottle from ULaval) will help us remember this wonderful experience. - I think having name tags was very important! It was very difficult for me to remember people's names, especially Japanese name, as I have not had much exposure to Japanese people before this.
- What I like the most was the lectures and the group presentation. I like all the moments that I spent with the group. I think we are friends forever! I learned a lot of the things. It was a great experience and I will remember it for the rest of my life.
- I liked to have discussion with Canadian and Japanese students.
- How well everyone got along as well as the support and efforts of the professors and organizers.
- Especially in night time, I could talk a lot with Canadian students. We talked a lot, drank a lot, and danced a lot! Even we took some lectures and prepared for a presentation, we could enjoy our fantastic time. I can't say that which program was the best. For me, through this program I can make a great relationship. This is the best point of this Forum.
- Group discussion and presentation It was really interesting to exchange ideas with Japanese and Canadian students. I could learn a lot about the differences and similarities between the two countries on the education system.
- Closing Ceremony and Reception is the best memory of the JACAC this year. It's because just I was so sick at the beginning of this forum.
- I had a really good time in Quebec City thanks to not only PTCJ but the host university, Laval University and the students who knew really well about the city and the uni.

- I met many students who have different background.
- Lecture from a lot of professors
- I enjoyed the diversity of perspectives from the different students!
- The social aspects of the forum were amazing. Every member in the JACAC forum was eager and willing to participate, and this allowed us to cultivate close friendships in the span of a week. All of the social outings – going out to restaurants, drawing a fresco in Université Lavale's underground corridors, going to the campus pub, and the City Tour – all helped in dissolving cultural and language barriers and made us feel more comfortable around one another.
- The strong point of the forum is allowing to meet new people for sure. The schedule is well balanced, so we have time to work and know the other participants.
- Not only the forum was meaningful and enjoyable, but also we had enough time to know each other.
- Participants selected were fairly outgoing, liked to expose themselves to a new thing. They are not only academically fascinating, but also attractive in terms of personality. In addition, venue this year was amazing. Our dormitory is close to downtown, shopping malls, and classroom.
- First of all, the flights were covered with a scholarship, it definitely made easier to everyone to come. Also, participants were from all over Canada and Japan, so you got to know other places and way to talk and so forth.
- I enjoyed working with students from around Canada and Japan to create a final presentation. It was fun to learn about other cultures, and working styles.

Q6. Please let us know what you liked least about the JACAC Forum

- I didn't have much time to do field trip. It's a bit sad that we couldn't learn cultures and history's of Quebec that much. I also wish we could have ice-breaking or team building time. Even with team mate, we didn't know that much about personal things each other except major or school. If we know more each other, it's much easier to discuss and understand others' idea.
- I think the Tuesday's schedule was a bit rushed. I felt like we didn't have enough group presentation time and the Wendake seemed rushed as well. I'd suggest giving us more time for group presentation prep another day and spending more time learning the history of Wendake and taking in all it has to offer.
- I don't know that the pre-forum assignments were as effective as they could have been. I think the topics of these were too advanced, and may not have been the best way to prepare for the week (knowing what we did during the week, I may have prepared in other ways). I also think there were too many readings

suggested given the short amount of time they were given before the conference (perhaps suggest only a few or several key readings?).

- one week was too short to get to know so many amazing people
- I think that everything was great, but feel that the guidelines for presentations could be a little more specific next time.
- Everything was perfect, to me! Everyday was organized and supervised! I felt in security!
- Everyone was not in same building.
- I have no negative experience or even just a moment what so ever.
- The university was too wide for me, so I sometimes got lost under the ground. Even if I go outside, it was freezing. This was the least point.
- The food It was good that we got the meal ticket for every meal, but I got tired of having similar dishes everyday. I wish I could have a variety of dishes during the forum. For Japanese students, it would be much better if we had access to several kinds of cuisine such as Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Indian, etc., in addition to Canadian dishes.
- Flight. I lost suitcase when I got off the air Canada.
- As I mentioned earlier, but there were few information and little time to prepare for the forum. That was so hard that I couldn't prepare enough.
- The meal was almost same and it waa little boring.
- The movies which we watched, and The later movie which was about Japanese company and working life of French there was a little ridiculous, since this movie couldn't capture the real circumstances and environment of Japanese company style. Perhaps this movie may cause the misunderstanding of Japanese company's management for foreigners.
- I think it would be most helpful if information was more directly communicated to the participants. I felt a lot of the time I wasn't sure where I was supposed to be or for how long.
- I felt that the academic side of the forum was lacking in a few areas, in the sense that there wasn't a lot of in-class discussion among the groups. Although the speakers had time to communicate their message and students had time to ask questions, the lack of any type of debate or critique about the presentations among students in-class was a drawback.
- settled dinner timing. Since our schedule was highly filled with tons of things to do, we could be flexible when to have a meal, so that we can manage much more things efficiently.
- Previously mentioned, the Japanese movie. Probably too old to see and it is now changing a lot.
- I wish there were more excursions.

Q7. How can the JACAC Student Forum can be improved in the future, or the JACAC network be expanded/strengthened?

- I wish we could have more ice-breaking or team-building time. Even with team mate, we didn't know that much about personal things each other except major or school. If we know more each other, it's much easier to discuss and understand others' idea. And for the people who get an awards as a leader, if there is more official paper or cards, I think it's much easier to report to their home university.
- As I mentioned in my last comment, I think that pre-forum assignments were too advanced. I think it's great to have us prepare before the conference, and would definitely recommend continuing this, but perhaps re-think what should be researched during that time? What frustrated me the most was the advanced language of English that was required for the conference. I am a native English speaker, thus this wasn't a problem for me, but I found that all of the lectures (whether conducted by the organizers, or guest speakers) used rapid English and very complicated terminology. As a result, the Japanese students frequently missed things, or didn't understand the lecture. I ended up explaining some of these things afterward to try to catch some people up. I think as a cross-cultural learning experience, this conference should really try to get language to a level where all participants can understand!
- Probably more promotion of the forum at school level to capture the interest of students of a wider background (school major wise)
- Providing more specific instructions for the presentations would have been helpful. - The forum gave me encouragement, made me feel more global, gave me a very positive feeling, but I wish that we could stay connected more formally. I am happy that we communicate over facebook, but having monthly (or every 3 months) webinars (online seminars) with lecturers or just a topic for discussion would be great. I think having something that happens live (like through skype or collyflower where you can see and hear the people or just hear them) would work more effectively than a discussion section of the website, in which some participants did not take part in.
- I think it would be great to record the group presentation. It's a nice way to remember all the informations.
- I find that the advertising or the forum is poor. Maybe reaching out to specific departments in order to promote better would help. Somehow ensuring that the groups are well balanced in order to be productive. More speakers addressing the topic/ theme of the year. More activities where all students would participate together.

- In my opinion, holding a skype meeting is realistic way to get contact each other with us. Actually Japanese students will go to eat dinner with members so it might be also good way to get contact constantly.
- I really appreciate if you make alumnus meeting every 3 months, for example. It might become a great chance for students who took part in JACAC to share their experiences and expand their connection.
- Please reveal the information or academic tasks before the forum much earlier.
- The forum should have more exclusion and free time.
- When I signed up for the JACAC Student Forum, I was under the impression that the topic of the forum, or the academic aspects, would be the main focus. I believed that much of our time would be dedicated to discussing this issue and that there would be little time for socializing outside of the forum. Although it cannot be discounted that the topic should play a prominent role in the endorsement of JACAC, the social aspects of the forum should play an equally important role. Although some of the Japanese participants in this year's forum had never been overseas before and some of the Canadian students had no knowledge of Japan, they were able to create close friendships and gain new cultural understandings in the span of a week. This is a testament to the recruitment process at JACAC, and incoming students should be aware of the importance of participating (in some form) when attending this forum. I believe that a renewed focus on the strong social and team-oriented aspects of the forum would work to both expand and strengthen interest in the JACAC network.
- I think giving a bit more details of how the forum is working before would be interesting. On the first night, talking with the other participants, we realized we had almost no idea what to expect or what we were suppose to do.
- More emphasizing the importance of pre-discussion is needed.
- If we had been given one more day for presentation, we could have showed better by far. One day was too short to combine ideas of Japanese student with that of Canadian from different academic background.
- Give more information about the final presentation and where it is going to be.

Q8. What would you like to see covered as a potential Forum Theme in future years?

- To communicate deeply and understand each other. Because of our great invention, cell phones, and computers, now we less talk and think. And problems of privacy. Now everyone can see and search your personal information. I think we need to think and pay attention for our future. Now anything can happen there.
- Population aging seemed to be a big part of it, more focus on how younger individuals can help. Or systematic oppression would be an interesting topic.
- Global health, climate change & sustainability, food shortage in light of a growing population
- A science with business related topic would be awesome!
- Gender equality, - environmental focus/ global warming/ self sufficiency (buying items that can be easily disposed, environmentally friendly in the way they are manufactured, used, and disposed), - Is sharing the new buying?, thinking of ways that we can work together for a common benefit (ex: public carpooling, renting of items rather than buying them, implementing trading events, where you could trade something you do not use for something that you need from someone else), - How to stop terrorism and extremists
- Something about technologies and communication. How the technologies changed our lives?
- Problem about Gender
- Gender issues; how women and men experience the workplace differently in Japan vs Canada.
- food crisis gender inequality about using too much machines like AI(artificial intelligence)
- Climate change Poverty and inequality Threat of terrorism
- CSR
- I found that the past forum themes were mainly politics or economics. I prefer social science or sociology.
- Science and human
- More exploration about the topic of globalization would be interesting, perhaps more specific to a certain sector- ie) the economy, the environment
- The Impacts of Globalization in Japan and Canada
- Impact of globalization,especially multinational corporations have on environment.
- Internet Technologies, Emigration Affairs or Resource and Energy Problem
- Education could be one of them. Or something like tourism since Japan will host the Olympic in 2020!
- Impact of developing countries on global economy

PHOTOGRAPHS



First day of the Forum



Lectures



Between lectures



Lecture by our Academic Director



Monique's lecture



At Wandake, Huron Village



On the bus from Huron Village



Fresco!



Judges Deliberation and Announcement



Winners of the Best Group Presentation Prize :
A3M (from left: Mikihiko Tachi, Arisa Ueno,
Michaela Calderwood Marie-Michelle Cartier)



Runners-up for the Best Group Presentation Prize :
Maple-zoku (from left : Ikuya Ashida, Mio Nakago,
Charles Sharam, Khrystyna Lazar)



Speech by Consul-General Arai



Leadership Prize recipients, Marie-Michelle Cartier
and Arisa Ueno



Until next time we see each other!!

IN APPRECIATION

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