

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

**February 15 – 22, 2010**

hosted by

**Meiji University**

in collaboration with

**Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research,  
University of Alberta**

**Final Report**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZER

[Translated]

In February 2010, we, Meiji University, hosted the first forum under the “Canada-Japan Strategic Student Exchange Program.” It was quite an honour as well as a challenging job for us. The opportunity for students from both countries to get together here in Tokyo and share their experiences was meaningful, not only for themselves but also for future bilateral relationships between Canada and Japan, and eventually worldwide. Although there are some fundamental differences between Canada and Japan, such as geographical area, ethnic composition, language, and history, both nations share the concept of valuing global issues like peace building, human rights, and environmental protection, and we actually contribute to those issues. The forum gave the opportunity for promising Canadian and Japanese students to discuss the global issues and solutions for them.

We set “Environmental Issues” as the theme of this year’s forum and arranged related lectures, discussions and study trips, so that students could face the issues in diverse ways. Also, we have offered a study camp in collaboration with an Environmental NPO, to urge the students to find “Good Old Japan”, as well as current environmental conservation awareness of Japanese people. We believe that the forum succeeded to provide young “living-in-the-present” students with opportunities for them to find, learn, and consider about their own country and bilateral relationships between Canada and Japan in the future.

The forum is conducted through member universities’ collaboration, and allows not only language learning but also larger themes to be tackled by collaborative activities of the students. We do hope the forum will be continued and developed as an opportunity that can cultivate “global citizens”. We are looking forward to meeting again in Alberta next year.

*- Professor Etsuko Katsu, Vice-President (International,) Meiji University*

日加コンソーシアム第一回フォーラムを、主催校のひとつとして開催できたことを大変喜ばしく思っております。第一回フォーラムのホストをしたことは、明治大学にとって非常に名誉なことであると同時にやりがいのあることでした。日本とカナダは、地理的位置、民族、言語、宗教、歴史など、国家としての成り立ちは大きく異なります。しかし、平和構築、安全保障、人権擁護、環境保護などのグローバルイシューについては、その理念を共有し、かつ世界に多くの顕著な貢献をしていると言えるでしょう。

両国の将来有望な学生が一堂に会し、グローバルイシューに関する問題意識を共有し、解決策を探る機会を提供することは、二国間、引いては地球規模的な視座からみても非常に有意義なことであると考えます。

今年度のテーマは「環境」でした。教室内での講義、ディスカッションだけにとどまらず、環境関連NPOとの協力により東京郊外で行われた里やまツアーにも日加学生が参加しました。「古き良き日本」と同時に、日本の現代の環境意識にも触れる良い機会となりました。日加両国の「今」を生きる若者達がふと立ち止まり、自国の将来、二国間関係、そして地球規模の課題について、学び、そして考え、議論する機会となったのであれば、主催者としてこれ以上の喜びはありません。

本フォーラムは、両国コンソーシアム加盟大学が協働して実施することから、個別大学間の交流を超える多様なメニューを学生に提供することができます。今後の両国を担う若き「地球人」の育成のためにも、単なる語学能力の向上に留まらない、異文化の壁を越え、より大きなテーマに共同して取り組むこの機会が、今後一層発展していくことを願ってやみません。

## **ABOUT THE FORUM**

13 students from 6 Canadian universities and 17 from 11 Japanese universities gathered in Tokyo for a one-week long event from February 15-22, 2010. The theme of this year's forum was "Environmental Issues," and aimed to encourage the exchange of ideas from different cultures and to encourage collaborative and innovative approaches to environmental protection. Students conducted group-based research projects to discuss topics related to "governance," "culture," "economy and business," "technology," and "rural and urban systems."

The forum was held in conjunction with a conference where researchers and graduate students gave presentations from a Canadian perspective and/or a Japanese perspective. They also served as mentors and provided guidance for the student discussions.

All lectures and student group sessions were held at Meiji University, Surugadai Campus in Tokyo, Japan. A few field trips were planned to enhance the understanding of certain environmental topics and to experience Tokyo city life.

Students were divided into 8 groups of 3 to 4 members and conducted group discussions in preparation for a group presentation given on February 22. Each group's presentation provided an overview of the understanding acquired through the forum and proposing how or in what areas Canadian and Japanese students could collaborate or exchange views on their chosen topic.

The opportunity for interaction between researchers, graduate students and undergraduate students at the forum allowed participants to discuss issues relevant to their studies and research with their peers from a different country, gaining valuable insight from a multicultural viewpoint.

This year's forum will serve as a template for regular events in the future for the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium, where researchers, graduate students, and senior undergraduate students gather and exchange their views on various issues that concern Japan and Canada. The next forum event is planned for mid-February, 2011, with the topic of "Resources and the Economy."

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### Undergraduate Students – Canada

Diane Connors, University of Alberta  
Lindsay Sutton, University of Alberta  
Geoff Kershaw, University of Alberta  
Jennifer McGetrick, University of Alberta  
Kristyn Housman, University of Alberta  
Sophia Lavergne, University of Manitoba  
Raj Maharaj, University of Manitoba  
Victoria Latter, University of Manitoba  
Bruno Desparts, University of Ottawa  
Angèle Cyr, University of Ottawa  
Abby Dacho, Queen's University  
Mark Ouseley, Queen's University  
Jennifer Whittaker, University of Prince Edward Island

### Undergraduate Students – Japan

Kensaku Ichikawa, Meiji University  
Yota Kitade, Meiji University  
Sohei Sakamoto, Meiji University  
Tamami Endo, Sophia University  
Yingwei Wang, Sophia University  
Yoko Higuchi, Tsuda College  
Haruna Aoyama, Tsuda College  
Masahiro Ohara, Keio University  
Masaki Honda, Keio University  
Mika Onishi, Ritsumeikan University  
Hiroki Taguchi, Ritsumeikan University  
Mari Yoshida, Osaka University  
Ikuya Kurata, Orbelin University  
Nobukane Fujita, Hosei University  
Tomoaki Yoshida, Hokkaido University  
Tomohiro Koba, Nagoya University  
Yuto Ogawa, Kwansei Gakuin University

### Researchers and Graduate Students – Canada

Shari Clare, University of Alberta  
David Roberts, University of Alberta  
Paul Joosse, University of Alberta  
Louis Guay, Université Laval  
Jean-Thomas Bernard, Université Laval  
Catherine Mulligan, Concordia University  
Eric Crighton, University of Ottawa  
Brad Kennedy, University of Manitoba

### Researchers and Graduate Students – Japan

Akira Nakamura, Meiji University  
Yoshikazu Obata, Meiji University  
Atsushi Sumi, Meiji University  
Hiroyuki Ochiai, Meiji University  
Dai Togane, Meiji University  
Sachiko Kikuchi, Meiji University  
Toru Takeuchi, Tokyo Institute of Technology

## FORUM PROGRAM

Date	Time	Scheduled Event
Sunday, Feb 14	-	Arrival
Monday, Feb 15	9:30-10:30	Orientation
	10:40-13:00	<b>Opening Lecture and Q&amp;A</b>
		Professor Akira Nakamura (Meiji University) <i>"Japanese Socio-political Development and Governance"</i>
		Professor Louis Gray (Universite Laval) <i>"The Socioal Ecology of Scientific Ideas: The Case of Ecosystem and Biodiversity in Forest Governance"</i>
	13:00-14:00	Lunch
	14:00-15:00	Student Group Sessions
	15:30 -	Field trip to Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Tuesday, Feb 16	9:30-9:45	Orientation
	9:45-11:20	<b>Lecture/graduate student presentations from a Canadian perspective</b>
		Mr. Paul Joosse (University of Alberta) <i>"The Environmental Movement in Canada: Lessons and Challenges from the Radical Fringe"</i>
		Professor Eric Crighton (University of Ottawa) <i>"Healthy Environments, Healthy People: Why Equity Matters"</i>
	11:30-12:40	<b>Lecture from a Japanese perspective</b>
		Professor Yoshikazu Obata (Meiji University) <i>"A comparative 'environmental reading' of Kukaijodo"</i>
	12:40-13:00	Q&A/Discussion
	13:00-14:00	Lunch
	14:00-17:00	Student Group Sessions
Wednesday, Feb 17	9:30-9:45	Orientation
	9:45-11:20	<b>Lecture/graduate student presentations from a Canadian perspective</b>
		Ms. Shari Clare (University of Alberta) <i>"Towards an Eco-system-Based Wetland Compensation Scheme for Alberta"</i>
		Professor Jean-Thomas Bernard (Universite Laval) <i>"The Emission Intensity Approach Toward GHG Emission Reduction: The Case of the Pulp and Paper Industry"</i>
	11:30-12:40	<b>Lecture from a Japanese perspective</b>
		Professor Atsushi Sumi (Meiji University) <i>"Globalization and Decline of the Long-term Employment Practices among the Japanese Corporations"</i>
	12:40-13:00	Q&A/Discussion
	13:00-14:00	Lunch
	14:00-17:00	Student Group Sessions

Date	Time	Scheduled Event
Thursday Feb 18	10:00-10:30	Orientation
	10:30-11:15	<b>Lecture/graduate student presentations from a Canadian perspective</b>
		Professor Catherine Mulligan (Concordia University) <i>"Sustainability of the Remediation of Contaminated Sites"</i>
	11:15-12:30	<b>Lecture from a Japanese perspective</b>
		Professor Toru Takeuchi (Tokyo Institute of Technology) <i>"Seismic and Environmental Retrofit of Existing Buildings with Integrated Facades"</i>
	12:30-13:00	Q&A/Discussion
	13:00-13:50	Lunch
	13:50 -	Field trip to Mori Buildings (Roppongi Hills)
Friday, Feb 19	9:30-9:45	Orientation
	9:45-11:20	<b>Lecture/graduate student presentations from a Canadian perspective</b>
		Mr. Bradley Kennedy (University of Manitoba) <i>"Combining Biological Data and Local Ecological Knowledge to Create Predictive Models and Management Strategies for the Invasive Plant Odontites Verna"</i>
	11:20-12:50	<b>Lecture from a Japanese perspective</b>
		Mr. Hiroyuki Ochiai (Meiji University)
		Dr. Dai Togane (Meiji University) <i>"An Introduction to the Laboratory of Applied Plant Ecology"</i>
		Dr. Sachiko Kikuchi (Meiji University)
	12:50-13:00	Q&A/Discussion
	13:00-14:00	Lunch
	14:30 -	Field trip to Waste Disposal Facilities in Sumida City, Tokyo
Saturday, Feb 20 to Sunday, Feb 21	<b>Weekend field trip to Okutama</b> Field visits and group discussion	
Monday, Feb 22	9:30-12:00	Preparations for presentations
	12:00-13:00	Lunch
	13:00-18:00	Closing ceremony
	18:00-19:30	Reception

## **ABSTRACTS FOR STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

### Renewable Energy: Strengthening the Partnership Between our Two Nations

Both Japan and Canada have a large potential to expand into the geothermal market, if a stronger partnership between the two countries is developed. Large Japanese companies that have already developed strong products could be marketed to the increasingly environmentally conscious Canadian consumers, and small Canadian renewable energy entrepreneurs could use the large Japanese market to jump-start their businesses. This partnership could be an expansion of current relations, or the development of a new trade agreement. At the local level sister cities could hold trade expositions to expose companies to potentially beneficial business partnerships, or at the government level a partnership could take the form of reduced import taxes on environmentally friendly products or a policy that all imports must have be certified to be from locations powered by renewable energy. Although these ideas are not fully developed and may seem somewhat radical, there is a clear need for change to reduce our impact on the environment. If Japan and Canada take the lead in instituting this change, not will their economies both benefit, the rest of the world may be encouraged to follow suit.

Ms. Mari Yoshida (Osaka)  
Mr. Masahiro Ohara (Keio)  
Ms. Abby Dacho (Queen's)  
Mr. Bruno Desparts (Ottawa)

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### The Wheel of Cultural Diversity

Our group focused on the cultural differences between average Canadian and average Japanese citizens regarding their views on environmental issues. We focused on three important topics that the average person in Canada and Japan commonly discusses and encounters in daily life: car usage, forest preservation, and recycling. For each topic, we described and compared the different cultural views and suggested why these views prevailed in their respective countries. Our presentation was organized as a game show with three rounds, one round per topic, and the nation that had views that most strongly supported environmental conservation, preservation, and awareness was awarded a point for that round. Japan won the round on car usage, owing largely to the widespread use of small, hybrid vehicles, while Canada won the round on forest preservation due to its desire to see native forests protected as a valuable natural resource, outdoor recreation hub, and tourism generator. In the final round, recycling, we explained that though the cultural views on recycling vary greatly between Canada and Japan (Canadian citizens seem more monetarily driven, as evidenced by the success of bottle depots, while recycling prevails in Japan as a cultural norm), the overall rate of recycling between the two countries is similar. Therefore, both countries received a point and the game was a tie. This result emphasized our group's main point of being willing to learn from each other's successes, and perhaps further benefiting the environment by combining our cultural views. It also promoted the reality that cultural views play a large part in environmental protection, and ultimately determines whether the environmental protection programs and regulations implemented by government and industry on society will be effective within society as a whole.

Mr. Masaki Honda (Keio)  
Mr. Tomohiro Koba (Nagoya)  
Ms. Lindsay Sutton (Alberta)



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### No Sustainability, No Tomorrow: A Multicultural, Interdisciplinary Approach to Solving Environmental Issues

The concept of sustainability can be defined in many different ways. Using our diverse cultural and professional backgrounds, we will explore what sustainability is and how to obtain and maintain it. Sustainability will be assessed as it relates to 4 main elements and their interactions: 1) government 2) civil society 3) business 4) the physical environment. We feel these four parts represent the whole of the issue. We will explore the function and interaction of these four elements through case studies concerning Minamata Disease (水俣病) in Japan and land, air, and water pollution from oil sands development in Canada. For Minamata disease in Japan, the source of the issue was industry and its disregard for the physical environment. It was not until negative impacts were felt in civil society and the people began to assert their power that government was forced to regulate industry more strongly and force adjustments in industry practices to better protect the environment. Reviewing the impacts of the oil sands, we observe a similar pattern of industry disregard for the physical environment, except this time with government playing a more active role as partner in development. Learning from the Minamata case, we feel Canada can better achieve a sustainable society by reallocating power currently held by industry and government to environmental indicators and those parts of civil society directly impacted by the oil sands. Reflecting on the Forum, we see the various interactions between the main components and how they support or take away from our notion of sustainability. In conclusion, it is the exchange of ideas, such as this forum, and the empowerment of people that will help us resolve what sustainability is and how best to put it in practice.

Ms. Yingwei Wang (Sophia)  
Mr. Nobukane Fujita (Hosei)  
Ms. Victoria Latter (Manitoba)  
Mr. Geoff Kershaw (Alberta)

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### Sustainability: The Balance of Environment and Society

We wish to discuss the issue of sustainability, as it relates to the environment and economy in both Canada and Japan. Specifically, we want to focus on sustainability from several perspectives:

- ❖ Social sustainability
  - The effect of climate change on local economies, especially tourism-based
    - The skiing industry and loss of snow in Nagano, Japan
- ❖ Ocean management
  - Overconsumption and exploitation of ocean resources
  - Decreases in biodiversity
    - Aquaculture and associated risks
- ❖ Agriculture and forestry sustainability
  - The risks of mono-species agriculture
    - Pest and disease sustainability
    - The mountain pine beetle
- ❖ Energy sustainability
  - High/increasing GHG emissions

- Unsustainable solutions
  - Ethanol, increased fossil fuel consumption, environmental tax

Each of these subjects represents economic and environmental issues that are currently of serious concern. We feel that the only way to prevent an inevitable collapse in production in these areas requires a shift away from current practices as outlined above, and the creation and use of environmentally sustainable solutions; these may include controlled silviculture, efficient alternative energy production, and managed aquaculture. These solutions will allow the economies of both Japan and Canada to remain balanced and, more importantly, productive in the near and long-term future. A change in values about consumption, at both the consumer and bureaucratic levels, is needed to create a sustainable, healthy economic model; a focus on increased involvement by local governments and communities towards resource management may also strengthen this goal.

Ms. Mika Onishi (Ritsumeikan)  
 Mr. Kensaku Ichikawa (Meiji)  
 Ms. Diane Connors (Alberta)  
 Mr. Raj Maharaj (Manitoba)

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#### Addressing the Food Security Crisis with Environmentally Sustainable Agricultural Practices

Our group centered our discussion on the issue of global food security and the positions of both Japan and Canada in this crisis. We described the way agriculture has developed in both our countries in recent years and identified strategies that have been successful in reducing agricultural pollution while enhancing food security.

In Canada, for example, there has been a recent shift to larger scale, corporate farming operations. These are replacing smaller, family owned farms and with them comes a whole host of environmental problems such as nutrient runoff and eutrophication, soil erosion and degradation, manure disposal and bacterial contamination and reduced quality of food. In Japan, there are still a large number of small farming operations, however there is a major issue with food security.

We considered both aspects of these agricultural systems and promoted local governance as a solution to agricultural problems, with an emphasis on the creation of farmer cooperatives. Within cooperatives, farmers can share knowledge, equipment and other inputs in their farming operations to make themselves more competitive in the globalized food industry. Farming cooperatives can provide enough food to meet the demands of local communities to further shield themselves from international competitive forces. As long as the farmers are employing best management practices in their operations, with regards to fertilizer and manure application, tillage, crop rotations and livestock management, then the environmental footprint of smaller cooperative farms is minimized.

Mr. Sohei Sakamoto (Meiji)  
 Mr. Tomoaki Yoshida (Hokkaido)  
 Ms. Angèle Cyr (Ottawa)  
 Ms. Kristyn Housman (Alberta)

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### Smaller Footprints and Bigger Steps by Japan and Canada

In our presentation entitled “Smaller Footprints and Bigger Steps”, we examined how to accomplish national environmental goals through fostering local initiatives in both Japan and Canada.

We highlighted specific areas for cooperation between Canada and Japan due to existing expertise and technological capacity. Each group member focused individually on addressing the economic, regulatory, behavioral and enterprise-oriented aspects of improving environmental sustainability. The result was a synergistic Japanese and Canadian knowledge-building exercise.

The topics covered included a psychological perspective on a more sustainable lifestyle (perception, greed, motivation, patience), local waste- reduction strategies that can produce national results, and shared areas of technological competency that our governments should target for exchange.

To conclude the presentation, we proposed that a web platform for highlighting Japan-Canada exchanges should be created. With the Japan- Canada Consortium as a starting point, this forum would facilitate communication between leading actors in Japan-Canada exchange and makes this information available to the general public. By reporting on the benefits of Japan-Canada relations using this web platform, we aimed to ensure the sustainability of continued exchange between our two nations to facilitate the transfer of ideas and best practices.

Ms. Yoko Higuchi (Tsuda)  
Mr. Ikuya Kurata (Orbelin)  
Ms. Jennifer McGetrick (Alberta)  
Mr. Mark Ouseley (Queen’s)

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### Awareness: The First Step to Taking Action

Minamata poisoning was a terrible health and environmental issue caused by humans and worsened by lack of understanding and communication between those affected and the rest of the population. Before we start blaming people and asking who was responsible though, we have to realize that before anyone can take action, there has to be awareness of the issue and understanding of the situation so that effective measures can be put into practice. What we have proposed, as a way to increase awareness is to create networks between different levels of society. Therefore, there will be more communication between researchers, students, the general public, and the government. By using resources such as the Internet and the media, we are able to communicate and discuss different environmental issues focusing on the mutual concerns of Canada and Japan. Assisted by researchers and government officials, we are able to make sure that accurate information can be available to the general public and then proper action can be implemented accordingly. In this way, catastrophes such as that in Minamata can be avoided, but if something like it were to ever happen again, it is the hope that by having an easily accessible form of information, the problem can be resolved much more effectively.

Ms. Haruna Aoyama (Tsuda)  
Mr. Yota Kitade (Meiji)  
Mr. Yuto Ogawa (Kwansei Gakuin)  
Ms. Jennifer Whittaker (Prince Edward Island)

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### Treading lightly: Ecotourism and “Green” travel in Japan and Canada

A look into the history, current opportunities, and challenges facing the highly profitable industry that is ecotourism. Both Canadian and Japanese definitions are presented and contrasted to the more stringent requirements of sustainable tourism. Current opportunities for green travel in Japan and Canada were investigated, as well as the travel industry’s perspective on its profitability and desirability. Challenges broached include the failure of ecotourism to incorporate cultural and economic considerations, the narrow definition it is attributed by many potential Japanese travellers, and the ecological degradation that can occur as a result of increased traffic to sensitive environments. These challenges were used to discuss future opportunities for cross-cultural collaboration between Japanese and Canadian governments to promote sustainable tourism options between the two countries, and helping reduce the travel industry’s impact on the environment.

Ms. Tamami ENDO (Sophia University)

Mr. Hiroki TAGUCHI (Ritsumeikan University)

Ms. Sophia Lavergne (University of Manitoba)

## FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS

### CANADIAN STUDENTS

Japan and its environmental efforts have gained an entirely new dimension for me as a result of the JACAC forum. The trip has inspired me to dedicate future environmental research to studies of Japan and its environmental practices. As an environmental science student, I have previously studied Japan's efforts to a small extent. However, meeting key players in the field and touring environmentally significant locations during this forum was an eye-opening experience. My experiences during the trip sparked in me an even greater fascination for this beautiful country.

The scheduled field trips to locations such as the incineration facility, Mori buildings and managed forests were the activities that I enjoyed most. Each outing was a memorable experience especially since the locations visited are off-limits to regular tourists and visitors. These visits offered unique insight into environmental perspectives in Japan and were rich experiences that were highly pertinent to our interest in the environment. Additionally, the group's use of experienced guides, from the environmental managers of the Mori buildings to the forestry expert who led our hike of the countryside, ensured that we gained a depth of understanding regarding the significance of these trips.

With reference to difficulties encountered during the forum, I found my lack of background and understanding of Japan to be a significant hurdle to overcome during the trip. Despite a cultural exchange to Japan six years ago, I was often frustrated by how little I understood the Japanese language and culture. My lack of background in Japanese stood in stark contrast to our Japanese counterparts who have studied both English and western culture for many years during their academic careers. Although this deficiency on my part did not hinder my enjoyment of the trip, I felt the cultural exchange was not truly reciprocated due to my lack of cultural understanding of our most gracious Japanese hosts. However, this could be easily mitigated during the preparation stage of the trip through the provision of recommended readings on Japan and its culture, as well as directing delegates to links of online Japanese lessons.

I believe that our enjoyment of the trip and, more importantly, the sharing of knowledge among the delegates could have been better facilitated through greater awareness of each delegate's background and a discussion of their areas of expertise. Our introduction/ice-breaker was far too brief to gain an appreciation for each delegate's background. I would recommend that each candidate submit a short CV, photograph and write-up about themselves and their interest in the environment, which would be circulated to all of the delegates as a way to better acquaint them with one another. This can take the shape of a delegate information form with multiple prompts designed to showcase pertinent information for each candidate. Additionally, these forms would also enable us to retain contact information which could be useful for future research contacts.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to all of those who helped make this conference possible. My hat goes off to the people here in Canada who established the Japan-Canada consortium and helped select the Canadian delegates to all of our counterparts in Japan who planned the field trips and the logistics. This first JACAC forum was a significant milestone for the Japan-Canada consortium, which I hope will continue its work in strengthening the ties between our two environmentally conscious nations.

- Mark Ouseley, Queen's University

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My favorite part of the consortium was the trip to the rural forested area and the discussions held with the people from there. Environmental discourse too often ignores the perspective of the people still trying to live in direct contact with nature, and hearing their stories and vision for the future was very revealing. The whole organization of the trip was superb, and I felt that those 2 days were equal to all the others in value. Field trips in general I thought were diverse and enriching, and the selection of speakers was well balanced and thoroughly covered all aspects of the issue.

I had the greatest difficulty with the city of Tokyo. This was my first time visiting such a major metropolitan center, and the magnitude of humanity was overpowering to me. I was hoping to find new ideas on how to better structure urban living to achieve a more sustainable lifestyle, but when I contrasted the ideas of the presentations with the reality of a place like Tokyo, it felt like our efforts are missing something major.

For future consortiums, I would suggest the group work and presentations have more concrete objectives, and that when it comes time to present, ample time be given for the groups to do so. The most difficult part for me was the lack of clarity of presentation criteria. The format of the PowerPoint, the additional handout option or requirement, the time frame that we were told was 12 minutes with 3 for questions but became 10 and 0. A more thought out and concrete set of instructions given in advance of our own preparation was lacking.

This trip was a fantastic experience for me. Everything that could be done to make the consortium as productive as possible was done. Because of my time in Japan, I have a new perspective on the scale of the environmental issues we face, and my personal resolve to dedicate myself to facing those challenges has strengthened. Thank you again for giving me this opportunity, and I hope that Japan-Canada consortiums will repeat for many years to come.

- *Geoff Kershaw, University of Alberta*

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Many people have asked me how my trip to Japan went since I've been home and I can honestly say that it was the most interesting, different and overall amazing experience I have ever had. I enjoyed every minute. The conference was the perfect length of time to visit Tokyo. I saw a lot of amazing places in the city, thanks mostly to some of the Japanese students who helped us figure out the subway system and told us the best places to go. Perhaps the most memorable part of the trip, however, was our visit out of the City into Okutama. The hotel, the fresh air and the food we were given were all spectacular. I am really glad that I didn't leave Japan with a vision of this overwhelming city in my head, but also with some mountain views.

In terms of the conference itself, I enjoyed most of the lectures and especially enjoyed working with the Japanese students. I did not realize until we had the first day exactly how many disciplines and backgrounds the students came from. This was definitely a good thing, and some of the conversations that I had with people about environmental issues from so many perspectives were very enlightening. However, I am from a very environmental background so I was expecting the lectures to address more environmental issues. I felt like many of the Canadian lectures addressed environmental problems that I already had a firm grasp of, however there weren't many lectures from the Japanese perspective that sparked as much interest in me.

Furthermore, my group chose to discuss agricultural pollution in our presentation, and we started to notice after a few days that the direction the presentation was taking was discussing environmental problems related to agriculture in Canada, and economic, but not environmental, problems related to agriculture in

Japan. This was because we were not able to gain insight from any of the students or researchers at the conference about these problems. On the presentation day, Professor Nakamura criticized us for this lack of insight, and it wasn't that we didn't try to gain it, we just didn't have the right sources of information. I know the theme of the conference will change in the coming years, so I guess my suggestion would be to try and focus more on the theme.

Another suggestion related to the conference is the schedule. Our schedule was very full over the course of the week. This was mostly disappointing because some of the places I would have loved to see, for example Mt. Fuji, required a day off. Even just visiting some of the museums was impossible because they close at 5pm. My suggestion is to give at least 1 day off from the conference, and if this is impossible, then perhaps a morning off somewhere? When the bus was late leaving to the countryside on Saturday morning is was great for us because we got a chance to go to Asakusa in the daytime, get some great pictures and do some shopping! When the bus got back early on Sunday, it was also a treat because two of us went to Disneyland for the afternoon. Finally, before leaving for the airport Tuesday afternoon, we visited the Imperial Palace Gardens in the daytime, and went to two museums. These places are also highlights of the trip for me, and they were only squeezed into the schedule by chance.

- *Kristyn Housman, University of Alberta*

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I really enjoyed the 2010 Japan Canada Consortium Forum in Tokyo. I had a blast meeting new people, touring the city, and learning about environmental issues in Japan. I experienced aspects of Japan a regular tourist in Tokyo wouldn't normally have a chance to see or be aware of: waste disposal facilities and problems with waste disposal, Japan-Canada political relations, earthquake-proofing of buildings and sustainable development, and the lifestyle of a rural community. I really enjoyed the fieldtrips that got us out of the classroom and into the city or countryside. I also enjoyed working with and getting to know my group members, though communicating effectively was often a challenge! I found that the Canadian students within each group tended to lead every discussion and dominate the Q & A sessions. Some of this hesitation may have been due to the shyness of the Japanese students, but I think some of the students had less exceptional English skills and were afraid to speak in English within a group. Maybe their English skills could have been better evaluated during the forum application process? Getting to know the less proficient English speaking Japanese students was quite hard, and the group work discussions on environmental issues had to remain simple because of the language barrier, which was a shame.

The accommodations were acceptable, and being together in one room helped to get to know the other students. I was disappointed at seeing white toast and jam for breakfast every morning though! I thought the lunches could have been a bit better. I didn't mind the lunch boxes, but I think I would have preferred some traditional Japanese food, sushi, soba noodles, etc. over the westernized meals served at the café. I think all the Canadian students wanted to experience as much Japanese culture as possible before going home!

I was disappointed that the Canadian and Japanese students were held to different standards when it came to the dress code. There were days when the Japanese students would come to class in formal attire, especially for the field trips, and the Canadian students felt embarrassingly underdressed standing next to them. We learned that the Japanese students were told specifically to wear formal clothing on these occasions, while the Canadian students were not informed to dress up. I felt like the Japanese organizing committee was lowering their standards to accommodate us, and in doing so it left Canadians feeling

inadequate and unprepared. I would have appreciated the dress code expectations to be communicated equally to *all* the attending students, particularly before leaving home so that we could bring appropriate attire.

One aspect of the forum that stands out most prominently in my mind as needing improvement was the overall organization and communication. I often found myself asking what was going on, or what was supposed to happen next, or what was expected of us during our group work and presentations. It did add an element of surprise to the forum, which kept things exciting! But I heard from some of the researchers that none of our final presentations fully satisfied the presentation grading criteria. From what I had gathered during the forum, each group's presentation was to showcase their cooperation and brainstorming on a certain topic or theme that related to environmental issues in both Japan and Canada. I believe the grading criteria ended up being much more specific than this though, and none of the groups fully satisfied what was expected. I also didn't think it was appropriate to have a competition between groups for a first place prize. Though this competition might have pushed some teams to make their presentations as perfect as possible, I think it undermined the forum's overall theme of collaboration and cooperation between the students and the two countries.

Overall, this forum was an amazing opportunity that I would take again and again if I could! It's such a great idea. I had an incredible experience, and I'll be sure to keep in touch with the friends I've made. Thank you the opportunity, and I hope to see this forum continue in the future.

- *Lindsay Sutton, University of Alberta*

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In summary, the experiences I had in Japan were like nothing I have ever done before – the whole trip was beyond my expectations. The hotel was in a wonderful spot and quite nice, as dorms were appropriate for the way we were interacting with the other students. It was also within walking distance of Meiji University, which was very important, since I enjoyed exploring the neighborhood on foot. Sharing a room with other students was a great way to get to know one another.

Having a bus to take us to all the wonderful places we went made traveling very easy – and we were able to go to so many places! The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Sumida Incineration Plant, the Mori Buildings, the Canadian Embassy, and best of all, the mountains of Okutama. Understanding both the urban and rural aspects of Japanese society was imperative to understanding some of the solutions being offered for environmental problems. Having the goal of giving a presentation, especially in such an esteemed place as the Canadian Embassy was a good way to make the conference a whole experience that worked in unity. Meeting Princess Takamado was a great honor, and I am very pleased to have conversed with her about the issues of the environment that she seems so passionate about.

In retrospect, it would have been nice to have a bit more of a briefing, especially regarding social norms and useful phrases. Having more information about the roots of the conference would have also been nice – and I would still love to see more information about it appear on the website in the future! Information such as who began organizing it, what the goals of the conference are, and perhaps a way to keep in touch with people and contribute to discussion boards to keep the spirit of the conference alive, even though we have completed our adventure.

Thank you very much for this life changing experience – I won't soon forget it, and I am sure that my future



aspirations will shift due to what I have learned and who I have met.

- *Diane Connors, University of Alberta*

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For one week between February 14th and the 22nd, I had the opportunity to take part in the first Japan Canada consortium in Japan on environmental issues. It was a tremendous experience to meet other students from all across Canada as well as students from universities in Japan. These are amazing people that I probably would not have had the chance to meet otherwise. Almost every day there were lectures from various graduate students and researchers on many topics dealing with the environment and sustainability. The thing I liked about this trip was that it was very open and you could talk about a wide range of issues based on your interests. I loved being able to discuss things with other students and we were never really rushed too much every day. It was nice to do all the work during the day and then to have free time in the evening. It would have been nice though if there were more planned group activities in the evening because it was hard to plan things when we weren't really sure where to go and what to do.

Having groups and doing presentations was also really great. It was nice to get to know other members of the forum better and work together to come up with the presentation. It would have been nice if there were a more a formal outline of what they wanted from us. It seemed that different people wanted different things sometimes and it was a little confusing at times. Overall, I found the trip to be very fun and exciting, and there are not too many things I can think of that would require improvement. I feel so grateful that I had the chance to go on this trip and I thank all the people who worked so hard to put it together. It will be great to hear about how the forum goes next year in Alberta, and give another group of students the opportunity that is truly life changing.

- *Jennifer Whittaker, University of Prince Edward Island*

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I think the Forum is an amazing event that is beneficial to all students who are lucky enough to be involved. The forum was educational to students academically, culturally and personally and allowed students to continue to grow professionally. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet and get to know other people from Canada and from Japan, working on our group projects. Also when we took tours of the city, and discovered what amazing things Tokyo had to offer. I personally learned a lot from spending time with an amazing group of people. I made lifelong friends from all over Canada and Japan, and look forward to the next time my path crosses with them. I enjoyed the presentations, though I think if there had been a theme for the presentations they might have been easier to follow and more discussions for Japan-Canada collaboration would have evolved.

As for things that I found difficult, I found some of the basic understandings of Japanese culture different from ours. It would have been useful to learn about cultural norms before getting there. I also have learned the importance of traveling and experiencing what the world has to offer. I found there were times that things were too busy. The schedule was full; it would have been nice to have an introduction night/dinner/breakfast where everyone could have met and got to know each other than the first day. A pre-forum handbook that had short bios on all participants would have been useful; to have an understanding about the people we would be spending the week with. Also brief Japanese lessons, online or otherwise would have been useful to learn the basics. I also think presentations would have been more

useful, if brief synopsis were provided in Japanese or simple English for the Japanese students. Then discussions would have been more involved, with everyone understanding the topic of discussion.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to expand my personal and professional development. I learned a lot about what research my own peers are completing, but what is going on around the world. I would love the opportunity to be involved next February in Edmonton! I love my new friends and cannot wait to see them again! My experience from the Forum has led me to taking part in other international conferences and continuing to expand my academic experiences. Thank you.

- Vicki Latter, *University of Manitoba*

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First of all I would like to thanks the Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research for giving me this opportunity to learn from and share with Japanese student and teachers. It has been both exciting and challenging.

It was exciting to discover Japan with its milliner culture and yet a very modern way of life. It was also exciting to make friend with students across Canada and Japan, without this opportunity we would have never met.

Challenging because I had the same challenge has the Japanese students, I mean with language issue, my mother language is French, and even if I do understand English it is harder to work and do a presentation (in front of important person!!!) in English. This being said it will be very helpful for my future career. I am an International development student and in professional life we will have to work in a multicultural team.

The conferences, and the researchers giving them, were very interesting but for improvement, my suggestion would be to have conference that gives the Japanese and the Canadian point of view on the same subject rather than has it been on completely different topics. For example we had a conference on wetland preservation, by a Canadian researcher; it would have been interesting to see how Japanese are addressing this kind of question.

Once again thank you very much it has been a wonderful experience.

- Angèle Cyr, *University of Ottawa*

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The Japan Canada Consortium on environmental issues and sustainable innovation was truly a remarkable experience. I was extremely fortunate to have been selected as one of the participating undergraduate students, and I am grateful for the opportunity to share both my insights and opinions with the other participating students and researchers from both Canada and Japan.

I learned a great deal from this consortium. I was exposed to a variety of topics. Directly related to my field of study were the traditional ecological studies; however, we also covered social studies, economic analyses and cooperation, and business structures of both countries. This gave me valuable insight into the interconnectivity between the many aspects of society and the environment. We were able to create, from the presentations by excellent professors and researchers, a number of associations between how the

ecosystems and environmental issues we covered both affected and were affected by societal issues such as disaster relief, waste management, resource management and utilization, urban and rural development, and regional/national economic policy. The issue of international economic cooperation between Japan and Canada was also studied, and enhanced my understanding of how our own environment is affected by these economic ties. I see this as an extremely valuable source of knowledge, and one that I intend to study further.

I was also very pleased to see these issues from the perspectives of the Japanese students involved in the conference. They provided views and insights from their own experience and perspective, both of which differ from my own. Additionally, even though the focus of the consortium concerned environmental issues, the organizers did a wonderful thing in including students from all areas of study. Not only environmental science students, but economics students, social sciences students, and even art and design students, all contributed their own unique viewpoints and opinions to the topics covered during the course of the consortium. This was helpful for me personally, as I was able to incorporate these viewpoints and augment, and in some cases correct my own personal opinions.

The one thing I would like to see in further consortiums is a more in-depth analysis of the socio-political structure of both countries, especially at the local urban and prefectural/provincial levels. This would contribute to a deeper understanding of the effect that legislative, economic and developmental policies have in environmental management. It would also help us understand effects on an international level, which is intrinsically important in this type of cooperative endeavour; the participation of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Canadian Embassy, and Princess Takamado herself served to emphasize its importance. As someone who wishes to participate in environmental policy development in the future, I feel that this knowledge will be extremely valuable for both me, and for any of the other students who participated, no matter their area of study.

Speaking from a personal viewpoint, I have made many good and lasting friends, both Japanese and Canadian, during my time in Japan. Everyone who participated was friendly and helpful, and genuinely interested in this cooperative effort. I wish to convey my gratitude to them all. I also wish to convey my gratitude to the Canadian organizers of this consortium and to the Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research, for allowing me to participate.

*- Raj Maharaj, University of Manitoba*

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I feel exceptionally lucky to have been selected as a participant for the JACAC Forum on Environmental Issues and Sustainable Innovation in Tokyo, Japan. I had high expectations at the outset, and while things were not exactly as I had anticipated, I was definitely not disappointed! Most striking of all was the warm welcome and generosity offered to us by the Japanese students. They were the most wonderful hosts, and it is thanks to them that I had such an amazing experience. I am extremely grateful to all of my new friends for the time they spent showing us around the city, choosing good restaurants and helping us decipher menus, and making sure we didn't get lost in the maze that is the Tokyo Metro system. Experiences like these are not atypical of this type of conference; they allow you to make so many strong connections and friendships that span the globe and which last a lifetime. It is clear that the organizers put a lot of time and thought into planning our schedule and activities, and it was a great success as our days were filled with interesting talks and field trips. Best of all was our weekend spent in Okutama visiting the mountains and agricultural areas. Meeting such wonderful people who were living their values by connecting with nature

and giving back to the community was inspiring and is an experience that I have happily brought back with me to Canada to share with my peers and family. I think that this experience is one of the highlights of my university education, and I sincerely hope that many others will have the opportunity to benefit from it in the future!

- *Sophia Lavergne, University of Manitoba*

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The Japan Canada Consortium Forum has provided an excellent opportunity to foster students' critical awareness of "Environmental Issues" by facilitating an even understanding of both the Japanese and Canadian dimensions of on-going research and development in the field of environmental study.

I am very appreciative of all of the organizational efforts that went into the conference, including the extensive and generous consideration of conference organizers that ensured the comfort of our travel and accommodation. Thank you!

As an undergraduate participant in the Forum, I certainly feel enriched by the learning environment that was able to present such a multiplicity of disciplines and research perspectives over the course of a single week. I am very curious to see how the endeavor will translate into future scholarship, as well as the potential for continued leadership among all of the participants in the Forum.

All of the lecture sessions and field trips were tremendously interesting and engaging. I have already recounted many an anecdote to my peers and colleagues in Canada of the time we shared together in Japan. Moreover, I feel the group-work sessions were instrumental in sponsoring creative and analytical collaboration between the Japanese and Canadian student perspectives.

The cohesion and community that we accomplished through the Forum was outstanding; I think that to improve the relevance of the student presentations is perhaps the logical next step. In his closing remarks, Professor Akira Nakamura of Meiji University expressed disappointment that, for example, important legal and judicial components of environmental reform remained unaddressed by any of our presentations.

Based on his and other constructive criticism we received for our presentations at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, perhaps there may be some potential benefit to assigning specific topic areas to each of the student groups in the future.

Since the Forum included lectures and field trips organized around specific topic areas, perhaps by assigning the groups one of these topic areas each (science and technology, city and urban engineering, social and economic aspects et cetera) greater depth in the presentations individually and greater breadth of the presentations overall might be possible.

- *Jennifer McGetrick, University of Alberta*

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The Japan-Canada Consortium Forum was a fantastic opportunity to develop friendships and understanding between the two countries. As the first conference resulting from this partnership, it was a great success, but not without room for improvement.

The first and most important benefit from this forum was the opportunity to connect with the other participants. The conference was well organized such that everything from presentation groups to hotel room assignments mixed Canadian students with Japanese students, maximizing the number of friendships that were made. The research project gave Canadian students the opportunity to discuss different topics with Japanese students. The graduate students were very helpful during group work time, wandering around to answer questions. An interesting addition to the conference in the future would be a large-group discussion, where, after a short presentation on an interesting or controversial topic, students could make comments or ask questions, like an extended question period. This would stimulate more dialogue between students, and might help shy students open up if they are passionate about the issue.

The second highlight of the conference was the field trips. Through visiting a wide variety of places, students were able to get a much better understanding of solutions to specific problems used in Japan. The trip to the countryside was particularly enjoyable because it presented a completely different side of Japan than in Tokyo. From both the field trips and the speakers, the similarities and differences between Japan and Canada's practices and ideologies became apparent. Although the variety of topics allowed a large mixture of interesting topics to be presented, in the future it might be more beneficial to center the conference around a more specific topic, such as the physical environment or economics of the environment. A slightly more focused theme would really allow the students to delve deeply into the topic, resulting in more meaningful discussions. Another interesting topic that might be considered is interactions between First Nations and Ainu.

Thirdly, it is important to note that the conference was well organized and extremely well run. The pre-departure preparation was smooth, as was the remainder of the week. One small suggestion is to request that everyone brings a laptop, and then instead of distributing over 500 sheets of paper, the information could be made available by email or through a document sharing system such as Dropbox throughout the week.

Overall the conference was a fantastic experience. The consortium forum resulted in many positive friendships and a greater understanding between students, which is the foundation of a stronger relationship between Japan and Canada.

- Abby Dacho, Queen's University

## JAPANESE STUDENTS

I decided to join the first “Japan Canada consortium” because I was really interested in both “Canada” and “Environmental issues,” which was a theme of this forum. I had been to Vancouver city in Canada and studied in the University of British Columbia for a year. During my staying in Vancouver city, I noticed that Environmental issues were very severe and we had to take some action to solve these issues immediately. Therefore, I decided to go to graduate school and specialize in Environmental issues.

I really admired Canadian students for their passion toward studying and improving themselves. In addition, it was very impressive for Japanese students to get down to their work in spite of having language difficulty. I was well impressed by both Canadian and Japanese student’s earnestness and felt motivated for my study in graduate school. The most important and wonderful thing that I gained in this forum was the lasting relationships with Canadian students (Japanese students as well).

Lastly, I would like to appreciate all the support that Meiji University and the University of Alberta provided in organizing this forum. Thank you so much!!

- *Mika Onishi, Ritsumeikan University*

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The Japan Canada academic consortium was one of the best experiences in my academic life. I have been interested in environmental problems and poverty in Sub-Sahara, Africa since my second year of university. But, since my faculty does not provide any course about it, I was studying by myself, and the only thing I could do was read books and essays that were related to the topic. So, I did not know how to deepen my research and I was at a stalemate because, for instance, if you say “environment,” it covers a wide range of fields and is very vague. However, thanks to the consortium, I was able to find a solution; one of the presentations by a researcher from Canada introduced us to a very interesting aspect, which was about environmental inequity of people in a society. This idea is about a sociological approach to analyze people’s unequal health issues which are caused by a society’s environmental factors. I thought I could apply this idea to improve my research and the researcher was kind enough to recommend to me books and essays that I should read to learn more about it. Not only that, but also I was able to have discussions about environmental problems and share my own thoughts with many people from different academic and cultural backgrounds and schools. Discussing and sharing thoughts are what I could not do only by myself, so, the consortium was a great chance to deepen my thoughts and gain many different perspectives. It was a brilliant and sophisticated experience for me, and I would love to recommend this consortium to students who seek to make a further step in their academic background. Finally, I would like to thank all the people who have contributed their efforts to the consortium 2010.

- *Tamami Endo, Sophia University*

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Above all things, very interesting and very exciting is my impression of the Japan-Canada Consortium. Every student has a lot of differences, such as country, one’s home town, one’s major and one’s experience, but we are in the same position as a student so we could seriously and hotly talk about society, the environment and one’s future on an equal footing with each other. During many discussions, I noticed that each person has a different field of view and perspective, and it was very beneficial for me. Even Japanese

students coming from different areas of Japan and different Universities was very meaningful, because it brought a lot of diversity to each background.

Next, I will talk about possible improvements to the Japan-Canada Consortium. Every student took a lot of time to think or discuss about each group's theme, but we couldn't firmly digest each theme. This is because every group presented about each theme, but we couldn't have enough time for question and answer on the last day, and so I felt each group's theme was only presented and not discussed further. At the very least, we should have enough time to have a Q&A after each presentation. In addition, it would be better to have a discussion time as a whole group. Below is my alternative proposal: we have the majority of the presentations on the day before the final day, and then we only discuss about 2 or 3 themes on the final day. Also, on the second last day, we can fill in a questionnaire about the presentations we saw, so that people can think about the themes overnight. By having a group discussion, we can get various opinions, and also be vividly conscious of the differences in culture or systems. During this consortium, I felt the differences between our countries and each person's opinion and background. I had a lot of time to talk, eat Japanese food and talk with many friends, which was very important for me. This time made the consortium a GREAT consortium. I am proud to have participated in it, and I want to study harder while thinking from many viewpoints.

Finally, I appreciate very much the support from the Japan-Canada Consortium.

- Tomoaki Yoshida, Hokkaido University

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Through the program, Japan Canada Consortium, I was impressed at a lot of things and now they're unforgettable memories. The great point of the forum is that cultural exchanges between the two nations were very active and Japanese students sometimes got questions from the Canadian side, which we did not expect at all. A lot of questions from Canadian perspective were strange or unusual for Japanese students and vice versa. Even if an ideal way of protecting the environment is the same, the process could be very different due to cultural differences. I felt it from the bottom of my heart.

Our group presentation was about making a better social network with the example of Minamata incident which occurred in Japan long time ago. This idea was born when I thought people have to live in a wider social network, otherwise we couldn't give the answer to what we can do for protecting the global environment. I realized, like this forum, people can cooperate with one another for making better society. I really appreciate those who organized this forum, sophisticated professors and students who actively made it more meaningful. Thank you very much.

- Yuto Ogawa, Kwansei Gakuin University

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It is a great honor for a Chinese student who is studying in Japan to take part in this Japan-Canada forum.

My specialty is environmental law. Therefore, from the perspective of law to study and research environmental law is always my way of thinking. However, law is closely connected with human life. Compared with civil law or criminal law, environmental law is more abstract. Even the meaning of the word "environment" is profound. Usually, environmental law is regarded as trying to achieve the goal of

harmoniousness between nature and human beings by way of regulating human's activities, and further, to reach a balance between economic development and environmental protection. Nevertheless, how to regulate such human's activities is a question which must be addressed on the basis of a full understanding of environment and pollution. In this forum, the student representatives from both Japan and Canada all came from an environment-related major. We exchanged our different understandings of sustainability through communication since the academic background and the way of thinking are considerably different. My greatest gain, in this forum, is how to study and research environmental problems from multi-perspectives.

Furthermore, I had expanded my knowledge from this one-week period on environmental problems studying and researching. The question of environmental protection is not only preventing and solving pollution, but is also a thorough and complicated project concerning the multi-aspect of human life. Particularly, in the area of trying to compromise between economics and the environment, the usual method is to modify law when a serious environmental problem has actually appeared, which is obviously far too late. Whether we can protect our environment through anticipation and evaluation is one of the most important parts of sustainability. That is definitely what we should focus on in the future.

Last but not the least, Okutama mountain, Mori building, these real environmental experiences provided a rather good environmental education. As for myself, the increase of environmental knowledge through these real experiences makes me recognize that environmental protection is important. One of my biggest understandings is the necessity of law in the area of environmental protection.

As a Chinese student who studies environmental law in Japan, I'm very glad to have had the opportunity to attend this impressive forum. It was a good chance to exchange the knowledge and understanding of environment between the attendees from both Japan and Canada. During this week, the communications in the extra time which concerned the thought of environmental attempt, the ideality of life, and future goals, has actually increased mutual understanding, as well as developed knowledge. In the teamwork of collectively preparing the presentation, I had experienced the cooperation with people from different cultural backgrounds, which resulted in meeting many new friends.

Finally, I'm grateful, thankful and indebted to the sponsors and the hard-working staff of this forum. The closing ceremony that was held at the Embassy of Canada made a happy ending for this forum. Also, because this forum was not only held during the period of the Vancouver Winter Olympics, but also coincided with the Chinese New Year, it made for an unforgettable new year for me.

- Yingwei Wang, Sophia University

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[Translated]

Through this forum, I gained valuable experience to verify my views and opinions on the topic of environmental problems. I acquired knowledge besides my specialized field from the lecture by Japanese and Canadian professors, as well as realized the difference of understanding about environmental problems through discussions with Canadian students.

This forum also was an opportunity to actively exchange opinions with Japanese students during the forum, and by doing so, to change by previously biased thoughts by being exposed to new ways of thinking about the economy, politics, and approaches to environmental problem.

This opportunity, where students from not only Japan but also abroad can get together to discuss environmental problems from their own specialized fields, gave me a lot to learn and will have a great



impact on my studies after this.

- Hiroki Taguchi, Ritsumeikan

このフォーラムを通して、私は環境問題というトピックに対する自分の見解や思考を検証する非常に貴重な経験ができたと思います。日本・カナダ両国の教授による講義を受け、自分の専門分野以外の知識を得た事はもちろん、カナダの学生から見た環境問題の捉え方が自分とどれだけ違いかということも議論を通じて実感することもできました。また日本の学生との意見交換もフォーラム期間中積極的に行うことによって今まで見えてこなかった考え方や、経済・政治など様々な切り口から環境問題に対してアプローチの方法を持っているという今まで偏った自分の思考に大きな刺激を与え、検証することができました。各自の専門分野から環境問題をとらえている学生が、それも日本国内だけではなく海外の学生が集まって議論をするという私にとって初めてとなるこの場から、大変得られるものが多かったように思え、今後の学生生活での学びに大きなインパクトを与えるものとなりました。

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[Translated]

I would like to thank the Japan consortium office, Meiji University and all the people concerned for their efforts concerning the Canada-Japan Strategic students program.

Before this consortium started, I had worried about my knowledge, English skills and whether I would be out of place. However, I thought my fears were groundless when I saw the preparation, consideration and personalities of students and professors of both Canada and Japan side and the organizers.

Furthermore, after I got to know their will, curiosity, humor and specialized knowledge, I strongly thought that the theme of this consortium, the answer for environmental problems, could be solved by people, and improved step by step through this kind of personnel exchange.

I would like to express my appreciation to the people who invested in the Canada-Japan strategic students program and supported from the sidelines. Thank you very much for giving me such an opportunity. Lastly, I am honored to meet Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado. Also, I would like to become a citizen who can contribute to the world as a result of this opportunity.

- Ikuya Kurata, Orbelin University

日加戦略的留学生交流促進プログラムにご尽力頂いた、関係各位の皆様、日本コンソーシアム事務局の皆様、明治大学の皆様、誠にありがとうございました。

このコンソーシアムが始まる前、私の知識・英語力で大丈夫だろうか、場違いなのではないか、と大変心配をしましたが、事務局の方々を始め、カナダ側の生徒・先生方々、日本側の生徒・先生方々の、準備・心づかい・人柄に触れ、すべてが杞憂であったと思いました。

また、皆様の、志や好奇心、ユーモア、専門知識に触れ、このコンソーシアムのテーマ、「環境問題」に対する答えは、人によって解決される、このような人的交流によって、一步一步改善されていくものだと思えました。

そして、一方で、この日加戦略的留学生交流促進プログラムに投資をして下さった方々、陰ながらサポートして下さいました方々に、お礼を申し上げます。このような機会を与えてくださり、ありがとうございます。

ざいます。

最後に、高円宮妃殿下に拝謁させて頂き、身に余る光栄、恐縮しておりますとともに、この機会を糧に、世界に貢献できる日本人でありたいと思っております。

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[Translated]

This forum was an extremely meaningful experience. I remember the interchange with Canadian students, lectures from various angles, and inspirational speeches from famous people, just to name a few.

Among everything, however, the most important element of the consortium, as I believe, is the background knowledge of students.

The students who gathered for this forum with the theme of the environment came from universities of all parts of Japan and Canada, and with a wide range of specializations; biology, agriculture, sociology, economics, commercial science, international related study, law, design, engineering, environmental science and so on. I was surprised that the theme of the environment interacts with such a variety of fields, and at the same time, realized that environmental issues are a global-level problem which has to be dealt with from as many points of view as possible.

I am sure I had the chance to notice many small things because participants brought with them various background knowledge. For this reason, I think this consortium was a very valuable opportunity.

Lastly, I would like to thank the University of Alberta and the International Collaboration office of Meiji University, and all those who helped this consortium.

- *Kensaku Ichikawa, Meiji University*

非常に有意義な時間であったと感じています。カナダの学生との交流や、さまざまな角度からの講義、そして著名人からの激励の言葉など例を挙げればきりがありません。

その中でも、このコンソーシアムの非常に重要な要素であったと感じているのが、学生達のバックグラウンドです。日本とカナダの各地の大学から集まった学生たちの専攻はさまざまなものでした。生物学や化学、農学、社会学、経済学、商学、国際関係学、法学、デザイン、工学、環境科学など、環境という一つのテーマにこれほど様々な領域の学生が集まりました。環境というテーマがいかに広い領域をカバーしているのかと驚くと同時に、環境問題とは考えられる限りの視点から取り組まなければならない地球規模の問題であるという当たり前のことに改めて気づかされました。

こうした小さな気付きをいくつも得られたのは、多様なバックグラウンドがあったからこそだと思います。その意味で、今回の会議は非常に価値のあるものになったのではないかと思います。

最後に、このコンソーシアムの運営を支えてくださった、明治大学国際連携事務室の方々、アルバータ大学の方々に深く御礼を申し上げます。

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[Translated]

First of all, I would like to thank Canada, and my brother, who is interested in environmental problem and

resources problem and who encouraged me to participate. What I learned at the forum is still often the topic of conversation at the table with my brother.

Before I participated in the forum, I had not been involved in activities dealing with environmental problems, and would never think about doing so. Honestly, I even did not know current problems and what kinds of projects are being conducted to save the environment in Japan and Canada. I had an irresponsible idea that it would get by somehow as an onlooker.

Through this forum, I learned that various projects have been taking place in both Japan and Canada, and so many people are interested in, and are acting upon environmental issues. I used to think nothing would ever change if one person starts to pick up trash. However, meeting people very enthusiastic about these problems at the forum, I started thinking what I could do,

The Japan-Canada forum was a big opportunity for me. I hope that I can take some action with the friends I made throughout the eight days of the forum, thinking how we, as companies, administration, NGO, education and individuals, should face nature. I hope this consortium will continue.

*- Masahiro Ohara, Keio University*

初めに、私はここでカナダ、そして環境問題、資源問題に関心を抱き、参加する勇気とやる気を起こさせてくれた弟に感謝したい。このフォーラムで話したことは、未だに弟と一緒にご飯を食べるとき、話の種の一つとなっている。

私は、初めから環境問題に対して何かアクションを起こそうと学生生活を過ごしてきたわけではなく、これからも何か活動しようと考えていたわけではなかった。だから正直、日本やカナダで環境に対してどのような取り組みが行われているのか、現在、何が問題であるのかさえ知らなかった。傍観者として、どうにかなるだろうという無責任な考えを持ってきた。

このフォーラムで、あらゆる取り組みが日本、カナダ双方で行われ、環境に関心があり、行動に移している人が如何に多いか知った。人一人がゴミ拾いをして何も変わらないだろうという考えが私をこれまで支配していたのだが、フォーラムで出会った人々の熱意を垣間見て、何か私にできることはないのか考えるようになった。

日加フォーラムは私にとって大きなきっかけとなったと思う。企業や行政、NGO、教育そして個人、それぞれがどう自然と付き合うか考えた 8 日間をともに過ごした仲間とは、一緒に何か行動を起こせたらと考える毎日である。このコンソーシアムが続くことを願うばかりである。

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[Translated]

I am very grateful that I could attend this wonderful program in the last year of my campus life as a fourth year university student. At the eight-day forum, I deepened my understanding of the environment through the lectures of professors and researchers from Japan and Canada, and various activities including the visits to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mori-Building, waste treatment center in Sumida-ku, and the field trip to Okutama. I could think about what Japan can do and what Japan and Canada can do to cooperate with each other.

I believe that I came to feel this way because we had discussions every day, sometimes even through the

night, with other Japanese and Canadian students. I felt that not only Canadian participants but also other Japanese participants paid attention to the world and that they had very high-level perspectives. Under such circumstances, I made many new discoveries by asking questions and cultivating exchanges actively after the end of day activities during the forum.

I graduated in March of this year and now I work for a manufacturing company that has bases around the world, and I hope to help build up the friendship between Japan and Canada, and Japan and the rest of the world.

I would like to suggest that the forum should not only consist of group work or group discussions but discussions among all the participants. I also hope the future forums will provide opportunities for past participants to participate and contribute in some way.

I believe that many more people can learn about this forum and the forum will continue to improve. I would like to extend my gratitude to those who organized and coordinated this forum.

*- Nobukane Fujita, Hosei University*

大学生活最後の4年次に、このような素晴らしいプログラムに参加させて頂き、ありがとうございました。

8日間のフォーラムでは、日本・カナダの教授・研究者の講義を始め、外務省訪問、森ビル訪問、墨田区ごみ処理場、奥多摩へのフィールドワークと実際に外に出ることで、環境に対する理解を深め、日本ができること、日本とカナダが協力し合てできることなどについて、考えることができました。

そのようになったのも、実際に他の日本人・カナダ人と、時には夜も含めて、毎日のように話し合うことができたからだと思います。フォーラムに参加しているカナダ人はもちろん、他の日本人の参加者も世界に目を向けて、大変意識が高かったと感じました。そのような環境の中で、自分から質問したり、毎日のフォーラム終了後に積極的に交流を深めたりすることで、新しい発見が数々とありました。

今年の3月に大学を卒業し、現在は世界に拠点を持つ製造業に勤務をしていますが、いつかは日加関係を深め、更には日本と世界を繋げられるようになればと思います。

意見としては、個々のグループに分かれてのグループワークだけではなく、全体でのディスカッションや全体でのワークなどがあればよいと思いました。又、必要であれば、過去の参加者も何かしらのお手伝いができる機会があればと思います。

今後、もっと多くの人にこのフォーラムを知って頂き、更なる充実したフォーラムにして頂ければと思います。今回お世話になりました皆様、本当にありがとうございました。

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[Translated]

I would like to describe three things I learned through The Canada – Japan Forum.

First of all, students can make a lot of discoveries thanks to the Forum.

I was very fascinated by the fact that students could discuss environmental problems from various perspectives of student's major areas. I could attend lectures related to a very wide range of research fields, for instance, philosophy, ideology, management, and architecture. I realized the discussion sometimes took off in an unexpected direction, for example, when the policy of the environment was discussed from a political and economic aspect – by the way my major is political science and economics. Then, students could learn the view of the different specialized field, besides their own major.

Second of all, students can discuss beyond the boundary of their own countries.

I believe young generations like students should be able to suppress the feelings caused by various diplomatic or political conflicts that the two countries may have experienced in the past and move on to work together for the global issues. Then, providing students who are full of promise for the future with chances to meet and discuss together should be the first step to problem solving global issues which cannot be neglected. Although Japan and Canada may not share their immediate problems, I believe sharing ideals and proposals based on their own experiences in dealing with their own past problems will lead to solutions for such problems.

Thirdly, students can build personal connections.

Canadian students and Japanese students gathered from various universities and spent a lot of time together during the forum and could construct personal connections, which otherwise would not have been possible.

Finally, I strongly hope the Canada- Japan Forum will be continued regularly in the future.

I realized that students were stimulated and motivated for further study through the experiences they had this time.

*- Sohei Sakamoto, Meiji University*

私がこの日加フォーラムの通じて学んだことについて3つ述べてみたい。

1つ目は学生同士が多くが発見を得られること。

それぞれの学生が分野を専攻する分野の視点からみた環境問題を議論することが出来たことに大きな魅力を感じた。例えば、哲学、思想、経営、建築の観点からの環境問題の考察など、非常に幅広い分野に関連した講義に参加できた。自分は政治経済学部出身の学生の立場であったが、政治、経済の視点から環境の政策のあり方を提案することで議論が思わぬ方向へ展開することを実感した。また、グループごとのプレゼン準備段階または発表を通して、それぞれの学生が異なった専攻の分野に立った見解を聞くことによって学生同士が学べることができた。

2つ目は学生が国の立場を超えて議論できること。

過去の歴史の中で、国々が外交上の問題があったとしても、学生などの若い世代は過去の出来事、しがらみを超える力を持っていると信じている。そして、これから将来避けては通れないグローバルな課題に対して将来を担う学生たちが国の立場を超えて議論することで問題解決への第一歩となるはずである。日本とカナダが直面している問題点は異なっているが、互いが過去に経験した問題に対する

解決策を提案しあうことで問題解決へとつなげていきたい。

3つ目は人脈をつくれること。

日々の生活から講義まで含めて多くの時間を学生同士が過ごすことによって、カナダ学生、日本の他大学生と知り合うことができ簡単には構築できない人脈を築くことができた。

最後に私は今回の日加フォーラムを今後も定期的に継続されることを強く希望します。  
今回のような機会を体験することによって学生は様々な刺激を受け、学習意欲が高まると実感した。

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[Translated]

I totally enjoyed this forum as a whole. The reason why I decided to attend this forum was because I wanted to find out how Canadian students perceive the environment, and to decide on a specific approach to take as the next step towards environmental issues. Over all, I achieved all my initial objectives: I understood how we value the environment, through discussion with other participants, and at the same time, made friends with them through various extra-curricular activities.

What I remember the most was the process whereby we tried to come up with one presentation as a team for the closing ceremony. I was very interested in experiencing how we could collaborate with people who come from different backgrounds, unlike in usual lectures at university. We sometimes had a difficult time dealing with silence among the team, and some other times we started to have a heated conversation on a totally unrelated topic. At last, our team decided to focus on “how to present our ideas”. This is because we thought it is the most important for the listeners to understand our presentation when we had such a short time. To this end, we thought out very carefully how to prepare our presentation so that the listeners would understand it easily. Looking back, I believe this was a very important point. It is not enough to just mention the facts when we try to make people understand the environmental problems. This is true not only in Japan or in Canada but everywhere in the world. The most important thing is how we can persuade people into action. This is what I realized about myself through this forum. I tended to try to give difficult explanations about the environment problem with technical terms, as we learn at the classes in the university. I realized I should try to always remind myself of this to find a better and more meaningful method of communication.

Finally, I want to express my sincere thanks to the staff who offered such a wonderful chance. I wish this forum will be continued in the future.

- Tomohiro Koba, Nagoya University

全体を通して非常に満足できるフォーラムでした。私がこのフォーラムに参加した理由は、カナダの大学生が「環境」に対して、どのような考え方を持っているかを知り、なおかつ次に繋がるような具体的な行動指針を得たかったからです。参加した結果、「環境」に関する議論を通じて相互の価値観を理解でき、またプログラムの時間以外にも親睦を深めることができ、当初の目的を達成することができました。

その中で最も印象に残ったことは、クロージングセレモニーに向けて、メンバーでチーム1つの答えにまとめたことでした。普段、大学で議論するのは違い、異なるバックグラウンドを持つ人たちで互いの意見を調整することは非常に興味深かったです。時には沈黙の時間に苦労したり、議題とは関

係ない話題で盛り上がったりと様々な場面を経験しました。最終的には、「伝え方」を工夫することに決めました。これは、短い時間の中で聞いている人たちに理解してもらうことを優先したためです。そのため、どのような方法が聞いている人たちに伝わりやすいかを考え抜きました。振り返ると、このことは非常に重要であったと思います。環境問題を多くの人に知ってもらうためには、単に問題の事実を述べるだけでは不十分です。これは日本とカナダだけではなく、地球規模で共通することであると思います。優先すべきことは、いかに相手を行動に移させるかであると思います。このことは、今回のフォーラムで気付いた私の反省点です。これまで大学の授業の延長で、一般の人たちに環境問題を説明する際、専門的で分かりづらくなりがちでした。そのため、今後はこの点を常に意識し、より有意義な方法へ改善していきたいです。

最後に、このような素晴らしい機会を提供していただいた関係者のみなさまに深く感謝を申し上げます。今後もこのフォーラムが続きますことを強く願っております。

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[Translated]

Two months have passed since I participated in the Canada-Japan Forum, but things I learned during the week I spent with Japanese and Canadian students are still with me, shaping my life. Canada is familiar to me, and is also the subject of my research since I spent my third year of university in Quebec. Although I had no knowledge about environmental issues, I could enhance my understanding and awareness of the issues through the lectures by the researchers from Japan and Canada at this Forum. By trying to exchange opinions actively about each topic, I extended my view. The Canadian students' ambitious attitude was stimulating to me, and made me feel like learning more. I learned lots about the immigration policy in Quebec, as well, which would be very helpful for my future research. This Canada- Japan Forum is not only an opportunity for international exchange, but more importantly, an opportunity for intellectual exchange. I have never studied abroad, but this forum gave me a new purpose, to go abroad and experience the excitement I felt this time. I sincerely thank the people who gave such a valuable chance.

- Haruna Aoyama, Tsuda College

日加フォーラムに参加し早2ヶ月が過ぎたが、日本・カナダ両国の学生と過ごした1週間で得たものは、今も私を形成する一部となっている。大学3年次をケベック州で過ごしたことで、カナダは私にとって親しみのある国であり、また研究対象の国でもあった。環境という未知の分野ではあったが、日加両国の研究者の方々の講義により、自分の理解、また問題意識を高めることができた。各テーマについて積極的に意見交換を図ることで、自分の視野も広がった。カナダの学生の探究心には、私も見習わなければという刺激を受けた。自分の研究テーマであるケベック州の移民政策について、多くの意見を聞き、議論を通して知識を深められたことは、これからの研究にも役立てていきたい。この日加フォーラムは、単なる国際交流ではなく、知的交流の場である。留学を経験したことのない私に、いつか留学をし、この場で得た興奮をもう一度味わいたいという新たな目標を与えてくれた。このような貴重な機会を与えてくださった方々に、心から感謝したい。

## FORUM EVALUATIONS AND SURVEY RESULTS

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

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

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	N/A
Pre-departure orientation	6	8	6	3	1	6
Flight arrangements	11	4	5	1	0	9
Ground transportation	15	6	5	0	0	4
Accommodation	9	6	7	1	0	7

**Please explain your ratings.**

1. I am a student from Japan. Moreover, I did not stay at the hotel. However, the ground transportation was very comfortable!
2. Traffic was very good. And the location of Sakura hotel was very nice too. Because it was close to Meiji University.
3. Before the orientation (programme), I suggest that some specific knowledge of other members or of the issues should be understood among all participants.
4. accommodation was not so comfortable and breakfast was so poor. However, I could get contacts with other students anytime both in the lobby and in my room and it was very nice.
5. Booked everything myself and arranged own ground transport (came early and left later)
6. I am a Japanese student.
7. The whole trip was very well organized from start to finish, and the people in charge always seemed to know what to do!
8. Generally speaking, most of the procedures relating with this forum were well done.
9. I had excellent service from the travel agent when changing the return time of the flight and buying travel insurance. Also, being picked up in a bus from Narita airport was very helpful! and it was great how the hosts were waiting to greet us when we arrived and show us where to go.
10. Thank you for your generous consideration and kind hosting throughout the Forum!
11. There was no pre-departure for students outside of Alberta. Flight arrangements going through the states were unsatisfactory with all the security, though the travel agent was very accommodating and quick to reply. Ground transportation was good, but the communication about the return trip to the airport was poor. I liked the hostel idea.
12. Although flight arrangements themselves were made quickly and efficiently, the actual route we took from Wpg to Tokyo was frustratingly long. I would never recommend flying through the US as it adds many headaches and hours. Accommodation was well located in Tokyo and the staff were nice but the beds were extremely uncomfortable.
13. I think that everything was very well organized. From the very beginning to the end of this trip. Accommodation was OK. It could have been a bit better.
14. I think that it would have been nice to have a few meetings before leaving to meet everyone and talk about what would happen at the conference, as well as some cultural background info for those who have not been to Japan before.
15. I felt very comfortable with the travel and accommodation arrangements.
16. Flight arrangements were routed through the US, adding a bit of difficulty when going through customs. In terms of accommodation, the rooms were clean, but 4 people to a room were more than a little bit cramped, especially with all of our luggage.



17. The pre-departure orientation was sufficient, but it would have been preferable to have received the information a bit sooner (perhaps one month ahead)

Having a bit more flexibility in the flight schedule would have been more convenient.

No complaints about the ground transportation or the accommodations. It was nice that the researchers had private space rather than shared accommodations.

18. The pre-departure orientation could be greatly enhanced with links to lessons on introductory Japanese. As our Japanese counterparts possessed superior English skills, our lack of Japanese was quite embarrassing. Even guidance on basic language proficiency would be sufficient.

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

	Outstanding	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	N/A
Morning orientation	11	13	5	0	0	1
Presentations by researchers	9	16	3	1	0	1
Lunch	6	10	10	4	0	0
Group discussions	10	12	6	0	0	2
Afternoon field trips	19	8	2	0	0	0
Weekend field trip to Okutama	22	2	1	0	0	5
Closing ceremony	15	12	3	0	0	0
Reception	16	13	1	0	0	0

**Please explain your ratings.**

1. The aspects I checked as Outstanding were really awesome. Lectures by great researchers were also good, but I suggest that we should have prepared for the lectures.

Group should be divided into more appropriate one, for we could not share what we think enough to make a consensus.

2. Every field trip was good, I could feel many things.

3. Mr. Shinoda made good air.

Researchers had sophisticated presentations.

The reception offered us opportunities to make relationship with people whose backgrounds vary.

4. In addition to group discussion, open discussion/debate or discussion with other groups should also be considered.

5. We had a great discussions and it was meaningful for my future studies.

6. Again, everything was well organized and ran very

smoothly for the first forum. It was nice to have presentations about a wide range of topics concerning different aspects of the environment!

Also, we had lots of time for everything, and I never felt rushed with anything that we were doing.

7. Most of programs that including lecture and field trip were give me a lot of chances to touch on new idea or way of thinking.

8. The cafe at Meiji University had great service but I would have liked to have some traditional Japanese food rather than westernized lunches.

9. We were very carefully led over a great deal of material! Thank you!

10. I loved the field trips and the weekend trip as they allowed us to see different aspects of Japan that a typical tourist would miss. The presentations were interesting, though I think a brief abstract about each presentation would have been beneficial for the participants, as I got confused in some. I liked the discussions that followed from both perspectives. The food was interesting, even though it was edible, it was not always appetizing. The closing ceremony was really neat being at the Embassy with the Princess and the Ambassador. I think when you have someone speak to the group, they need to be someone who was involved in the whole forum, or at least understood the purpose of the presentations students gave. Some of the closing remarks were harsh and not relevant to the objective hoped to obtain. The Reception was good, though it would have been great to have name tags for the various people we met who were not introduced.

11. I really enjoyed the presentations by all of the graduate/PhD students, but the presentations by Canadian researchers were pretty disappointing. They were a bit dull and I don't think the Japanese students benefited from them very much. I expected cutting edge research or innovative new ideas, and their presentations didn't really live up to it. The fields trips were fantastic, a lot of fun and very informative. Excellent learning experiences, especially the weekend in Okutama. The closing ceremony was quite disappointing as well as embarrassing, as we were publicly told that we failed at what we were supposed to do. There was a huge lack of direction with the student presentations and clearly a disconnect between what we were instructed to do and what was expected of us. It was not a pleasant way to end the conference at all.

12. Morning presentations were too long. Too much time in class.

Researches, from both sides were awesome

Too much time as well for group discussions. Do not need as much time for a fifteen minutes presentation. At some point, it was practically a waste of time. More field trips would have been great instead.

13. I think the only issue was with some of the research presentations - some (not all) were quite text-heavy or specific with information, and this made it difficult to follow at times, especially for the Japanese students. The field trips were amazing - I would never have been able to do any of those things without having done through the Forum. They were invaluable experiences for me.

14. Write the schedule on the board rather than handing out a brand new schedule every day!

It would have been better if the presentations were not a competition because that meant that we were being judged on the basis of our opinions and that is unreasonable.

15. All aspects of the conference itself were excellent. My only complaint is that lunch was generally too small, as for most of us our only breakfast was toast and coffee provided by the hotel (not a big complaint, though)

16. The lunches were okay, but there was little variation from day-to-day, so it became a little boring by the end.

Everything else ranged from very good to excellent

17. The diversity of the presenters' backgrounds was the strength here, but it was a bit wasted, I felt. This was due mostly to lack of direction or stated goals of the lectures prior to the forum. I think, with a more specific instruction regarding the objectives of the presentations, we could have done better. (Eg. Were we trying to emphasize different perspectives? Were we trying to highlight different approaches to environmental problem solving?)

18. The level of organization and coordination for this trip was incredible and ensured that there was never a dull moment nor any confusion regarding arrangements.

I felt that perhaps there was too much time allocated to group work which could have been filled instead with more field trips or lectures.

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

	Extremely Difficult	Fairly Difficult	Average	Fairly Easy	Extremely Easy	N/A
Student presentations	1	10	9	6	0	4

**Please explain your rating**

1. As I mentioned at the Q.5, it was too hard to make our presentation because we were too young to be a group, so nobody except me tried to lead our group.

2. There was not enough time to present and discuss.

3. the requirements given by the lecturers and stuff were not understood among the students.

4. Because of the language barrier, sometimes it makes hard to discuss with Canadians in English

5. Doing the group presentation was really great, but it would have been nice if there was a better understanding of exactly what was expected from the presentations.

6. It is not difficult to tell some ideas with speaking

English. However, what I thought the most difficult part is how to convince the audience who were joined as audience, that is make them to understand our idea.

7. I felt that we were not given enough direction and then criticized for this in the end. I thoroughly enjoyed the discussions leading the presentations, but the presentations were pulled together out of spare time at the last minute.

8. It was hard to communicate to some of the Japanese students less fluent in English. This limited the depth of our discussions and took a longer than average time to plan and organize our presentations.
  9. It might have been slightly difficult for our group because the two Japanese students were from Tokyo, and so were not based in the overnight accommodation for periods of more informal discussion such as we had during the weekend field trip.
  10. The presentations were fairly straight forward, once we understood the requirements. A clear set of objectives and goals needs to be provided for students to gain the most out of their collaboration.
  11. Big lack of direction made it difficult to accomplish anything meaningful.
- Working in groups was great; I really enjoyed the experience of working with the Japanese students.
12. And way too much time to prepare it...
  13. The student presentations were not so difficult, but, as with any open topic assignment it is easy to get lost in generality. it would have been good to have been given a few more guidelines as to the expectations, especially in regards to the topic of the presentation.
  14. I am comfortable presenting, but as I mentioned above it was not beneficial, in fact, it was a bit detrimental, to have the presentations become a competition.
  15. The biggest challenge was overcoming the language barrier; it affected participation slightly, although that was overcome as we became more familiar with each other. In addition, tying together our opinions and expertise from different student backgrounds into a coherent final product was challenging.
  16. Access to computers was difficult for some groups, but as most of our team had brought computers it was never a problem.
- Access to the computer labs was provided which was also a great help.

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

1. The interaction not only among students but also among researchers.
2. Weekend field trip in Okutama was very amazing.
3. group discussion
4. I can learn a lot from the other students, as view of thinking. All of us are doing different fields of environment, so there are so many different views.
5. the staff, the students, the lecturers
6. To have a start to further explore the relationship between Japan and Canada and environmental issues.
7. form good relationships between Canadian students and researchers.
8. the final presentation
9. it was really interesting to talk with many people with so different backgrounds and share my idea with them.
10. presentation time
- hiking
11. The interdisciplinary nature of the conference
12. Meeting the people involved, made great contacts, learned a great deal about Japan and its environmental context
13. Morning lectures
14. I loved meeting people from all over Canada and Japan, and listening to the various lectures from researchers and students. It was great that the discussions were pretty informal and it was easy to talk about the many issues that were presented.
15. The most valuable point through this forum was the experience that discussing environmental problems that would be great threat to our future. Sometimes, it is not easy have a chance to discuss those imminent issues among nations because of including diplomatic, historical, economical and industrial problems. However, in terms of students perspective, we don't care so much about those friction based on nation unit. It is natural that we young generation should tackle on those environmental problems within near future. So this forum gives us the first step for sorting out those problems in the way of discussing student beyond borders of nation.
16. Overall, it was a great experience. I especially enjoyed the overnight trip to Okutama, the hike, the farm we visited, the hotel rooms and the food was all amazing there.
17. The opportunity to exchange with researchers and students

18. I loved the afternoon field trips and the overnight trip to Okutama. It was neat to visit places that the average tourist in Tokyo would not be able to see, and it reinforced the learning done in the lectures with real life experiences.
19. I liked learning at the pace of two cultures simultaneously on a series of different topics. This was facilitated by the gracious work of the International Office Coordinator and the graduate students of Meiji University who lent every consideration to our learning and advancement.
20. I loved the experience of Japan and the interaction with Japanese students. I loved making lifelong friendships that will last forever. Learning about different aspects both at home and in another country opened my eyes and also has encouraged me to expand my horizons. The information was great, as was the diversity of people present.
21. Very good for motivating and engaging students.
22. By far and away the weekend in Okutama, it was fantastic, I loved every second of it and learnt so so much by meeting people who are actually out in the world doing real concrete things for the environment.
23. Meeting new students, researchers and professors.  
Hearing different ideas and perspectives about people from different background
24. I loved meeting with other like-minded people. I thought this forum was a wonderful way to network with people from all over Japan and Canada. These friendships through different disciplines and places in the world are the key to solving large problems we face globally.
25. Students' presentations and team work. Meeting colleagues
26. The opportunity to discuss different issues with so many people with diverse backgrounds, and the daily field trips and weekend trip.
27. The variety and breadth of topics covered during the consortium. We were exposed to societal and economic factors that on the surface had little to do with environmental issues, but were in fact closely associated with them.
28. The diversity of perspectives. The opportunities for discussion.
29. 1) The most notable experience was watching the Canadian and Japanese students interact and learn from each other. It was encouraging to see the progress that the student groups made in just one short week.  
2) The balance between casual and serious atmosphere of the forum. It was possible to both mentor students as well as go out and have fun with them. This is an experience not often realized within universities.
30. -How students came from a good mix of universities in both Japan and Canada  
-The field trips to locations of environmental significance  
-Free evenings for explorations and group work

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

1. Accommodation. This is because I could not stay at the hotel, so it took a little time to talk to students who stayed at the hotel.
2. We could not have enough time to Q&A in presentations.
3. Okutama trip
4. The cold lunch at the first couple days.
5. I wanted to stay at the hotel with the Canadian students.
6. nothing
7. I would like to get more abstracts, resume and power points of these lectures.
8. none
9. poor breakfast...It should be better in order to concentrate on the lectures
10. long lunch time
11. The lectures should have been staggered to occur once in the morning and once in the afternoon to allow for more questions and dialogue between the students and lecturers to allow for more interesting discussion and debate with all of the students present.
12. I don't think the presentation evaluators (i.e. one of the Japanese professors in particular) knew what they were talking about. Criticisms were not appropriate and demonstrated that they were not privy to the instructions we gave the students and the overall goals of their work. Many students were upset about some of the comments. It was unfortunate that Japanese professors were not involved more - they should have joined the rest of us for each day's sessions.

13. Can't find the answer

14. There was nothing I could really complain about for this forum. If anything, I would have loved hear from more researchers!

Also, although the forum was for upper level undergraduate students, I think it would nice to have students from different years too and not just the upper levels!

15. What I think the least about this forum is the fact that we had no opportunity to do presentation as practice. Suppose that we have a few time to do presentation in front of teachers before conducting the final presentation, we must get feedback and possible to make our idea more attractive for audience.

16. Too much classroom time. We did not have many daylight hours free to go and see Tokyo, most of the pictures I have are night pictures.

17. Some researcher presentation were not directly related to the themes of the meeting

18. I did not like the contradictory expectations put upon both the Japanese and Canadian students. This refers to dress code expectations, as well as expectations about presentation preparation and content. I felt that sometimes there was an emphasis on the presentations being very important and to discuss new and exciting ways of solving environmental issues, and other times I thought the presentations were just to show our group's success in cooperating and collaborating. Though we were encouraged to enjoy our evenings and see more of Tokyo, some of the students felt pressured to stay at the hotel all evening and work with their group on the presentation. This is sad.

19. This is not dislike, but I would have liked to have experienced some presentations in Japanese in order that all of the students from Canada might understand how accomplished that the Japanese students were to participate entirely in English. That being said, perhaps one session of basic Japanese language learning at the different levels of the Canadian students might be appropriate.

20. I was not a huge fan of lunch. I think the schedule was jam packed, which was great, except it took away from the some of the exploring.

21. Not highly beneficial for researchers. As the topic was very broad, the discussions could not be highly scientific or technical.

22. The Canadian professors research presentations. Getting a new schedule printed every single day.

23. This competition thing for the presentation was awful Are we here to share our ideas or to compete against each other??

24. I think that the Forum was very well organized, and I cannot think of something that I liked least!

25. the 12 hour + flight...

26. The fact that the presentation was a competition.

27. The lack of free time. We had evenings free, but much of that was taken up with discussing the presentations. From the beginning of the conference to the end, we had little time to explore the city beyond the major tourist attractions.

28. I enjoyed the whole experience.

29. 1) The unclear direction given to students regarding the goals of their presentations. We should have done better at communicating our expectations here.

2) The post-presentation feedback from the Meiji staff was unfair to the students. This feedback would have been more meaningful coming from a faculty member who actually attended the Forum! Wed, Mar 24, 2010 10:06 AM

30. -The lack of awareness of the forum at home, had more people at certain universities been aware, there could have been an even greater diversity of Canadian participants

-At times, the Canadian students could have used a briefing on Japanese cultural etiquette. Our outgoing and boisterous ways may be acceptable in Canada yet few delegates considered that this behavior may not have been culturally appropriate for Japan

**Please let us know what can be improved on during next year's Forum.**

1. I think that we should gather and prepare for the conference in advance.
2. we should change the day of presentations to one day before of last day. Then we can talk about each theme more deeply.
3. none
4. Some materials as background knowledge is necessary.
5. we should have avoided using buses during this program for the environment or use buses that is friendly for the environment. In the next program, in Canada, some eco-friendly movements should be considered such as not using transportation as buses, cars.
6. I hope that some re-unions or after-activities should be conducted. Also, I think the idea of making Homepage, advertising materials, presentation to universities or album (pictures) would be more enjoyable.
7. you should provide some more information about student's presentation. Ex.) specific theme or general theme
8. the forum should have an official dinner for the participants to get to know each other better some day earlier in the program
9. please inform us about the programs more in detail beforehand
10. more time after lectures for debating, discussing and questioning
11. See #8
12. Involve both Japanese and Canadian profs equally.
13. Increase the opportunity of the field trip
14. For next year's forum, it would be great to have an outline of what is expected from each student before they start the group presentations (in terms of, whether they would slide shows etc.), but at the same time keeping it general like it was for this forum.
15. As I already mention, it should be better that students have some opportunities to do presentation before the final one.
16. The lectures could be chosen more closely to resemble the topic of the conference overall. It was great to get a variety of views, but some of them were not really environmental lectures at all. The schedule could also be less hectic; I would suggest giving the students two mornings off during the week. That way, it is up to them what the most productive use of their time is, whether it comes to sightseeing or group discussions. When the students have the morning off, then they have the opportunity to visit museums, shopping districts, etc.
17. The organization is fine
18. I would just like to see a clearer objective on the presentations, and also a more common theme to the lectures. Some of the daily paired "Canadian view"/"Japanese view" lectures did not seem to have very much in common to compare and contrast.
19. Please give yourselves a big pat on the back and agree you were excellent! I would like a little more direction for the student presentations, however, such as assigning different topics for each of the groups so that next year's groups might further impress the esteemed professors participating in the conference!
20. I think there needs to be a social event at the beginning of the Forum, maybe a mixer the night before things start for everyone to meet. Or the first day have a dinner planned, or an event of some kind. I think that can be used as an icebreaker and help everyone relax. I think a brief outline or introduction to the country and language, even an online handbook is useful. I also think a handbook with basic information about the Forum, and all the participants makes a keep sake for everyone, but also gives everyone a brief overview of who will be there.
21. Would like more interaction with Japanese researchers and professors.
22. Finding exciting innovative researchers to present.  
More direction for student presentations.
23. More field trips...  
Being more precise on what you really want in our presentations
24. More communication before and after would be great - having a website where people from past forums can interact, where summaries from the lectures can be put up, and discussions can be continued. Background on the origins of the Forum would be helpful, and could encourage more people to become involved.
25. As a professor giving a lecture, I would've liked to have some idea about the public I was going to talk to. I would have given a very different talk.

26. as above

27. Including a free day to get to know the city and each other better would be nice, as would slightly bigger accommodations. While the variety of topics discussed was enjoyable, a bit more focus on the original theme of the consortium will make it easier to elicit real opinions and thought, and will foster better discussion.

28. An abstract or summary of the presentations should be provided to the Japanese students in advance so that they have more time to learn key vocabulary (technical terms) and prepare questions for the discussions. Some of the Japanese students had trouble understanding the material presented and thus were less involved in the subsequent discussions.

Perhaps having field trips in the middle of the day would be preferable to having them at the end of the day. This could help to break up the time spent in the classroom. Having 4 + presentations in a row everyday was a little much and perhaps some folks found it difficult to remain engaged the whole time.

Having field trips that directly relate to some of the research would be ideal! This would help the students become more involved in both the presentations and the field trips.

29. From a researcher's perspective, I would like to see a more comprehensive set of forum objectives presented to the researchers (and perhaps to the students, though I can't really comment on that). I think knowing the goals of the forum would also help us develop more a meaningful and coherent set of presentations. Further, I found some of the researchers a bit standoffish regarding the students. Rather than giving the researchers the "option" to mentor the students, I think the researchers should have been encouraged to really get involved with the groups--for this is where the most valuable education happened. Maybe pushing the researchers to really be involved with the groups for a few days, and then give the groups a few days without us butting in would be a better setup. Just a thought.

30. -Host more ice-breaking activities so that the group can get to know each other better

-Introductory Japanese lessons via email or in a briefing session for Canadians

-Issue a recommended sights guide for the evenings

-Organize more whole-group dinners

-Hold press releases prior to the forum to raise awareness at home

-Circulate short biographies for each of the forum participants so we can get to know each other a bit better before the trip

-Even participants who live nearby should be given the option to live in the hotel with us, some group work was hindered due to the absence of members who had to get home

**Please include any additional comments here.**

1. I am sorry for answering late.

2. I would like to say thanks to Mr. Shinoda.

3. Thank you very much for the wonderful opportunity!

4. I really enjoyed the Forum!! Thank you so much!!

5. Great first forum.

6. It was great to take part in this forum. Please tell many people about this forum as many as possible!!

7. The whole trip was really great, and everything was well planned and organized. I learned a lot and met so many people I never would have been able to meet otherwise.

It also would be amazing if we could spread more information about the JACAC forum so more students, from all the universities within the consortium have a chance to attend as well!

Thank you!

8. Good luck in the preparation of the next meeting

9. I had a fantastic time in Japan! Thanks for organizing this forum!

10. Thank you!

11. Overall I loved the experience. I am glad to be part of the first Forum, and hope it continues to grow and get better! I think emphasizing Canada and Japan relations and forging relationships between students, academics and everyone will create strong connections in years to come. Thank you so much for this opportunity!

12. Topic could be narrower to enhance technical discussions.

13. All the staff was outstanding! You always responded very quickly to our questions and we really appreciated it. For the very first consortium, I think it has been a real success! Bravo!

14. Thank you so much for this opportunity and life changing experience - It has been a highlight of my life and academic career.

15. Overall, the consortium was excellent, and highly educational. I loved it!

16. Thanks again everyone for all your hard work! I hope the majority of the feedback is good, as this was an excellent experience for all involved. Thank you again for the opportunity!

17. Additional thoughts and recommendations:

- Collect all photos and create a photo DVD for everyone

- Create a website dedicated to the forum

Thank you for helping make this life-changing experience possible!



## PHOTOS



Professor Louis Guay, Université Laval, giving a lecture at the conference held in conjunction with the JACAC Forum.



Undergraduate student participants from Japan and Canada in group discussions.



Students, researchers, and staff enjoying a typical Japanese lunch of bento boxes and green tea, provided by Meiji University.



Undergraduate students enjoyed an educational and fun-filled weekend trip to Okutama, to experience traditional Japanese lifestyle, during the Forum.





The students are taught how to make “oyaki,” a dumpling made from buckwheat dough wrapped around a stuffing of Japanese vegetables, fruit, or red bean paste and then roasted on an iron pan.



Students gave their group presentations at the Oscar Peterson Theatre in the Embassy of Canada in Tokyo.



The audience at the Closing Ceremony of the JACAC Forum on February 22 included students, researchers, and other distinguished guests.



Dr. Kitasato, Special Advisor of the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund and Chief Cooperate Advisor of Meiji Seika Kaisha, gave a toast at the reception event following the Closing Ceremony.





Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado (centre) poses with the student group who won the prize for best presentation. Also joining her are: Dr. Etsuko Katsu, Vice-President (International), Meiji University (second from left); Dr. Debra Osburn, Vice-President (External), University of Alberta (third from left); His Excellency Jonathan Fried, Canadian Ambassador to Japan (fourth from left); and Mr. Sean Crockett, Managing Director, Alberta Japan Office (far right).



Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado is surrounded by students eager to converse with her during the reception at the Canadian Embassy.



The entire group of Forum participants included 13 undergraduate students and 8 researchers from Canada, as well as 15 undergraduate students and 7 researchers from Japan.

## **IN APPRECIATION**

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

The Japan Foundation

The Government of Canada

Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund

Embassy of Canada to Japan

Alberta Government Japan Office

Meiji University

University of Alberta