

## The 46th Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Ship Visits Nagasaki Higashi

On Monday, 28th October, 2019, thirty youngsters who are participating in The 46th Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Ship Project visited Nagasaki Higashi High School and interacted with 33 students (10 tenth graders and 23 eleventh graders). This is a project that aims to “promote friendship and mutual understanding among the youths of Japan and the ten Southeast Asian countries, to broaden their perspective of the world, and furthermore, to strengthen their spirit of international cooperation, and practical skills for international collaboration (from the Cabinet Office home page).” This year there were representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. They are called Participating Youth or “PY” for short. This group’s last visit to our school was in 2017.

### ■Opening Ceremony



Mr. Sadanobu Noda, Principal of Nagasaki Higashi High School, opened the program with his welcome address in English. After that, the PYs introduced themselves briefly by country, each greeting in a unique way. Then, Miss Reika Iwasaki from the 11th grade made a welcome speech in English, which was followed by an English presentation about Nagasaki Higashi done by Miss Sora Tanabe and Miss Kanami Taguchi, also both from the 11th grade. The PYs were thrilled to see the slide show of cherry blossoms in full bloom.



### ■Group Discussions

Nagasaki Higashi students and the PYs divided themselves into ten groups and had discussions about the themes Nagasaki Higashi students are now working on in their research projects. With each theme tapping into the targets listed in the Sustainable Developmental Goals proposed by the United Nations, the participants were all involved in heated discussions although the time given was not long enough. The high school students had been told about what topic they would discuss, which helped them to prepare in advance for discussions by researching necessary key terms and making a list of questions. This led them to have a sense of achievement reflected in comments such as “I was able to tell the PYs what I wanted to say,” and “I was able to ask questions relevant to my research work.” The discussions were summarized by each group and shared with other groups. The Higashi students were chosen to be the presenters for each group, and there was an ovation from the PYs for their efforts.



### ■Paper Crane Project --- pray for peace ---



The PYs also engaged in another project in which they prayed for peace through making paper cranes. They had learned about the devastation and aftermath caused by the atomic bomb before visiting Japan, and they planned to make paper cranes in Japan. Here in Nagasaki, after the group discussions, each discussion group made paper cranes. Though the Higashi students had great difficulty teaching the PYs how to make paper cranes in English, they, together with the PYs, ended up making many paper cranes with big smiles on their faces. The paper cranes along with the prayer that Nagasaki be the last placed victimized by the atomic bomb, as was delivered in Miss Iwasaki’s speech, were later to be placed at the memorial site in Nagasaki City.

### ■Closing Ceremony

To close the event, Miss Chihiro Yamanaka from the eleventh grade and one PY from Cambodia on behalf of each group made speeches of thanks respectively in English. Then, after taking a group photo, Nagasaki Higashi students saw the PYs off. The students, who looked worried at first, became all smiles by the time they had to say good-bye. Here are some comments from the students: “I was very nervous at first, but I found out what fun it is to have a talk in English.” “I am happy to find myself improving my skills of speaking actively and listening in English.” “I gained confidence that I can talk with people from abroad without hesitation.” “Through interacting with the PYs, I saw myself becoming more and more active.” To Nagasaki Higashi students, the meeting with the PYs has become a great experience to broaden their horizons.



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