

Report regarding ASEP and WYM

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We would like to talk about what the WYM and ASEP meant and also means to us.

“I don’t think I have enough English skills. There’s nothing I can do to help.”

Have you ever thought like this? Well, at least we did.

This happened to us last year when we were preparing for the WYM and ASEP. Being a part of these two contests taught us many important things.

During the preparation for the WYM, all of our confidence was lost. We were frustrated at not being able to help because of the other members’ skillful English. All we could do was make the power points, and memorize the script. We thought that having a high English ability was the most important thing, though we were wrong.

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We understood this perfectly by participating in last year’s ASEP. This time, it was my job to make the script, and the first thing I learned was how difficult it was to make it with students who we could only connect with social networks. There were many misunderstandings between us, and it taught us how important it was to have face to face communication.

By discussing many things for the script, we realized that a presentation is not a place to show our English skills. It is where we share our ideas and thoughts to the audience clearly and also correctly with no confusions.

Don’t be frustrated with yourself even if you have something you are not good at. Maybe being too perfect is sometimes not the best. This is what we learned.

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I also participated in ASEP last year. We were very busy because of the exams. We used LINE and SKYPE to share our opinions and prepare for the presentation. When we went to Taiwan we rehearsed many times and we made many changes. We went sightseeing so we had less time to practice but we learned how to use our time wisely. It was also hard for me to do things with my tired body. There were many accidents while preparing due to language and cultural barrier. One of the biggest accidents was caused

because of me. I forgot my words on stage. However, my team mates helped me to cover up my mistakes. This helped me to break down my barrier. In the end, the presentation was a success.

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Now, I'd like to talk about the reason that made me come here today. There are several reasons; however, I have one primary reason. It is to broaden my view and see things from different perspectives. I have a senior in my volunteer group that I respect very much. His name is Yuto Yoshino. Have you ever heard of him? He started his trip around the world just three weeks ago as a high school student to see the field of international cooperation with his own eyes. He taught me the importance of having a broad world view with his actions. By attending this meeting, I want to be shown but also realize for myself that there is more to everything than what I'm focusing on and seeing. At the WYM, I want to hear many different opinions and contrasting ideas. I hope that by the end, my world has grown even by the slightest bit and I am able to look at things from different points of view.

The WYM and ASEP influences us in many different ways to learn the importance of face to face communication, break down the language and cultural barrier, and broaden our view.