

Reflections on ASEP 2015 in Taiwan

Mai Nagata

I participated in ASEP with 2 targets; smooth preparation both in Japan and Taiwan, and the award.

As I had a role as a team leader, I focused on how other members in my team can prepare for the day without stress. We as Japanese tend to give initiative to Taiwanese students, judging the circumstances. So this time we tried to prepare a lot in order to make our balance of power equal.

And since our team's been getting Platinum Award for the last ASEP and WYM, I had a kind of pressure and goal that we have to get the one for this time as well. In addition, it has been over 6 years since I first joined WYM, so I felt the award could make the good finale.

I'm glad that I was in the team for making the base of the presentation and improving the presentation itself.

We spent too much time on making outline last year, so I was strongly thinking that we should finish it as soon as we can. Since our topic this year was simpler and all the team members wanted to make the presentation that no other team would do, it was really easy for me to come up with new ideas.

It's been my role to check members' pronunciation, accents, gestures and expressions as I've been doing it several times. We could start practicing very after the completion of the script, so it didn't need much time for me to fix before the personal practice began.

As I mentioned above, I personally think there were not much that we had to worry about; however, since we had less students compared to last year, and I had my lines in several parts, it took me some times to remember my scripts. Press Conference on the day before ASEP was a little trouble since it took my time away.

Unlike last year, there was a team with no senior, so I had to support them; however, I couldn't really give them deep advice about content since it could be similar to ours. Also when they had the first Skype meeting, buddy schools hadn't decided their mind yet, and that fact could make juniors nervous. I hope someone not student could help them.

Most members were familiar from the past presentation events, so we could leave out some steps like self-introduction. Especially Fooyin's team leader, Nellie, and I had so many senses in common, so when

Taiwanese students and Japanese students had difficulties to understand each other, we could make a bridge between 2 countries and 10 members. Our relationship made it much easier to make introduction and conclusion because we could tell what partner was implying. Our teamwork is the biggest achievement that we found through 3 presentation events.

ASEP can be better occasion for students' learning and active international communication with 2 improvements. Presentation venue was separated into 2, and it caused some inconvenience for audience. Students couldn't watch some presentations that they were interested in since they were in the different venue. I know it's hard to put so many participants into one hall; however, students are able to learn more about presentation, and judges can be fairer in one place. Second point is about communication between participants. We weren't able to get in touch with people from outside of our school and buddy school with clear arrangement of the seat during lunch and dinner time. Also, there were so many people not attracted to the performances during the closing ceremony, and they just left their seats or even venue. To solve this situation, free choice of eating seat, shorter performance and activities for students as the opportunities of international communication should be considered.

Rika Okada

What I regretted in last ASEP was that I could not give my opinions so much and entrusted tasks to other students because I did not have any confidence in my English. Therefore, this year, I need to realize that I am one of team members and take an active part in the project. During Skype meeting, I tried to speak not to leave everything to others. However, actually, I did not know how to translate our opinions into English well and sometimes I leave it to others. I feel so sorry about that.

There is another target in ASEP2015. It is speaking to team members actively. That target is not only for adapting myself to the team but also for making pleasant memories. There are Taiwanese students who worked together in both ASEP2014 and WYM2015 and I want to be close friends with them. Moreover, there might not be opportunities to participate in such presentation contests after graduation from university; therefore, during ASEP2015, I want to enjoy this project while doing it seriously.

In the first place, I hope that I could make a contribution to the basis of our presentation. The theme in ASEP2015 is “Travelling and Learning” which seems to be more abstract compared with annual ones. In addition, contents in our presentation might be same as other participators unless we work out ideas carefully. Not to happen it, what I came up with an idea in brain storming was the learning story about not travelers’ eyes but the eyes of those who live in country visited by travelers. Team members said it sounded interesting and it laid the foundation of our presentation. I was so happy with this result because I wanted to contribute toward the team.

The second point is maintaining a good balance between practice and pleasure. Practice in last ASEP was frequently dull because we only decided the beginning of interval and did not set the end of it. Therefore, after Prof. Gina said the beginning of the interval, I asked her its end and told it to others. I think this action could prevent students from having much break time.

The project in this ASEP seemed to go smoothly without any troubles in the team. However, I struggled to prepare a script of the presentation. Last year, my script was completed by other members while participating in Press Conference, so I did not prepare the script at all. Compared with last year, I had to prepare script from the beginning this

year, but it was harder than I expected. It was because my line had to be like conversation and a time limit in my part was about 1 minute. I discuss with my partner our scripts such as which information should put in. After the discussion, we read the script on trial, but it took over 1 minute; hence, we rewrote it by changing expression. We repeated this process over and over. Our work was at a standstill halfway, however, thanks for Prof. Gina and other members, our script could be finished to speak under 1 minute.

Thorough this program, I could learn to think what my part is in the group. In group works, I frequently feel that I leave tasks to other members. The reason of it is that I try hard to do everything by myself. Each people have different personality and ability. During ASEP, I could change my way of thinking. If there is something that I cannot handle and leave to others, what I should do is not being sorry for that but thankful to his personality and thinking what I can do instead. In the team of ASEP, there were students who have great skills of presentation, so that I could think as mentioned before. Their actions cannot be accomplished in a short time. Moreover, their work could give me opportunity to think what I could do for others. As a result, I helped other's practice and gave them advice instead. Because participating in ASEP, I can recognize the importance and difficulty of cooperation with those who have various personality and ability. And, I believe that this experience can be useful after graduating from the university and be valuable for the end of Yoshida Seminar activities.

One point to be improved was that all process of making a presentation tool was done by only one Taiwanese student. In this ASEP, we used not Power Point but a different presentation soft named Prezi. It was because audiences could be entertained with Prezi. One of Fooyin University students is familiar with that soft and she created our presentation tool from beginning to end. I knew about Prezi, but did not know how to use it at all. Therefore, I thought that I could not help her if I offered to help. However, if I was her, I might be relieved by only asking if he/she could not do anything. The other way was that I should have asked her to teach how to use Prezi and taken her job; hence, she could take a rest or practice. What the important point is that it is necessary to share tasks in one's respective realms of expertise, however, it is more necessary to prevent

from being under strain by leaving the job up to him/her too much.

Mai Kato

First object is to get a sense of accomplishment by creating one thing with people who have different backgrounds. I was looking forward to this opportunity because I thought this was the last time for college time to make it. I wanted to have done what I couldn't do last year. Last year's Prezi was made by Taiwanese students, which I couldn't accept personally. So I was enthusiastic to make the one which is simple and easy to understand for everyone. Second object is to make some memories with I-shou university students like last year. After last year's ASEP, thankfully I could keep contacts with some of them, which made me feel I want to make more memories with them in this year, too.

Firstly, what I contribute is making slides for presentation. Actually, what I did is the thing whoever can do. But I have a confidence of the speed of making slides. I wanted us to have much time to practice by making what we come up with the visible ones as quick as possible. Second point is trying to say only positive words. Even if we got frustrated in lack of time, we only have the limited time. So I tried to make some efforts for this while having fun.

The best thing which I was struggling is still Skype meeting. Especially, what we thought is as a key, "Reverse Culture Shock" was too hard for Taiwanese students to understand. At the same time, I was shocked about my lack of vocabulary. Not only that, I recognized again the difference of the way to create presentation through whole this presentation. If we explained many times, they could understand us, which made us consume our labor. But, I actually felt enjoyment to the process of it. Also, I tried to let everyone be able to say opinions in Skype meeting, but I should've done so more than what I did since I'm a senior. I felt the situation that only some people say opinions made the meeting hard this year, too. However, after we began practicing together in Taiwan, it seemed that every single students tried to make our presentation better, which made our atmosphere and look livelier. I know Skype meeting is harder than in person, but I felt the atmosphere that everyone can say opinions is essential in a group work.

I actually neglect to practice my own presentation because I focused on making slides too much. I should've made a careful plan for this work. I was just doing the things which I faced in front of me. I've learned that

it's not good to wait for leader's instruction through activities of this Yoshida seminar, but I couldn't do my best for this team because I was afraid to put myself forward too much. I tried to say my opinions as much as possible but I couldn't support our leaders. I could realize my lack of flexibility in a group work again, so I'll bear doing my best in my mind by understanding my own position in a group after I graduate this university.

As I mentioned before, the points which should be improved are managing schedule and making atmospheres. First point is managing schedule. There were some students who started to memorize their scripts in the night of the day before ASEP. In the other hands, there were other students who finished to do so in the morning of the day. So in order to make the schedule done, we all should've made some efforts to . And, second point is making atmospheres. Especially in the Skype meeting, some specific students tend to say opinions. This tendency is seen in Taiwanese students, which made them say the opinions which only one thinks. I felt that it was necessary for each student to respect other students' opinions.

Fuka Kobayashi

I set two purposes to join ASEP this year as my last opportunity that I could have.

The first one is to overcome the pressure. I decided speak in front of the audience with confidence this time by practicing well enough. The second one is to keep up with other members. It may sound like passive, but since it was my first time to join in Fooyin team and I already know they had high motivation, I also motivated to try my best not to get in the way of everyone's success.

Not only I took this opportunity as self-growth, still I wanted contribute to others as one of the teammates in some way.

Every time before doing Skype with Fooyin students, Kansai members discussed about our topic. Since I couldn't attend the first meeting, I tried get in step with other members by reviewing and asking questions.

When one of Taiwanese students and I wrote a script together as a pair, we could cooperate well by respecting each other's opinions. This time our presentation was conversational, so we needed to synchronize the breathing. As a result of concentrated practice, we succeeded to present our part in the performance and passed the baton to next pair smoothly.

It was difficult for me to think better way of presentation and suggest it to others because many students and the teacher had much experience on presentation, nicer ideas, and techniques. Learning by teammates is a good thing, but it might be better if I could have more aggressive attitude. Such skillful members made me aware that I better not satisfied with a present condition or things and be hungry even it seems perfect for me. From now on, it will be my challenge in various occasions.

In addition to presentation activities, I learned something by homestay experience.

This time I did not only prepare Japanese souvenirs to host family, but also gathered information about Japanese culture, traditions, and history between Japan and Taiwan in advance. Thanks to the knowledge and mental preparedness, I could exchange many opinions with my host and her family even they asked me serious topics. When they said "You are just like a cultural friendship ambassador between us," felt like I could truly communicate with someone in abroad, or building a bridge over two

countries.

That was my third time to join this kind of English presentation meetings, and I have been thought that it was mainly for learning by doing something in a group. However, now I know it's also precious to face each person respectfully with curiosity and embodying it, regardless of the number of people involved.

This time, we made pairs in our group to prepare scripts and practice efficiently. It is essential to consider the division of roles in a group, but since we concentrated on the practice in pairs, it was difficult to imagine how our presentation going as a whole. In order to strengthen our solidarity as one group, we may better to have more time to think other pairs and all. For example, we can take a video while rehearsing and check it all together. Not only practicing in small group, we can improve our total performance by cooperating with other members.

Eri Koyama

I joined ASEP2014 & WYM, so ASEP2015 was the third time to attend a presentation contest. This time, I had two targets: try to discuss about our presentation actively, and try to understand other culture through interacting with Fooyin students.

Last year, I could not speak a lot, but this time, I tried to speak more even during online meeting. Last year, we could not focus on our practice all the time since it took time to decide the content. So I strive to practice efficiently this time. I wanted to make perfect presentation by pointing out our scripts each other during practice.

I also wanted to build our relationship with Taiwanese students. During lunch and break time, I tried to learn Taiwanese culture by chatting together. I attended to ASEP2015 to learn new perspectives even this was the third time to visit Taiwan for me.

I have two things that contribute to my team: summarized the main points during Skype meeting and made my script. This time, we could have much time to discuss about our topic with Kansai members. So we could discuss more deeply with Taiwanese students this year than last year. I made sure about our decision for the project and assignment for next meetings. Even though I didn't have unique ideas, I could contribute that our presentation would go smoothly.

Secondly, I think that I contribute to my team by making my script. Since my partner was assigned to power point and introduction script, I made our script by myself. Also, at first, our presentation was over 8 minutes, so I cut my script and try to shorten the time. We practiced our presentation many times, so we could do our presentation in 8 minutes.

This time, we did not struggle with our project since the theme was simple. During Skype meeting, we tried not to do similar presentation with other team. We put domestic traveling and hosting in our ideas in order to express our originality. We worried about the order of our concepts. We tried to discuss how to go on to the next theme, so finally our presentation went well.

Also, it was hard for me to memorize my script. Not only to memorize my part, but also I tried to care about my intonation and gestures.

By attending ASEP2015, I realized that I could learn presentation skills by joining ASEP2104 and WYM. Also, I could accomplish my task

from last year: my active attitude. When we could not finish our presentation in time, every member tried to practice a lot. Then, we did our presentation in time finally. At that time, I thought that is our teamwork.

In addition, I learned new perspectives from other teams. The team that the idea was about present and past was interesting. I could learn from people who are good at doing presentation in front of audience.

This time, I think every members joined the project actively. But still, we have some points to be improved. I think we relied on the one Taiwanese student to make power point since she knows well how to make slides. She also had twice as much script as others. The second one is that we chatted sometimes during practice since we had plenty of time for memorizing our part. Professor Gina helped us a lot, but it would be better if we could concentrate on our practice by ourselves.

Atsuko Shimose

First, to communicate with student of I-shou University. Actually I really regret that I didn't talk with them so much last year because I didn't have self-confidence of my English skill and know what I talk about. For that reason I keep in mind that talk a lot and have topics to know what Taiwan student is thinking.

Second, to make the presentation that to be helpful for my future with my team because this is the last time to join presentation competition for me. I thought that I can improve myself if I experience new things so I wanted to do ASEP with Fuin University not I-shou University because I did presentation with I-shou University last year but I was decided to make a team with I-shou University. I changed my thinking to that I can use experience of last year and I can have good experience.

I joined Skype meeting before we go to Taiwan only once so I grasp the contents of meeting using by LINE. For that reason I hesitated to give my opinion. Our leader advised that I can't join meeting but I have to give my idea and opinion with no hesitate because the presentation have to be made by everyone and I really agreed with his advice. From that I gave my opinion positively and I think my opinion contribute to my team.

We changed opinion each other after arrived Taiwan. After that we thought our script of presentation respectively. I finished my part very early because my part is introduction. Because of that I didn't know what should I do for my team and spent waste time but during I talked with student of Isyou I noticed that they make script different from Japanese so I started to advise them.

I joined Skype meeting only once so I checked the LINE very carefully and questioned a lot but I didn't know all things because I didn't talk face to face. I confused that I didn't know many things when I joined final Skype meeting and in Taiwan same difficulty happened. Moreover I hesitated to give my opinion because of that difficulty.

Furthermore, I spent waste time because I didn't know what should I do and I waited for someone's instruction at first but I noticed that I have to think by myself. For that reason I started to advise to Taiwan student and thought script together. I spent too much waste time so I regret about that.

I learned that I have to think and act by myself. Until now, I work as a leader in event so I didn't have to think about what should I do because I

always have things what I should do. But in ASEP I didn't think about what should I do at first. Every member of team worked hard but I was lazy. It made bad atmosphere. So I thought I have to think and act by myself.

Moreover, I learned from contents of presentation that the capture of meaning of stereotype and prejudice is different between Japanese and Taiwanese. In the future, I will have an opportunity to discuss with foreigners. I can use my experience in that situation.

I think we could improve the time allocation and role allocation. We have to practice presentation more because I felt nerves before presentation competition but it is good that we discussed about contents a lot of time. Moreover, we have to discuss about the role because some of us had nothing to do. If we discuss about the role we can move more effectively.

Miki Nadaoka

I have two main purposes to join ASEP this year.

The first is to get involved in discussion and making presentation actively, and the second is to make presentation better than last year. As for first purpose, last year, I could get precious experiences from ASEP, but I felt I depended too much on other members, especially my seniors. Therefore, this time, I wanted to find my own role in a team and contribute to the team.

As for second purpose, this is the third times to participate in international presentation competition so I wanted to make the best presentation ever in terms of presentation skills including English, expression, and teamwork.

I contributed to our team in terms of advance preparation in Japan and making scripts. Firstly, I could give many ideas of “what foreigners find new in Japan” so that I have many opportunities to interact with international students in my daily life. For example, “the signboards in Kyoto” is the idea which I got when I went to Kyoto with Taiwanese students and she pointed it out. I could share those ideas to others so discussion could go smoothly on Skype.

Secondly, this time, I make a script with a Taiwanese student and I could lead to make it. I discussed with her many times, and asked other members and a teacher for some advices to make the script easier to understand and interesting. Then I could make huge improvement in the script for the team.

I was struggling with making script. This time, we make presentation like conversation so script should not be like explanation but like a dialog with two people. It was bit difficult to put question, reaction an answer phrases into script, and organize conversation which can attract audience. Moreover, we had difficulties in memorizing long script perfectly and making conversation smoothly in time. However we practiced again and again, advised each other and succeeded to improve the conversation.

This time, I could learn Taiwanese culture a lot and felt strong teamwork and trust relationship in a team. Last year, misunderstandings often happened between Japanese students and Taiwanese students so discussion did not go smoothly, while this year, I was surprised that we

could make our presentation very smoothly. That may be because this was the third time to make a presentation together, and we understand and respect each other enough to build a strong relationship. This led to making the presentation more effectively and it became higher quality than last year. Moreover, I think I could afford to enjoy interacting with local people, sightseeing, and homestay, and this made me realize that Taiwanese people have great hospitality. I learned many new things from both the presentation and Taiwanese culture even though it was the second time to visit Taiwan.

There are mainly two points to be improved. Firstly, we focused on the time too much, in the presentation. We were struggled to finish the presentation in time so that each member had long script. Therefore, we tended to focus on practicing to make the presentation shorter, rather than practicing its facial expression, body languages, pronunciation, emphasis, and so on. That led us to speaking faster and making more mistakes. Secondly, we rely on a Taiwanese student to make a power point too much. It is the fact that making power point alone is more efficiently, rather than making it together, but I should have tried to cooperate with her more.

Yutaro Mitsui

There are mainly two purposes when I decided to join ASEP2015. First purpose is making a presentation interests the audience the most. In ASEP2014, actually our team got the prize, but I was not satisfied with that process. This is because that I did make a compromise with our presentation and feel our presentation not completed. Therefore, I was really motivated because of that experience and also the last chance which I can join ASEP. Secondly, I just wanted to make our members feel happy and sense of accomplishment when we finish our presentation. I wanted to make the happiest team in ASEP2015.

I think our team did achieve the goal “making the happiest team”. In the process to that goal, I just wanted our members to have own purposes on our presentation. In order to do that, I did two actions in Kansai members. Telling members my purpose and motivation on ASEP, and never making a compromise with our presentation and delivering our opinion to Taiwanese are two actions I did. In term of Taiwanese members, I did not make a compromise with delivering my opinion and explaining even if Taiwanese did not understand well. As a result of those actions, each member did have own purposes and feel a sense of accomplishment.

I faced two difficulties in ASEP2015. Firstly I faced the cultural difference in understanding. For example, in a discussion about Reverse Culture Shock, Japanese members could understand that definition, but Taiwanese could not. This is because most of them have not experienced study abroad. Secondly, I faced the difficulties in dividing roles into each member. There are actually eleven members in our team. It was difficult to understand each member character, strength, and motivation, and divide them into each role in presentation.

The point to be improved in ASEP is the division of our roles in order to make teamwork more efficient. When we had a meeting with Taiwanese students after we arrived at Kaohsiung, we actually divided our members in each part. However, the progressive of each group are different, so that there are members who have nothing to do. On the other hand, some members were very busy to finish their works. Our team worked inefficiently. For instance, members who have to make their script and remember it finished their work quickly and have much enough time. On the other hand, some members were pressed for time to finish making

PPT. As a result of that, we did not have enough time to do a rehearsal.
Therefore, we need to make our division of roles more efficient.

Moa Sakashita

There are 3 reasons why I participated in ASEP. First, I wanted to overcome my awareness of the things that I am bad at presentation. I'm always nervous when I do presentation, so through ASEP, I wanted to become a person who has confidence in presentation skill. Second, I wanted to get on with lots of different kinds of people. There were 2 Japanese except Kansai university students and 5 Taiwanese high school students. Third, I wanted to make unforgettable memories with host family. I had never had a good memory with host families so I hoped I could experience a good time with them that I will miss after going back to Japan.

What I contributed for my team is to connect each schools. I am not good at saying my opinion, proceeding, and acting so I was thinking that it is good if I could make the good atmosphere. For example, I taught some Japanese to Taiwanese students and talked with other 2 Japanese actively. As a result, I was said that I connected each schools. Also, I actively talked with a person who is really shy and quiet. It seems I pursued him with questions though. He smiled a little bit so I was happy.

What I had hard time is that the slides we made was changed into the new one after arriving. Also, the contents were mixed and the slides were lack of consistency. I was resistant to say the amendment because they made them kindly and I thought it is bad to delete what they made. Also, we had a lot of difference of opinion and it was difficult to mix them. I realized compromising each other is necessary.

What I regret is that I could not join the Skype meeting. We should have adjusted our schedules by using e-mail or Line. In the first place, starting to contact with each other was too late. Also, I made the student from Nihon Fukushi University to say my opinion which I hardly to say to Taiwanese students. I lost not only the opportunities to talk in English but also the assertiveness to complete the presentation. It is important to tell own opinion each other.

I leant many things through ASEP but I have 2 important things to

share. First, it is the accomplishment of making one thing with many people. It was the first time to be occupied by one thing for a long time. In that time, we experienced the wired atmosphere because of the difference of opinion, the enjoyable time, and the repeated training time. Thorough these experiences, I could feel the fun and the difficulties of making efforts to accomplish the same goal with many people. Second, it is the importance of to have and to tell the opinion. Without everyone's opinion, the presentation will not complete. It is ok to crash with each other because we have different way of thinking and it makes the presentation which everyone can understand. It is not only for ASEP but also for the activities in Yoshida seminar.

Fu Yasuoka

There are mainly three reasons why I decided to participate in ASEP this year. First, I wanted to improve my presentation ability. I am not good at speaking in front of an audience and I always tried not to. Through ASEP 2015, however, I wanted to overcome my fear towards presentations and know how to tell my opinion effectively. Secondly, I wanted to create something wonderful with foreign students in English. It has been one year after I came back from Study Abroad. I do not have opportunities to speak English. Therefore, I thought that ASEP would be a good opportunity to improve my English. Finally, I wanted to learn Taiwanese culture through ASEP and homestay. This is because I had never been to any other Asian countries.

What I contributed for the team is to communicate with Nihon Fukushi University and St, Paul high school while I was in Japan. I joined every Skype meeting although there were only twice. And I made some records in order to share opinions with some members who did not attend the meetings. Moreover, I made a Power Point which was combined with both school's ideas. In Taiwan, I tried to express my opinions even though I am not good at speaking English. And I had objectively looked at our presentation and considered an audience Furthermore, I tried to make good atmosphere for the team during the preparation.

The hardest thing through ASEP is to combine three school's opinions. Especially, each member in St, Paul high school has their own idea and it was very difficult to find the connections. There are a lot of differences of opinions because our teammates were high school students. And we often hesitated to express our opinions and object to their ideas. We knew we needed to compromise sometimes but it was hard. While we were in Japan, it was difficult to contact with St. Paul students. They did not seem to spare much time for ASEP because of their examinations. We were also busy and every member could not join Skype meetings. Therefore, some members might have not spare time and think about the theme of ASEP.

There are mainly three things that I learnt through ASEP. Firstly, as I mentioned before, we need to make room in our schedule and cut down on

our part time job's shifts on December. This is because every member could not join Skype meetings before we went to Kaohsiung. Attending meetings could motivate us, and it could be much easier to share our own ideas. Secondly, I felt that preparation time for ASEP was short and limited. We need to share ideas in Skype meeting and make a Power Point and a script while we are in Japan. Finally, we need to work on ASEP with much more effort. We focused on how to combine our ideas well. Therefore, our presentation was not coherent. However, we did not have enough time to discuss this. I will work on ASEP keeping these three points in mind next year.

I learned many things through ASEP 2015. One of them was the importance of expressing my idea. I sometimes hesitated to express my opinions because of my weak courage and the lack of confidence for my English. When I gave my opinion, however, my teammates always listened to me. It is essential to express ideas and discuss them together. The second thing I learned was the pressure to achieve a goal together overcoming differences of language and culture. We had some differences of opinions between the Taiwanese and the Japanese while making our presentation. However, I got a great sense of achievement afterwards. I had the spent precious time with my teammates through ASEP 2015.

1. Why did I take part in ASEP?

My goal before ASEP was to make the best of this experience even though this was my first time and many things were unpredictable. This is because I thought it's very valuable to be able to do the following things for the first time, and at one time; visiting Taiwan, giving a presentation with students from another country, and taking part in a big contest. In addition, I wanted to gain confidence through a lot of practice and the real presentation as I am not actually good at talking in public. The second aim was to broaden my knowledge by understanding values and ideas that students from different background / generation have. In order to do so, I tried to make contact with my host family as much as possible and was willing to communicate a lot with Taiwanese students before going to Kaohsiung.

2. How did I contribute to the team?

I attended most of pre-meetings and came up with as many idea as possible before leaving for Taiwan because I wasn't sure if I had such a good leadership that work in practice. When it is decided that each school should prepare powerpoint and exchange opininons, I think I contributed to make KU slides in terms of coming up with sentences on the ppt. Also as we didn't want to make our presentation just ordinary under the theme of 'Travel and Learning', I gave an idea that focuses on local people as well as travellers. After arriving at Kaohsiung, I could not really lead our team members but tried to memorise my part first so that I can take an initiative in increasing morale of our team.

3. What was the most difficult task?

Firstly, it was difficult that we cannot often contact with other schools in the preparation stage. Although I had recognized cultural differences and different plans each school has, especially with St. Paul school there were only two skype meetings that it left me worried about the preparation after arriving Taiwan. Another difficulty was to include ideas from three schools then complete one presentation. The fact that English is a second language for all and it might cause misunderstanding made it more difficult that I tried to be careful when discussing with other students. I felt how hard it is to make a presentation with foreign students. Getting along with people from other schools was another problem. As we had little time to introduce

each other before ASEP and our team was comprised of a high school and universities, I was pretty relieved when we become very good friends after a couple of days or so.

4,Some points to be improved

Through this year's ASEP, I found several things that can be improved. The first one is that team members should try communicating in English even if it's hard. I think this time we kept using our mother language and this made it difficult for our team to quickly break ice between members. It is a regret that we couldn't take much advantage of this practice time for presentation despite the fact that it was a good opportunity to improve our English, that I'd like to keep this my mind for the next ASEP. The second lesson is that it will be better to prepare a plan about how to proceed our practice for ASEP presentation when every members got together in Kaohsiung. For many of us, this was the first time attending ASEP that we didn't know what to do which forced us to notice there were mountain of problems after starting practicing. I thought preparation such as deciding leaders from each schools and planning how to use time before presentation will allow us to practice efficiently.

5.The fruits of ASEP 2015

ASEP actually did give me a lot of opportunities to learn. One of them was the discovery of how interesting it is to make a presentation with students from different countries. Although there were a number of difficulties such as different ways of thinking, I was glad that we become more united as time passed and could enjoy our turn at ASEP. I think that overcoming inconvenience of communication by using English also contributed to our unity. The second thing I learned was Taiwanese culture. ASEP was a great chance to directly understand Taiwanese cuisine, life-style, and school life that are difficult to find in Japan. My stay in Taiwan was a succession of surprises such as the facts that students spend half a day at school, and that Taiwanese people are full of great hospitality. There were less interaction with overseas students after study abroad but ASEP made me realise the fun of cultural exchange again.

1. Why did I take part in ASEP 2015?

There are 2 reasons I chose to participate in ASEP. First, I wanted to improve my presentation skills. I had opportunities to do presentations in my English classes in Japan but I had never done a presentation in a big competition like ASEP and in front of many people. I also wanted to overcome my face getting red and my voice trembling from the nervous I get when talking in front of people. I want to learn speaking skills to persuade people and the skills to show the presentation from other groups. Secondly, I wanted to interact with the Taiwanese. It was my first time going to Taiwan so I wanted to find many differences between Taiwan and Japan. I was excited to see the lifestyle of the family there because I was going to experience homestay. I was also thinking of finding many differences between schools of Taiwan and Japan because we are going to work with students studying there.

2. How did I contribute to the team?

I was not the leader of this group but I was the one making the discussion to move on. I spoke to the Taiwanese students of what the Japanese think of. We didn't hesitate to say what is wrong and said it directly to the Taiwanese. I tried to listen to what everyone thinks of and made parts so everyone had a job. I didn't want the atmosphere to be very serious all the time so I talked a lot to make it more enjoyable. Before our presentation, I took pictures like always so that everyone won't be nervous. I was happy because we could finish our presentation without big mistakes and with a big smile.

3. What was the most difficult task?

The hardest thing was to get in touch with the Taiwanese. It was the first time for St. Paul high school and Kansai University to join the ASEP together and also the members of Kansai were attending ASEP for the

first time. So compared to our seniors our starting of contacting each other was late. Also 2 people from Nihon Fukushi University were joining us so that it made it harder for us to contact each other. We were very surprised to see the presentation with many changes when we arrived there. It was hard to summarize all the opinions so it made the presentation hard to understand. We mainly started the presentation when we arrived in Taiwan so we didn't have a lot of time. I think we couldn't make a presentation that we wanted to.

4. Some points to be improved

We needed get in touch earlier. I regret that I couldn't join all the Skype meetings and even the meetings with Japanese. I left all the work to my other members and I am very sorry for that. I should have involved more and asked what I can do to help them. We should have contacted earlier to discuss our opinions. It was our first time to join ASEP so we had many things we didn't know. I should have asked Mr. Yoshida or my seniors to help me. We did everything at the last minute so we need to think over of it.

5. The fruits of ASEP 2015

I have 3 things I have learned during ASEP. First, the importance of teamwork. It is important for us to help each other and cooperate to make a presentation when we don't know each other well. Second, how to show the presentation. Not only the visual of the powerpoint, but the way you present it by the way you speak or using gestures. I was stimulated by seeing many different presentations of other teams. I realized that I needed to entertain the audience. Lastly, the importance of preparing. If we had more time for preparing before going to Taiwan I think things have changed. I hope I can make use of these 3 things to make a better presentation in next year's ASEP.

Ayaka Sugiyama

I had two goals for ASEP.

The first one is to have a deep discussion with other members and do all my best in the presentation. I had been working on a speech in ESS club since I was a freshman, and I really enjoy having a presentation and speech in front of people, which is one of the reasons why I wanted to study in this seminar. Therefore, I thought that ASEP would be a good opportunity for me to use the skill that I learned.

The second goal that I had was to simply have fun. I was a bit anxious about ASP because I'm not good at working in a group. Also, I had a hard time last year in my study abroad, so I didn't want ASEP to turn out to be like that. I thought that having a good time and enjoy the moment would be the most important for me. Actually, since I kept that in my mind, I had a lot of fun even when the discussion was not going well.

I don't think I made a huge contributions to my group, but I always kept in mind that I need to speak out when I had a question or opinion so that I wouldn't confuse later. Also, I worked well with my pair partner in the presentation. We were supposed to talk about our real experiences, so we shared some of them and picked up the best one. It was a good experience to work in a pair.

At the same time, I feel I could have been more active and said more opinions because sometimes I just gave up on explaining my ideas and thoughts. Because of our cultural aspects, we don't really say our opinions much, so it would beget if I could create a discussion where everyone can express the ideas without hesitation next year.

The difficulty for me was a discussion. We started having a skype meeting one month before ASEP, but since it was an online meeting, we had lots of misunderstandings and problems, which is the reason why it took long to sum up our ideas. It was much more difficult than I expected to have a discussion and make a presentation in English, which is the second language for both Japanese and Taiwanese.

Also, what made me confused was a priority of the presentation. For me, what is most important in English presentation is English delivery because even if we have a perfect content, our presentations are not going to be great if the delivery is bad. Yet, in our group, we considered the content the most important. That is why we tried to make it unique. As a result, our

RPG style of the presentation was really cool and interesting, and I really liked it. But as I mentioned before, we were running out of time. I just think that if we could have had more time working on a delivery, the presentation would have been much better.

What I learned in ASEP is what is more important than the presentation itself is the process; how we had overcome the obstacles. It is obvious that it has lots of difficulties involved when making a presentation about one topic with people in other countries, so I learned that how we got through it is important.

For examples, in our group, we always respected others and never had criticized someone's opinions. When we disagreed with some ideas, we mentioned it in a polite way. Because of that, I think we had a deep discussion with Taiwanese students and had lots of opinions.

Through this experience, I learned that corporations and being respectful are the key to get a group project done successfully.

We could have improved our delivery skills. I think the content of our presentation was good, but delivery skills, such as, pronunciation, stress, and intonation was not enough. Our delivery skills was not enough because it took more time to think about the content than we expected and did not have enough time to work on its delivery. Also, I feel not many people considered it important. However, when I saw others groups presentations, it was clear than they were good at delivery.

There are two things that we can do to improve our delivery skills. The first thing is to think about the content and finish up a script fast, and practice again and again. The second one is to practice a script with gesture because by using gesture make it easier to speak with emotion and have a proper intonation.

Haruna Sakano

This was the first time to take part in the presentation competition, and I am not good at giving presentation. Therefore, I focused on group work than the quality of presentation. My goal for ASEP is “speak my opinion before I think”. I lost a lot of opportunities to convey my opinion because I consider about my idea by myself before I say it. ASEP is good chance to say my opinion, and I tried to speak to my teammate any idea and tiny proposal. In addition, I tried to create comfortable atmosphere and share every information about our presentation.

I contributed to give my opinion based on my experiences and decide the contents and detail for presentation. I could gather opinions from teammates and change our power point not to be one-sided presentation. Moreover, I conveyed what we talked about in Japanese to the Taiwanese students. When we practiced for presentation, I called out to restart practice after brake.

We had to decide our conclusion with complain because we included all ideas in our presentation instead of making compromise. When we talk through Skype, we have many opinions each other, and it did not work as discussion. At first, we should have been open with all members to discuss the presentation, and did not make our work flow, so we sometimes confused because we did not know what we should do. As a result, our presentation became the list of our all opinions.

We should have make atmosphere that I get rid of hesitation at first, and could have concentrate on work. In addition, it was happened to tell a Taiwanese student in English after we discussed opinion in Japanese, and it was inefficient and did not do communication well with Taiwanese students, so we should have talked in English as much as possible and make it easy to understand what we talked about. About the presentation, we could have made contents more attractively and think that it was possible for the audiences to be more interesting. We could have record it on a video to watch our presentation objectively. I could not judge anything because I was nervous in the new place, but I have to try to think anything objectively in such situation.

What I have learned thorough ASEP is the importance of interesting presentation materials and attractive assembly of the story. A lot of teams include some video and image in their presentation material and devise the way to attract audience. We focused on only the contents, but did not think how to get the audience interested in our presentation. As another important factor, the coherence of contents can convey our opinion to audience easily. I will focus on that presentation is to convey my opinion to audience.

Kohei Kamiya

Before we started to work on ASEP, I had set my goals. The first one is to know how ASEP is. I did not know about the conference so much and it led to my weak passion of ASEP, before the preparation began. However, as we were working on, I noticed how big the conference was, and how hard we prepared our presentation with Taiwan students. In addition, after finishing our presentation, I felt rewarding for ASEP. The other goal is to learn how to work on from my seniors. This ASEP is the first time for me, but, at the same time, this is the last time to join it with them. Of course I did my best to succeed in our presentation, but I also focused on next ASEP because I will be a senior and have to lead our team. As a result, I could learn a lot of things from my seniors and I am sure I can lead our team with the knowledge next year.

I cannot realize my contribution to my team. I attended all meetings unless I had another schedule. During them, I did not hesitate to say my opinions, and if I did not have them, I always tried to think of better idea. However, these action is not special and everyone in our team did it.

The most difficulty is that both groups had different opinions and it was hard to make agreement smoothly. We have held the meeting every Tuesdays since the beginning of December, but during the meeting, we could not make decision of contents, so we also used LINE to discuss it. Sometimes, we even changed decision which we had made at last meeting and the discussion went back to the starting point. As a result, we could not follow our original plan that we would finish making P.P.T. before leaving for Taiwan. When we faced the difficulty, I was very confused. I think the other members also say this difficulty is the hardest.

I could achieve my goals during working on ASEP, which were to know how ASEP was, and learn the action as a member of the team from my seniors. After finishing our presentation, I was very excited and satisfied with the presentation. However, I thought the most important thing during the activity is not only the result, but also the process. I learned how to make agreement in English, and what I should do as a member of the team from the difficulties which we had faced. In addition, I got enough achievement about my second goal. I learned how I lead the team, make

atmosphere, and plan the schedule from my seniors. If I had not worked on ASEP with them, I could not have learned them. I am sure that I can make use of these experiences next year.

I am very satisfied with this ASEP, but there is a point of improvement, which is that we should have started working on at same level more clearly. Before the first Skipe meeting, both sides discussed “what is a definition of traveling, and how is our presentation style,” and then, we exchanged our opinions each other. However, our ideas were quite different and while we focused on the presentation style, Taiwan side focused on contents. It caused some misunderstandings. I know that overcoming this difficulty is one of the most important elements during working on ASEP, but also I think we can improve this part by making start line more clearly.