

ASEP is advancing

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Use of Zoom, Google apps

This time, by using Zoom, Google Apps, we were able to prepare the presentation fairly smoothly before we visited Taiwan. Until last time, we used Skype and LINE to have online meetings. Skype occasionally lost video or no sound on our school network. Therefore, students often used LINE video calls on their smartphones. However, in that way, students could not hold online meetings for a long time on their own smartphones because they had to worry about a lot of data and the battery level.

So, this time, we tried online meeting by using Zoom which runs on Chromebook. Compared to Skype, we were able to concentrate on the discussion without worrying about the line status. Also, each participant didn't need to create an account. So, we could start the meeting immediately when the link to the meeting could be shared. Without stress, even without teachers, students could repeat online meetings many times, beyond the physical distance between Japan and Taiwan.

In addition, by using Google Document and Google Slides, it has become easier to edit files while having an online meeting. In other words, instead of preparing for the presentation separately, the Nanzan Kokusai Group and the Shute Group, we became to be able to collaborate smoothly as the Nanzan Kokusai & Shute team. Also, by using Google Classroom as the team's bulletin board, we could share the latest versions of scripts and slides and see what to do by when.

Analysis and synthesis-succession of the ASEP method and basic philosophy

A circle is actually a collection of minute straight lines. Here, focusing on the minute straight line is called an analysis. Next, focusing on the entire circle is called synthesis. Collaboration requires the ability to do each task and the ability to judge what we should do now by looking at current progress from a broad perspective. In other words, both analytical skills and a comprehensive perspective are needed.

Both are important, but members with a comprehensive perspective are essential for the collaboration which has a deadline. Therefore, teachers who can see the whole and students who have experienced ASEP and WYM are important. In this regard, there were some impressive events in this ASEP.

In early December, term exams were ended at Nanzan Kokusai and Shute high schools. After that, at Nanzan Kokusai, all the members could not meet together because of the preparation for the Christmas event. December 19 was the last day for every student to meet at Nanzan Kokusai. When a Nanzan Kokusai student checked the file which was completed the day before, she thought the presentation might not work. The student had experienced ASEP 2018 and WYM 2019. According to the student, the ratio of introduction is too high for the whole presentation. So, the ratio of the most important part, what we want to tell the audience through the presentation, is decreasing.

From that night, the student has contacted other students, including Shute students. She said to them that the flow of the presentation should be reconsidered. In addition, she re-edited the script and slides. By December 21, the team was satisfied with the file.

Next, I really appreciate Shute teachers. Teacher Judy was a wonderful teacher who realized what students should learn through ASEP. During preparation of the presentation, she made use of the personality of each student and gave them various advices to make the presentation even better. ASEP was the 20 times for me and was the first time for Judy. However, I was able to trust her and work together. When I told her frankly about that, Judy told me that she had heard various things in advance from his predecessor, Teacher Alan. ASEP is not a mere speech contest. It's important for students to think about what they can give the audience and what they can share with the audience. For students, who are good at English, who are not, who are positive and who are not, it's important that they can grow through ASEP.

The teacher at Nanzan Kokusai does not change every year. The teacher at Shute changes fundamentally. However, teachers at Shute and I have talked about the education through ASEP every year while preparing a presentation or having a dinner. Thanks to that, we became to be able to share same ideas toward ASEP.

Shute High School has another teacher who plays an important role. Her name is Tracy, the director of the international exchange at Shute. She was responsible for everything except presentations, including homestay and overall schedule coordination. After the ASEP presentation was over and Nanzan Kokusai members came back to Japan, she sent a message to me, "The point of ASEP is not on the results but the process. I was really touched by the students when seeing their hard-working performance."

Most of the harvest for me in this ASEP was the following. Shute teachers and I were on the same page. Because of that, we could encourage our students watching their growth through ASEP.

Using English like a native

I had the impression that many teams became to lose their country's dialect and to be able to speak English like a native. Some people may think it's good. But I'm a little negative. Because, during the presentation, there were many situations that I could not hear students' talk like a native. I felt like I was told, "Just study English more, and you can hear what I say."

I don't think that English ability in ASEP should aim for native English. I'm a native Japanese speaker. But, when I speak to Japanese learners, I speak Japanese more slowly and more clearly. Because, if I do so, they can easily understand what I say. While respecting others, we should tell them our opinions and listen to other's opinions. That is the language ability to learn in ASEP, I think. I will continue to discuss this with many people.

ASEP は進化している～ASEP2019 レポート

南山国際高等学校 教員
西 亮

Zoom、Google の活用

今回、Zoom の使用、Google Apps、Google Classroom のさらなる活用によって、台湾訪問までのプレゼンテーション準備をずいぶんスムーズに行うことができるようになった。

オンラインミーティングを行う際、前回までは Skype や LINE を使用していた。Skype は、本校のネットワークでは時折ビデオが消えたり音声を通じなくなることがあった。よって生徒のスマホで LINE ビデオ通話を利用することが多かった。しかし生徒個人のスマホでは、通信量やバッテリー残量を気にする必要があるため、安心して長い時間オンラインミーティングを行うことはできなかった。

そこで今回から Chromebook 上で動作する Zoom を利用してオンラインミーティングを行ってみた。Skype と比較すると、回線状況のことを気にせずに議論に集中することができた。またミーティング参加者が一人一人アカウントを作成する必要はなく、ミーティングのリンク先さえ共有できればすぐにミーティングを始めることができた。このようにストレスを感じることなく、日本と台湾という物理的な距離を越えて、教員がいなくとも生徒だけで何度もオンラインミーティングを重ねることができた。

さらに、前回から利用している Google ドキュメント、Google スライドを使って、オンラインミーティングを行いながらファイルを編集することも容易になった。つまり南山国際グループと樹徳家商グループが別々にプレゼンテーション準備を行うのではなく、南山国際&樹徳家商チームとしてスムーズにコラボレーションすることができるようになった。チームの掲示板として Google Classroom を活用し、最新版のスクリプトとスライドを共有したり、いつまでに何をすべきかを確認したりすることができた。

分析と総合～ASEP の手法、基本理念の継承

一つの円は、実は微小な直線の集まりである。ここで、円ではなく微小な直線に視点を合わせることを分析と呼ぼう。次に円全体に視点を合わせることを総合と呼ぼう。コラボレーションでは、一つ一つの作業をこなしていく能力と、広い視野から現在の進捗状況を見て今何をやるべきかを判断する能力が必要になる。つまり分析的能力と総合的視点の両方が必要となる。

どちらも重要ではあるが、特に総合的な視点を持つメンバーは、デッドラインのあるコラボレーションに必要不可欠である。そこで全体を見渡せるファシリテーターとしての教員と、ASEP、WYM を経験している生徒の役割が重要となる。その点で今回の ASEP では印象的な出来事があった。

12 月初旬、南山国際、樹徳家商それぞれの学校で定期考査が終了した。その後南山国際ではクリスマス行事の準備のために、メンバーのスケジュールが合わず全員そろってプレゼンテーションの準備をする時間をとることができなかった。12 月 19 日、南山国際で全員が顔を合わせられる最後の日だった。樹徳家商の生徒と前日までに仕上げたファイルを見たある生徒が、このままではプレゼンテーションはうまくいかないと判断した。その生徒は ASEP2018 と WYM2019 を経験していた。その生徒いわく、プレゼ

ンテーション全体に対して、イントロダクションの割合が多すぎる。そのために最も大切な部分、つまりプレゼンテーションを通してオーディエンスに伝えたいこと、の割合が少なくなっている。

その生徒はその夜からネットを駆使し樹徳家商の生徒も含めて他の生徒と連絡を取り、しっかり理由を述べながらプレゼンテーションの流れを考え直すべきだと訴えた。さらにその生徒がスクリプトとスライドを再編集し、12月21日までにチームが納得する形に仕上げる事ができた。

次に、樹徳家商の先生方に感謝すべきことがある。今回の担当教員 Judy 先生は、ASEP を通して生徒は何を学ぶべきかを共有できる素晴らしい先生であった。プレゼンテーションの準備において Judy 先生は生徒一人ひとりの持ち味を活かしながら、さらに良いプレゼンテーションにするために様々なアドバイスをした。私は 20 回目、Judy 先生にとっては初めての ASEP だったが、私は Judy 先生をたいへん信頼して共に仕事をする事ができた。率直に Judy 先生に私の考えを述べると、Judy 先生は前任者の Alan 先生から様々な話を事前に聞いていたことを教えてくれた。ASEP は優劣をつけるためのスピーチコンテストではない。オーディエンスに何を届け何を共有できるかが重要である。英語が得意な生徒もそうでない生徒もポジティブな生徒もそうではない生徒も ASEP を通して成長することが大切である。

南山国際の教員は毎年変わらない。樹徳家商の教員は基本的に変わっていく。しかし、その年ごとに担当教員とプレゼンテーション準備中もしくは夕食を囲みながら、ASEP を通した教育について語り合ってきた。その成果があったのだと実感した。

樹徳家商にはもう一人重要な役割を担う教員がいる。国際交流プロジェクト責任者の Tracy 先生だ。Tracy 先生はホームステイの手配、全体のスケジュールの調整など、プレゼンテーション以外の全てを担当されていた。プレゼンテーション本番が終わり、南山国際のメンバーが帰国後、Tracy 先生がこのようなメッセージを LINE でくださった。“The point of ASEP is not on the results but the process. I was really touched by the students when seeing their hard-working performance.”

今回の ASEP で私にとっての一番の収穫は、樹徳家商の先生方と ASEP を通して同じ方向を見つめながら、生徒たちの成長を見守りつつ、それを促していくことができたことだと思う。

英語活用のネイティブ化を危惧する

どのチームもそれぞれの国の持つ訛りが少し薄れ、生徒たちの使う英語がネイティブに近づいてきたという印象を持った。それをよしと捉える面もあるが、私は少々否定的である。なぜならプレゼンテーションにおいて、生徒らのネイティブ化したしゃべりによって、逆に聞き取りづらい場面が多かったからだ。「あなたももっと英語を勉強したら聞き取れるよ。」とされているような気がした。

ASEP の英語活用能力の目指すべき方向は、ネイティブが使用する英語ではないと思う。私は日本語のネイティブであるが、日本語学習者に対してはその人が理解しやすいように普段話す日本語とは違う話し方をする。つまり相手のことを尊重しながら自分の意見を伝え相手の意見に耳を傾ける。それが ASEP で学ぶべき語学活用能力であると思う。これに関して今後も多くの人と議論していきたい。

ASEP2019

Yua Shimmura
Nanzan Kokusai High School

Intro

This was my first time participating in ASEP. I was anxious about the presentation, but this was also my first time going to an Asian country other than Japan, so I was also excited and curious to learn about Taiwanese culture.

Creating and practicing

Experiencing WYM (World Youth Meeting), I thought this year's presentation would go the same way as WYM. But to my surprise, the process of making the presentation and practice went way more smoothly than last time. I think this was thanks to both Taiwanese and Japanese students working hard and collaborating efficiently. Presentation practice was the toughest for me since I struggled on remembering my lines,

and also taking considerations to the audience such as hand gestures and controlling tone of speech or the speed of my speech was tough for me since I was inexperienced at it. But this was necessary to practice a lot since this is one of the most important ways for you to be understood by the audience, which leads to a better presentation.

The culture and the people

But my experiences in Taiwan were not only just struggles. I was lucky enough to be warmly greeted by an amazing host family, and they made me feel like I was a part of their family. I also got to meet familiar faces such as Andy from WYM, and the other kind Taiwanese students showed us around many places in Kaohsiung such as nightmarkets. Having social connections like these with students from another country are an important part of these exchange student programs since you get to interact and learn more about different cultures and their people, and for me this was the most exciting part of ASEP. But the largest part of ASEP are the presentations.

Presentation day

Presentation day was not that stressful, and I was not nervous, although I do wish I got more sleep the day before. In my opinion, I think the presentation went well for everyone, not just me. No one forgot their part or made any major mistakes, and the presentation flowed well. I was satisfied with our presentation, but was also glad to be able to watch other amazing presentations, and it was interesting to see different viewpoints and different presentation styles. Sadly, we were not able to get the platinum award, but the things we learnt making this presentation highly outweighs the platinum award.

Conclusion

I learnt many things throughout ASEP, but the most important thing I learnt was about communication. I had only mainly spoken or collaborated with native English speakers before ASEP, so I did not take special considerations when communicating to people. But I learnt that the way you present your idea, or the way or style you talk to people is as equally as important as the content of what you are saying. If the listener doesn't even understand what you're saying in the first place, the content of what you're trying to say does not matter. I had never considered this as the most important thing about communication, and realizing this was a big surprise for me.

And lastly, I am thankful for ASEP and the people related to it. I was able to enjoy my stay in Taiwan because of these people, and learnt many important lessons. Learning experiences on a scale like these only happen a few times in a lifetime, and I want to cherish and grow off these moments to better myself as a person, and to take my English skills to another level.



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Ryota Niwa

Nanzan Kokusai High School

Warm welcome

I spent an absolutely fabulous time participating in the ASEP. What left impression the most through the ASEP was the home stay in Taiwan. It was a very rare opportunity to experience the real life in Taiwanese family. Though it was not my first-time visiting Taiwan, I was, at first, very anxious about the stay. But my anxiety completely went away when I saw my host student at the station waiting for me with a big smile and welcomed me warmly. During the stay I got along with friends of my host student. They often took me out to town and had so much fun together. Big thanks to them I really enjoyed my time in Taiwan.



Lessons I learnt

This experience of participating in the ASEP taught me many lessons. Not only gave me confidence in presenting in public but to consider the world ecological problems. It made me realize that yet I am a high school student there are still many actions I can take to contribute to these problems. At first our team found difficulties in communication between Taiwanese students and Japanese students. But we tried again and again making use of body language, face expression and even written character “Kanji” and everything we can use until we both understood.

Presentation day

There were many problems we struggled with in our presentation but at those times we discussed over and over and came up with a solution. We only had a short time to prepare for the presentation but we put as much effort as we could and the day of the competition had finally come. At the final day, I think we had presented our best and so though the result didn't turn out well I am really proud of myself and other members of the group who worked together.

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Chika Kageyama

Nanzan Kokusai High School

This was my first time to visit Taiwan, as well as to participate in ASEP. But the experience of having taken part in WYM 2019, made it more smooth and easier to build up the presentation for us.

Through the preparation

From what our members learnt from the previous presentation, we worked hard not to make misunderstandings between the Japanese members and the Shute members of Taiwan. This, as I mentioned previously, went smooth and had much less misunderstandings. But this time, we had different problem. By trying to make the presentation more simple and understandable, we couldn't find our way to make the content more fascinating for the audience. From this, we tried to find more interesting ideas until just before the day of presentation.

Though we couldn't win the platinum prize, I am still proud of what our team has made through the past few months. One of the reasons why I think so is because some of the participants from other schools and countries in ASEP came to us saying they've enjoyed our presentation. And also, I think we've done the best of all previous practices in the ASEP itself.

Interacting with people in Taiwan

As I said in the beginning it was my first time traveling to Taiwan, and I felt a lot of heart touching welcomes when I got there. I especially appreciate my host student and her family, who took me to famous tourism spots in Kaohsiung, and to eat a lot of Taiwanese food through limited time before the presentation. From those experiences she gained me, I found in many scenes that Taiwanese people are very friendly. I think this is a very nice culture, and I really wish to visit Taiwan again.



The picture in the left was taken just before saying the last goodbye at the station; as you can see, not only the host students, but most of the participants of this ASEP and even their friends were there when we left. This made me feel not wanting to leave there but to spend more free time with them.

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Yoko Suzuki

Nanzan Kokusai High School

ASEP

This winter, I was very happy to join Asian Students Exchange Program. Our member changed a little from the time we joined World Youth Meeting, but still I had many good memories this time too.

Visiting the new country

In ASEP, the most thing I was worried about was to go Taiwan. It was my first time to visit Taiwan so everything such as food, place, environment, and culture were new for me. As I expected, the first

day in Taiwan was very hard for me and I literally wanted go back to Japan. However, as I spend time in Taiwan, I had so much fun communicating with the Taiwanese members and also the host family and visiting all the new places I've never been to. They all gave me good stimulation.



Difficulties we had on the presentation

As a group, I think the most thing we had trouble on is to give a great presentation. When giving a presentation, I think the most important thing that we should care about is to speak clearly and to emphasize the important points. When we started to practice the presentation, even we were just reading the "lines", most of us weren't able to read it even smoothly. So we practiced a lot. However, every time we practice as a whole, someone always made a mistake and people who were able to read smoothly didn't have much expression while reading. It was already 27th of December when I noticed. Our turn came very quick, but I was so surprised while the presentation. No one made a mistake and everyone (which I mean really everyone) spoke so smoothly and clearly that was much much better than the time we were practicing. As a result, we got a gold prize, but I think we had the best presentation ever and I want to give the platinum prize to ourselves!!

Conclusion

Through this ASEP, I have learned many things. I was also stimulated by visiting the new country not with my family but myself. I might not join the WYM or ASEP this year, but these experiments will absolutely help me throughout my life. I hope we can have nice relationship not just as 'members' but as 'friends' from now on too. I appreciate for all the people who gave me so much stimulations. Thank you.

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Jyuna Ueda

Nanzan Kokusai High School

This was my second time participating in ASEP, but it was also my last. I am glad that I can stand on such a big stage with Shu-Te Economics and Commercial High School students again. I want to appreciate my teacher, Mr.Nishi for giving me such a precious chance to join this activity again.

Participating in the ASEP, I've learnt many lessons not only with the presentation, but also through the experience of homestay.



First of all, I learnt the most in this program was the importance of communication. In ASEP2019, all Shu-Te members except one student were first time participating in the ASEP and also more than half of host students were not the ASEP2019 member. This was an exceptional case and because of that, Nanzan Kokusai members, including myself, couldn't hide their surprise. We had to start by understanding each other and getting along well, such as introducing ourselves. It was difficult for us to communicate with people you don't know. Even we met face to face, we were not familiar with each other yet. For example, some people said "What's her/his name?" However, as we spent time together and tried to communicate with each other, we were able to make a good presentation.

Unlike last year, there is one problem. In Shu-Te member, there was a leader and teacher told us to decide Nanzan Kokusai leader as well. It leads to separate work between leaders and others. In other words, it made us to less discussion time with all members compared to last year. Even we were in same room, many small groups working different tasks at same time. As a result, some students didn't have chance to talk with everyone. In order to have conversation with all members, I had to move around the room and do some work with student(s) who seemed to know what to do. I believed that deciding each group's leader is good thing to keep things going smoothly, but now I noticed that having the leaders to decide things without talk with other members and moving things forward can cause confusion for other members. Also, there was a member who was not able to say even she/he came up with a very good idea because the opinion of the leaders was the opinion of each other's group. Trusting teammates are an important thing but this time I learnt that too much of it isn't good.

The second time of experience of homestay was very comfortable compared to last year. My host family, who couldn't speak English or Japanese at all, learned basic greetings over the past year and they said "hello", "how are you?" and "bye bye" in Japanese and in English. I also spoke in Chinese, such as "hello", "Wow, wonderful", "delicious". I realized the importance of the open mind and try to develop good relationship each other. I'm thankful to the grandparents, parents and uncle of the hosts who studied English and Japanese for me.

Even we got a gold prize, no one forgot their parts. I think this time was the best performance I've ever had in the ASEP and WYM. I would like to thank all thing that the ASEP gave me, such as the encounter with the members of the Shu-Te and the teachers, the experience of presentation, the reunion with my wonderful host family, and the experience in the homestay.

ASEP 2019

Letícia De Lima

Nanzan Kokusai High School

“Do not suppose opportunity will knock twice at your door.” This is a quote from a poet called Nicolas Chamfort and these simple words helped me to encourage participation in this ASEP for the first and last time. First of all, even though I am a foreigner, I have never been to a country that the only way to “communicate” is through English, and it is not an easy task to overcome this high, massive and invisible language barrier. However, I venture to say that I saw a crack being made in this barrier.



I remember that on the first day, the only words that came out of my mouth were “Okay” and “Thank you”. Shamefully enough, until the last day with them, I believe that I just used simple sentences and I could not actively communicate. However, I believe that I could do well for my first time, and next time probably I will be able to talk with them in English better than this time. It was not an experience whatsoever but unique and meaningful first step to improve my English and interact with people from different countries and know about their beautiful cultures.

Another thing that made me down was the difficulty to memorise the lines during practice. We had 12 members so my part was not so long and I still cannot understand why I forgot them so much. However, what impressed me was not that, but the members and the teacher who helped me to continue to try my best.

At result, in my words, the presentation was amazing. Everyone could remember their lines and the presentation continued on and on. Even we could not get a significant prize, but regardless of the outcome I believe we did our best and I would do it again without hesitation. Because all of us could have fun and the friends we made there will be forever.

Listening the ideas from the other groups, I saw a lot of simple but useful ideas that all the world has to listen and do. I particularly cannot believe that by 2030 sustainability goals can be achieved. Because we are using more than our planet can produce and even if we do this kind of presentation constantly, as they say, talking is easy but starting and sustain something is hard and boring. I do not know how many students will make a difference in this chaotic world but I believe this ASEP was a good opportunity to know and think about that problem facing our planet, and I strongly hope that I am not the only one.