

ICYE Bilateral Program

I See Your Engagement!



2020 AUGUST

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1. What is “I SEE YOUR ENGAGEMENT”?

This special virtual program is initiated and cooperated by ICYE Japan and ICYE Vietnam, the two National Committees of ICYE Federation (International Cultural Youth Exchange).

This program aims to provide an interactive platform for Japanese and Vietnamese youth to exchange their viewpoints on the role of youth in

society and to discuss what they can do to foster their engagement in taking actions that create impactful social changes. This also serves as a chance for participants to get to know each other, to make friends, and to have fun.

The main topic of the program is “Youth Engagement in Society”. By “engagement” participants are meant to discover youth presence, youth challenges, opportunities as well as youth role and responsibilities in the modern society. Different aspects of this topic are touched and discussed throughout the program.

- Youth and Social Media (youth engagement in social media)
- Youth and Education (youth engagement in education)
- Youth and Environment (youth engagement in environment protection)
- Youth and Peace (youth engagement in peace movements)
- Youth and Traditions(youth engagement in traditional culture preservation)
- Youth and Virtual World (youth engagement in virtual world)



2. Program Daily Report

DAY 1 [reported by ICYE Japan's Intern - Mami]



ICYE Japan and ICYE Vietnam have created an online event named “I See Your Engagement”. The first day contained a lot of introductory sessions. We introduced our name, school and workplaces. Due to the COVID-19, we are now unable to have a meetup event. However, ICYE Japan and ICYE Vietnam enabled us to participate in a networking event which everyone was waiting for. In the very first part of the event, we were paired with members from the other

countries. My pair was Ha, who was the project assistance of the event. Even though we were the same age, I was totally stimulated by the way she spoke confidently with fluent English.

After the first day finished, I just thought “I could do more”. Most of the Japanese people could not speak in front of many people. We were being too passive. Nowadays, we do not have enough chances to communicate with people in other countries. I should have participated in the session more actively like the Vietnamese people did.

EXPECTATION/FEARS/CONTRIBUTION		
YOUR EXPECTATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Enhance Vietnamese and Japanese youth's engagement to social activities- Create a platform for Japanese and Vietnamese youth to discover other's culture and develop communication skills- Make friends + more information and knowledge on Youth Engagement- Know more about how social media + education affects different social factors during Corona virus- Broader network + raise voices on Youth Engagement + personal development	YOUR FEARS <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Technical issues- Japanese introvert culture of being shy and hesitant to raise voice (but it's okay :D)- Lack of knowledge on the topic- Language barriers	YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Enthusiasm + energy + talks- Supports with languages- Computer skills -> slides + videos (yay!)- Ideas + mental supports



DAY 2 [reported by Ayaka]

Today is the group-work day. I interviewed two participants.



Interview 1

Yu Murase - Japanese, college freshman

1. What was the reason for your participation?

I was always wondering how youth can be more active to change the society. For me, I have been working to establish a student group called “Design, More” to think about this problem. When I saw the details and theme of “I see your engagement” on Facebook, I thought that the goal of this event which enables young people to be more active was similar to what I wanted to achieve in my student group. I had experienced a lot of volunteer work, sports volunteering and works in devastated areas. Whenever I talk my experiences to my friends, they say that I am doing a special thing. I do not think that I am doing a special or amazing thing. I think we should be more active in these kinds of volunteer works.



2. How did you think about this event after participating?

Participants were active because they had a vision of what they want to do for the society. Our team talked about education. Our team was made up of one Vietnamese high school student, one Vietnamese graduate student and me. Everyone had a different background of education. The process of the preparation for last day's presentation was very exciting and helpful to me.

3. What do you think “youth engagement” is?

I think the word itself contains a lot of meanings. In fact, I think this program itself was part of the youth engagement. Even it is not from your motivation, I think taking an action for the better world is important for everyone. Also, sharing what you have learnt is an important part of your engagement to the society. I think being a broadcaster is significant in social participation.

Interview 2

Giang - Vietnamese, second year in college

1. What was the reason for your participation?

I wanted to improve my English skills. Also, I wanted to deepen my knowledge of Japanese and Vietnam cultures and traditions. Learning the way of building teamwork and friendship between different countries was also my purpose of participating.



2. How did you think about this event after participating?

For three years, I am engaging in a volunteer organization and working as a teacher. This event was a fresh and fun thing because we can exchange our thoughts even online and think about how we can solve social issues.

3. What kind of topics are you interested in?

Because Vietnam have some environmental issues, I am interested in protecting the environment. I am also interested in international exchanges. I want to learn a lot, especially about education to support my career as a teacher and for my students.

4. What do you think “youth engagement” is?

For me, I provide lessons for children who live in the lock downed area due to the COVID-19. Some of the children who live in local areas were unable to study because of the poor network connection. These problems were not noticed in high schools or universities. Therefore, I wanted

to provide them some lessons. Also, teachers like me can teach children how to protect the environment. For a long time, environmental issues are getting worse and worse. However, we are still being stuck in this situation. Schools and teachers must provide some activities to teach how important is to protect the environment.

Thank you to Yu and Giang for interviewing. After the interviews, I'm even more excited for tomorrow!!!



DAY3 [Reported by ICYE Japan's Intern - Umeken]



The third day of “I see your engagement” has finished. Our group held a lot of meetings even though it is not planned to do officially. Compared to other groups, I think our group members had good relationships and were also well prepared for the final presentation. We had a constructive discussion with ease. As a role model of presentation, Tommy and Ha showed us a perfect presentation. The theme of the presentation was the “Virtual World & Youth”. This

presentation stimulated me a lot. In addition, Tommy and Ha did an amazing job in the discussion part, too. Throughout these three days, I realized that I can learn a lot from other ICYE partners. The way ICYE Japan's staff members work taught me that I should work harder.



DAY4 [reported by ICYE Japan's Intern - Ayaka]

We had an excited discussion last night and tomorrow is the last day. I interview two participants what they feel and think now.

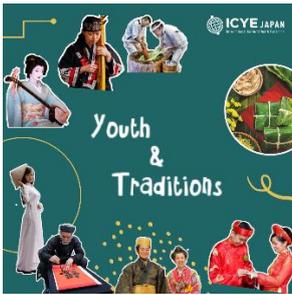
Interview 3

Yukano Muraki - Japanese, third year in high school

1. What was the reason for your participation?

Last year, I went to North Carolina for studying for four month and I became interested in racial problems. I wanted to know that how youth from other countries





think about racial problems and the “Black lives matter” movements. Because of the COVID-19, it was difficult to participate in some international programs, but I was eager to find an event which give me the opportunity to share opinions with people in other countries. Also, wanted to improve my skill in speaking English.

2. How did you think about this event after participating?

On the first day, I was nervous to speak up. It was difficult to schedule the group work because of the time difference. On the second session, I was overwhelmed by Vietnamese. There were passionate about having a discussion. Also, there were connecting their opinions with current topics. I wished I could be more active like them.

3. What do you think “youth engagement” is?

I think there should be a kind of platform where young people can broadcast their ideas. We should use SNS more effectively to share our thoughts. One of the reasons why I participate was to improve my speaking skills in English. I think we should share our opinion in English to understand each other and cooperate with people in other countries to solve social problems.



Interview 4

Hoa - Vietnamese, second year in college, studying Japanese

1. What was the reason for your participation?

I really love Japan and I wanted to learn more about Japan. I am now studying tourism management at my university. Because most of the Japanese people work hard and have diligent personality, I want to know about Japanese hospitality. Throughout this event, I wanted to make friends, have fun, improve my English skills, and gain the resourcefulness by working as a team.



2. How did you think about this event after participating?

I had difficulty in building friendship with Japanese member. Even though Vietnamese were active and talkative, Japanese people were too shy that I thought like I am sometimes ignored by them. But after some group sessions, we became able to exchange our opinions. At first, everyone was too passive that I became nervous to involve in the discussion. However, after doing some works, it became easy to take contact with the group members and finally, we became able

to have a good teamwork. I am now sure that it was a right decision to participate in this event.

3. What do you think “youth engagement” is?

I think it is to show how we are passionate and active to participate in our community. For example, sharing proper information about COVID-19 or helping people who are in a tough condition like doctors and patients can help the community to obtain positive attitude toward this situation.



Thank you Yukano and Hoa. Through the interviews, I realized that youth positive outgoing is important. Tomorrow is the last day. I'm looking forward to the presentations!

DAY5 [reported by Tommy]

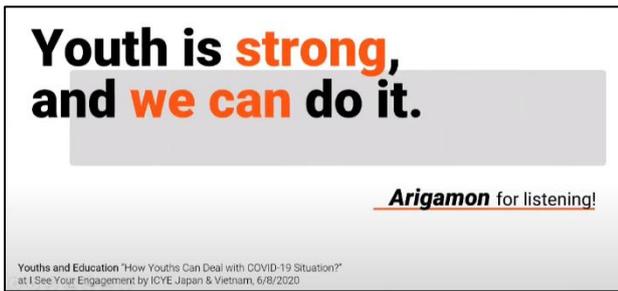


The program has finished! I am really thankful to all the participants, ICYE Vietnam and ICYE Japan's staff members. It was the very first time to conduct an online program; therefore, there were a lot of difficulties. However, I am now relieved to see that the event has finished successfully. I could not believe that some of the participants were high school students. They gave us a great presentation. From my personal view, I

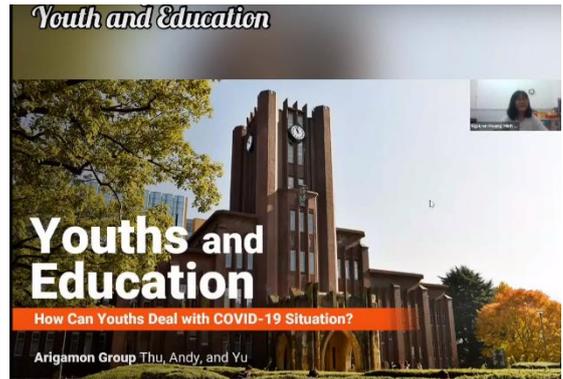
thought it was valuable to know how Vietnam people analyze environmental issues. Because this event finished with great success, I wish I could organize this kind of online event with other countries, too.

2. Participant Comments

1. Yu Murase from Japan



It has been a long day since I last



participated in an international event. It was very exciting and I am very satisfied to work with my team members confidently. Every morning, we conduct a zoom meeting. However, one of our members had an electrical problem which made the meeting hard to carry out. What I learnt was that every country has a common problem that we cannot go out or go to school. Although, I realized that some of the problems are unique to the country. For example, in Japan, blackout is a problem which occurs only in few situations. But in Vietnam, blackouts are a serious problem. Most of the Japanese people has their own device and Wi-Fi. In Vietnam, people who do not afford to buy expensive electricity often share their devices with people. Even though the situation under COVID-19 is similar, I realized that there are various problems which depend on the country's environment. I wish for the government to recognize the problems which were ignored.

It is difficult to conclude what youth engagement is. However, youth can overlook the world with no bias and help the society to progress positively. Greta Thunberg, a Swedish environmental activist is one of the good examples. Her activities and thoughts may be recognized as an immature thing. But I think it is fresh and vigorous. Youth power has that kind of powerful potential to change the world.



2. Yukano Muraki from Japan

Through this event, I think I learnt a lot about social issues. Vietnam people who actively participated in the discussion stimulated me a lot. Even though they are from the same generation, the way they think seriously about social issues is very impressive. The difficult part was the way we did the group. We mainly used Zoom to prepare for the final presentation. However, some of the members did not have enough internet connection to do the group



work smoothly. It was a valuable time to learn how Vietnam high school students are spending their time in such a situation. In the presentation, I emphasized the comparative part of Japan

and Vietnam. While researching about Japanese tradition, I recognize that Japan has a really unique cultural characteristic. For example, Japanese manner is too polite for people who lives in other countries. Also, electric toilet seat is unique to Japan. For me, they are something I receive as a natural thing. When we discussed food culture, it was interesting that Vietnam eats rice and rice noodles which are healthier than Japanese rice. In the last session, I really missed doing the group work with other member. Spending almost five days, I felt sad to say goodbye to them even we do not have met in person. After the event, we exchanged our SNS account to get in touch with the group members.

For me, “my engagement” is to learn more about family sociology and spread the idea of diversity in family construction. I think we need to change our society for kinds who do not have enough rights to declare their thoughts and feelings. Thorough this event, I learned that we have to import the great aspect of foreign society. Not only having a narrow perspective, I want to participate in solving social problem as a youth.



3. Hoa from Vietnam

The staff’s English skills are good and we can understand easily, they create the group to be able to work with and help each other. The first day, the main activity is to get to know each other.



We separated some gropes, talked with, and I could know about participants. So we can work easily on the second day. Through this event, I felt that it was difficult sometimes. All we speak in English but there are many differences. First, it was an accent. It was a little difficult for me Japanese accent. And cultural differences. Sometimes we needed to share but Japanese didn’t like that. For example, you can talk feel

free personally but they didn’t do that because of cultural difference. I felt that. My team theme is what is youth engagement about the environment. I researched to prepare, I found many youth actions and challenges about the environment. And I think it is important to be a place where youth can participate and to be encouraged to take action for a better future. Just after one week, I’ve been remembering a lot of things about this event, and I want to meet more and more!



4. Umeken - ICYE JAPAN’s Intern

I think that the event was very fulfilling. First, I was supposed to participate as a program supporter. However, due to the absence of some participants, I eventually joined this event as one of the participants. I was able to have both, the organizer's perspective and the participant's perspective. One of the most impressive things was the sense of accomplishment after creating the presentation. For five days, my group members made a huge effort to create a presentation. There were some difficulties in scheduling and communicating because we were living in a different country. In such a difficult circumstance, we did our best and were able to give an ideal presentation. Also, I was relieved that the event finished with such a success because I knew how hard the organizers prepared for this event. After the end of "I See Your Engagement", I started to think that sometimes I was to organize an event by myself. "I See Your Engagement" was not only a helpful experience, but also a first step for the next event.



5. Tomona - ICYE JAPAN's Intern



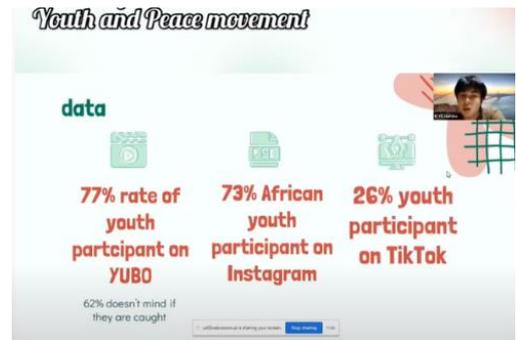
The third day of this event was my first day to do an ICYE Japan internship, so I joined from the middle, but it was a meaningful experience. In the debate we had on the third day, Vietnamese participants were very motivated. I was especially inspired by that high school student's attitude that they express their opinion confidently and regardless of age. And personally the best thing about attending this event was I could work with Vietnamese participants in the

same team. Because of the number of participants, I took part in the presentation on the 5th day as a participant. For this work, of course to give a presentation but preparing was important. So we had Zoom meeting the day before the presentation and wrote the script one by one, and so on to prepare. Because of different countries and cultures, it was difficult to communicate without a lack of explanation or misunderstanding, however, I think we were able to communicate smoothly. Thanks to being well prepared, after presentation without problems, I felt accomplished that we could do it one team together. Through this event, I learned a lot of things and broadened my perspective. I'm looking forward to the next event in November!



6. Haruto - ICYE JAPAN's Intern

On my first day doing an ICYE Japan internship, I participated in this event without clearly understanding what this event was, I learned a lot of things through this event. I joined this event on the 3rd day so it left just 2 days for the last presentation, it was so hard for me to complete the presentation with group members. There were many hard things, to decide all about the presentation just one day, to communicate easily to the other person with English and so on, finally we could do our presentation somehow. What I felt about participating in this event, it is possible to do an international exchange online. We could discuss and give a presentation easily, I also felt the strength of online. Of course it is best to be able to go to the county however, I fully realized that we could connect with the people over the sea and do rich in content events online.



3. Staff interview



1. Ha - ICYE Vietnam's Program Assistant

Why did you participate in this event as a PA?

I really love Japanese animations and now I am studying Japanese. I am interested in Japanese culture, so I decided to participate as a PA.

What was the difficult and successful part of this event?

I knew that we had to do our programs swiftly. However, there was less time than expected. I thought that we have to be more careful with time management. It is difficult to set a time schedule because we have to be considerate about the time difference. Also, I was worrying about Japanese people because I knew that Japanese people are shy and passive. However, on the last day, Japanese people were participating in the presentation very actively. I think that is one of the most successful parts.

What did you think about this event after participating?_

I am now planning to work in the field of international cooperation. This event taught me that it is important to create a movement to change the society even in this difficult circumstance. I think keeping in touch with some people can help us to be healthy both physically and psychologically.



What do you think "youth engagement" is?

If there were no pandemic in the world, I think I could experience a lot of things. Since the economy is stagnant, I think we need to be accustomed to this lifestyle. I want to give real value to invisible things.



Please give a message for Japanese people who want to be involved in international volunteering!

You can make any mistakes because you are young. Do not be afraid to make mistakes and keep trying to change the world!

2. Tommy - ICYE Japan Program Assistant

Why did you participate in this event as a PA?

University classes are all online and there is no opportunity to speak in English, I would like to do activity in English. And I'm a member of ICYE Japan, it has the opportunity to join as program assistant, so I tried it. What I was told "How about this?" is the spirit of trying for the time being!



What is the most impressive thing through this event?

I thought that Japanese are shy again. We are same Asia but, what Vietnamese participant were actively speaking when the discussion, are very impressive for me.



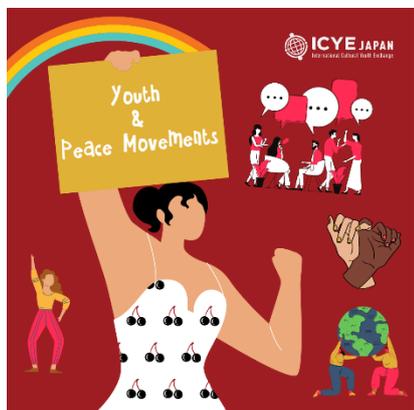
What did you think about this event after participating?

It was interesting that I could know Vietnamese opinions about their country where I have been there, and last presentations. It was little hard for me first to hear English with Vietnamese accent. So I could know, the difficulty to talk with the people who is not native English speaker and there are many types English. Simply, I enjoyed talking with Vietnamese in English.

What do you think "youth engagement" is?

Honesty, I thought I could more actively involved as program assistant, so I have something that I could not fully digest. But this event is the next step to learn from fail. I would like to do my best at future events.

Mai: For me, the difficult part was the technical aspect. When we first organized an event which was online, we had a lot of technical difficulties. I could not really join in the sessions due to my poor internet connection. Of course, there are only a few things we can do about this problem. Somehow maybe I could buy a new laptop. The successful part was the great team members who created this event including the participants. I am very happy with the diverse team members



and especially thankful to the organizer.

Thu: For me, it is very difficult to build up the program with the imagination of how it is going to work. Because we had never done a program before online, I did not know how to communicate with the coordinators. We did not discuss anything about the online event before. It was so difficult to exchange ideas and to have communications with project assistants. Also, even though we had lots of ideas on ice breaking games and activities with interacting with many people, some of the activities were unavailable on the Zoom. We had to build up the program and had to imagine how it works without practicing. The successful part was to work with Nga because she is very polite and initiative in every step. Even though Nga is so young, her manners and attitudes were polite and professional. Another successful part was the participants. At first, I was expecting that they would not be active. But on the second day and the third day, I was so impressed by their participation and I wished to have more time to talk with them.

Nga: The biggest challenge to me was right when the program started. We had planned thoroughly for every single step, however, would it meet our expectations? The first event was a great lesson to me. We had some participants disappear and drop out, I couldn't even reach them; there were technical issues; we exceeded too much time; as one the main facilitators, I was too tense... I appreciated a lot that right after the first day ended, everyone all gave me the sweetest words of encouragement.

I'm so thankful that I got to work with the loveliest sis ever (Thanks a bunch ch! Thu!!!!). I'm so grateful that Rina gave me her complete trust to take on this whole program. And big hugs to all of our interns who were so enthusiastically helping me all the time. Thank Ayaka-san for being the most energetic and ubiquitous program reporter ever! Thank Tommy and Umeken for being the most supportive program assistants!! To me, seeing everyone so motivated to do more and more things together after joining this program is definitely the greatest accomplishment!!

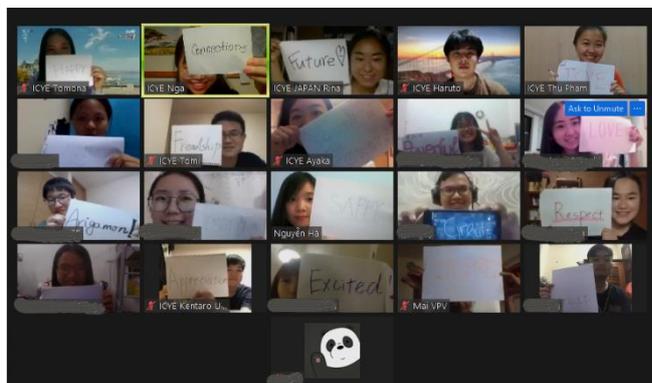
What is “your engagement” to society?

Mai: Trying to do something meaningful with others. “Be the change you want to see in the world” is a famous quote from Mahatma Gandhi and this represents how I want to engage with society.

Thu: I really enjoy working with the youth and I always think that youth can make a good future for society and the world. Therefore, what I am doing is to encourage and support their ideas. They need encouragement, inspiration and motivation to do something. What I am doing now is to push them to get motivation.

Rina (from ICYE Japan): Lead people to the place they ever gone. And make the youth to be responsible by being responsible to society.

Nga: First, I believe I can bring positive vibes to the people around me. Second, I believe people around me are amazing individuals who will certainly create positive impacts to society. Third, I believe our society is always evolving to become a better place. That's how I engage in our society.



After the interview...

Rina: I was almost crying after seeing how they became more active. I knew that most of the Japanese are not motivated to participate in this kind of stuff. But after the event, they became more active and opened up to the activities. I think it was amazing.

Thu: the bonding of the participants was also amazing. Making friends is an easy task in physical activity compared to online activity. However, I could see that the participants were starting their friendship.

Rina: I was very surprised that even in the difficult circumstance, they were trying to have connection with each other. Maybe, they tried harder than usual because it is online.

Nga: We gotta do more events like this!! We can't let our participants miss us too much!!!



A message for Japanese people who want to be involved in international volunteering!

My dear friends, what is your vision of the future? A world of peace? An environment free of pollution? A society with freedom of speech and self-expression? Whatever your vision is, "be the change you want to see in the world". Be active. Take action. You can start with small steps. Joining our international volunteering programs can be one of these small steps in your journey of realizing the world you want to see.

ICYE Vietnam Mai

"I See Your Engagement" was a great success.

After this event, I only thought "The possibilities are infinite!"

WHO declared that COVID-19 has delivered a critical situation all over the world. In Japan, a state of emergency was declared in April to prevent the spread of COVID-19. ICYE was forced to extend or suspend some of the programs. A plenty of emails were exchanged to notify every partner about the spread of COVID-19. Under such a situation, Mai, a coordinator in Asia Pacific region and also one of the members of ICYE Vietnam told me that “We are stronger together. all NCs are facing a difficult situation but it is important to remember that we are not alone. If any of you have any ideas on what we can do in this challenging situation”. This is how the “I see your engagement started. Unfortunately, it is hard to exchange international volunteer workers. However, we can exchange our cultural values and language online. Due to the hard work of Gha and other co-workers, the event finished in great success. We are now in a restricted position, but I clearly believe that “we do not have time to think about what we lose. We have to think how we can make the most of this opportunity with our resources”. The corporation and connections will be one of the greatest keys to fight this situation.

ICYE JAPAN Director Rina

↓ Let' s check I SEE YOUR ENGAGEMENT VIDEO!



*I SEE YOUR ENGAGEMENT Vol.2
Coming soon!!!*