

令和3年度 琉球大学

大学院農学研究科『国際農学プログラム』報告書

International Agricultural Program

Annual Report 2021

Message from the Program Coordinator

Today, our world faces an increasing myriad of demands and challenges in agricultural production, food security, and rural development. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), key priorities are to achieve a world without hunger, malnutrition, and poverty in a sustainable manner. The University of the Ryukyus is situated in subtropical Okinawa Prefecture, the southernmost part of Japan, connecting easily with the tropical worlds of Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Pacific regions. Faculty of Agriculture, the first faculty established in the university, provides diverse majors ranging from an undergraduate level to doctoral programs. As a result, students and researchers have opportunities to obtain agricultural technologies, farming skills, food production technologies, and professional knowledges related to the fields of agricultural marketing, farm management and even rural tourism.

The International Agriculture Program (IAP) was initiated in 2011 to accomplish two missions of the Graduate School of the Faculty of Agriculture. One of the missions is to “nurture talent adaptive to a changing environment and be versatile to play a vital role in a society of diversity.” Another is to “equip our students with professional skills for developing high technologies and academic capabilities for a sustainable use of agro-biological resources based on a global view.”

This program consists of an international internship in summer and a winter course to invite the students and professors from partner universities to visit our campus in Okinawa. In this yearly program, two courses of agricultural sciences in English and one course of English Conversation are provided to enhance students’ communication skills in English. In summer, students are dispatched to our partnership universities to conduct a short-term project abroad. In winter course, we invite students and professors who have directly interacted with our students in the summer internship to Okinawa. In addition, a study tour in the north of Okinawa Island, and usually an international workshop take place.

Since 2020, the world has experienced a tumultuous year and it was shut down due to pandemic coronavirus. This program also had to stop dispatching our students to the oversea countries. Instead, an international seminar (see Part 1 for details) was provided to our IAP participants and students from the partner universities. In 2021, we had five students participate in the IAP. In addition, 15 students from IPB University, Khon Kaen University, Ruhuna University (five students from each university), participated in our international seminar. In September 2021, IAP participants gave their final reports and received comments from the participants from the University of the Ryukyus, and our partner universities.

Finally, as the present program coordinator, I would like to express my sincere

appreciation to the professors, students, administrative staff, Foreign Language Education Unit and International Affairs Division of the University of the Ryukyus for their invaluable support and cooperation. I also greatly appreciate all the supports from our partnership universities, IPB University, Khon Kaen University, and Ruhuna University. My special thanks are addressed to the dean, Prof. Koji Wada and Vice Dean, Prof. Teruko Konishi for their strong leadership and very insightful advice, which have greatly improved the outcome of this program. I am also very looking forward to further support and cooperation for the development of this program.

International Agricultural Program Coordinator: Dr. Bixia Chen
Associate Professor, Faculty of Agriculture, University of the Ryukyus

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第 1 部 Schedule of 2021 IAP Virtual Exchange Program

Schedule of 2021 IAP Virtual Exchange Program

University of the Ryukyus, IPB University, Ruhuna University, Khon Kaen University

September 14th-24th (Online-Zoom)

Date and Time (Japan Standard Time)	Activity		Time	Responsible Person	Remarks
Sept 14(Tue) 16:30~18:00	Welcome ceremony Orientation of the program Orientation of group activities	Welcome address	10m	Prof. Teruko Konishi	Vice Dean, Faculty of Agriculture
		Introduction of virtual program	10m	Dr. Bixia Chen	IAP Coordinator
		Introduction of students	30m	Student participant	
		Orientation of group activities	10m	Dr. Bixia Chen	IAP Coordinator
		Group students and ice breakers	10m	Dr. Bixia Chen	IAP Coordinator
		Country and university introduction	20m	University team	
Sept 17(Fri) 16:30~18:00	Group activities	Ice breakers, Exchange of campus life	30m	Supervisors Group 1: Ms. Krachao Group 2: Ms. Rupasinghe Group 3: Dr. Sawitree Group 4: Dr. Chen Group 5: Dr. Chen	Supervisors Group 1: Coordinator (IPB) Group 2: Coordinator (Ruhuna) Group 3: Coordinator (KKU) Group 4: Coordinator (Ryudai) Group 5: Coordinator (Ryudai)
		Discussion of presentation topic	40m		
		Checking progress	20m		
Sept 22 (Wed) 16:30~18:00	Group activities	Ice breakers, Exchange of research life	30m	Supervisors Group 1: Ms. Fatma Group 2: Ms. Rupasinghe Group 3: Ms. Krachao Group 4: Dr. Chen Group 5: Dr. Chen	Supervisors Group 1: Coordinator (IPB) Group 2: Coordinator (Ruhuna) Group 3: Coordinator (KKU) Group 4: Coordinator (Ryudai) Group 5: Coordinator (Ryudai)
		Group discussion and preparation for final presentation	40m		
		Checking progress	20m		
Sept 24 (Fri) 16:30~18:30	Final presentation Closing remarks	Final Presentation	15m×5Groups	Dr. Bixia Chen	IAP Coordinator
		Break	10m		
		Q and A	25m		
		Closing remarks	10m	Prof. Kazuhito Sakai	Vice Dean, Faculty of Agriculture

Final Presentation - 2021 IAP Virtual Exchange Program

Group	Presenters	Presentation timetable Sept 24 (Fri) 16:30~18:30	Title
Group 1:	Mutyarsih Oryza.S*, Dita Maulina Fauziah, Fumi Higashi, Tharani Thirunavukkarasu	16:30~16:50	The impact of pandemic (covid-19) on agriculture in developing countries (Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka) and developed countries (Japan)
Group 2	Tanawat Wongsa*, Shiran Pallewatta, Vita Sindiya, Siba Naoko	16:50~17:10	A resource of renewable energy, Is it better way to new world?
Group 3	<u>Ms. Maneerut Maka*</u> , <u>MDS Samaraweera</u> , <u>Refianto Damai</u> <u>Darmawan Yumika</u> , <u>Naomasa</u>	17:10~17:30	Impact of air pollution in Asia & way forward (Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka)
Group 5	Maria anugerah*, Tamaki Masahi*, Akila Herath, Theerapat Kheawkanha	17:30~17:50	Food Loss and Food Waste Awareness in 4 Countries
Group 4	<u>Nurul Iswari*</u> , <u>Ayaka Isa</u> , <u>Jirapong Yangklang</u> , <u>Pamali Mathota</u>	17:50~18:10	Climate Change & Agriculture: Adaptations and Sustainable Land Practices
	Prof. Kazuhito Sakai (Vice Dean, Faculty of Agriculture)	18:10~18:20	Closing Remark

Note: * Group leaders

第 2 部 Final Report and Online Exchange

2.1 Final Report

第2部 Final Report and Online Exchange

2.2 Online Exchange (Screenshots)

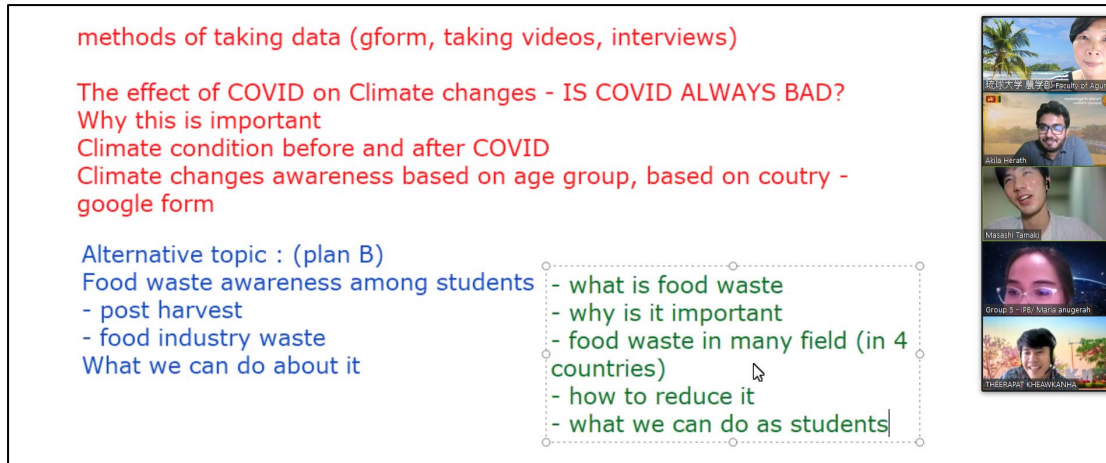


Figure 1 Online group discussion

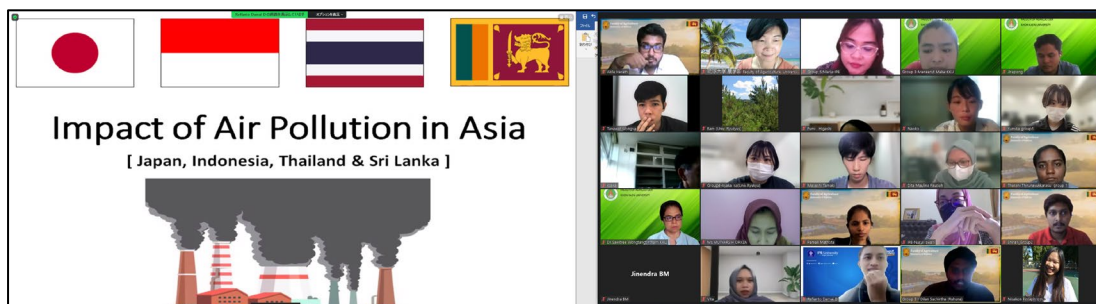


Figure 2 Group members' online meeting for presentation preparation



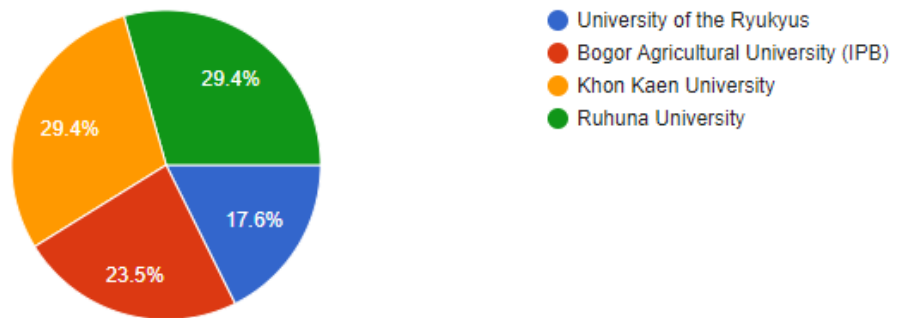
Figure 3 Zoom snapshot of the opening remark given by Prof. Teruko Konishi

Part 3 A Report of Post Program Assessment of 2021 IAP Virtual Exchange

- A questionnaire survey was conducted on October 2021
- Seventeen copies of survey reports were collected from the total 20 participants
- This questionnaire consist of 14 choice question and two open-ended questions

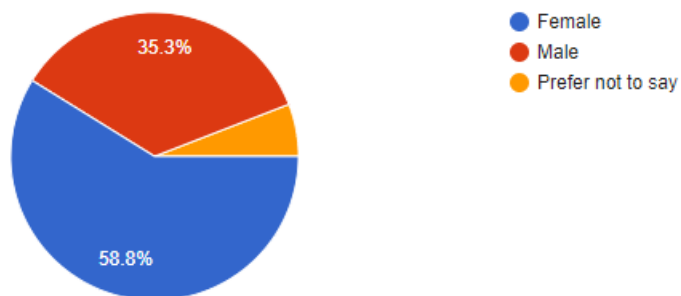
1. Your university name

17 件の回答



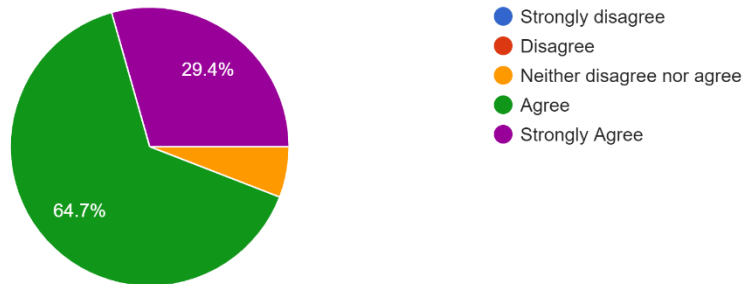
2. Your gender

17 件の回答



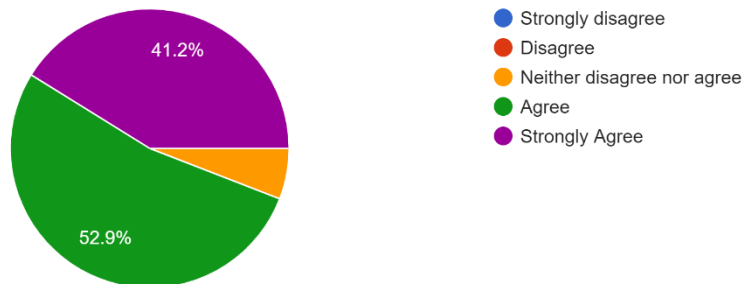
3. Cross-Cultural Communication: Imagine you are talking to people whose native language is different from yours. To what extent do you agree with the following statements: I carefully observe their reactions (face and/or body).

異なる文化背景を持つ人や自分とは異なる母語を話す人と交流する時、彼らの反応（言語的／非言語的）を注意深く観察する。



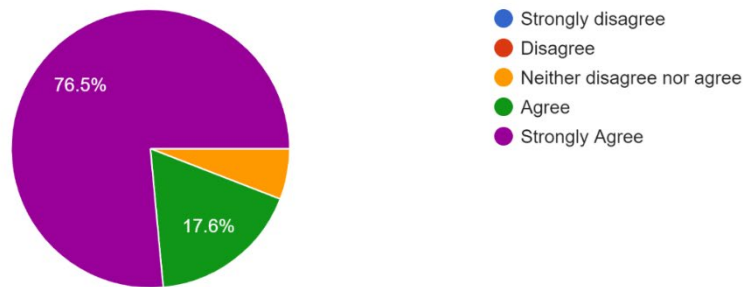
4. Cross-Cultural Communication: Imagine you are talking to people whose native language is different from yours. To what extent do you agree with the following statements: I frequently check that we are understanding each other correctly.

異なる文化背景を持つ人や自分とは異なる母語を話す人と交流する時、お互いに正しく理解し合えているか、頻繁に確認する。



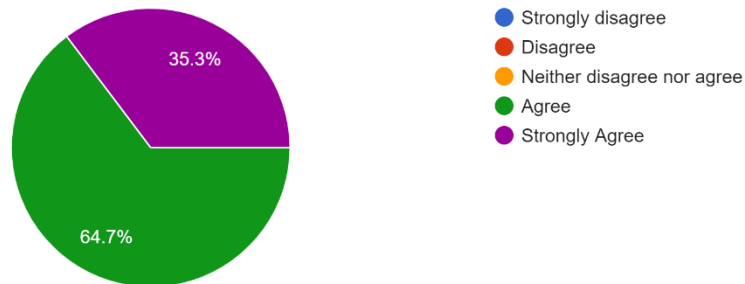
5. Cross-Cultural Communication: Imagine you are talking to people whose native language is different from yours. To what extent do you agree with the following statements: I listen carefully to what they say.

異なる文化背景を持つ人や自分とは異なる母語を話す人と交流する時、以下の記述にどの程度同意しますか。相手の話をよく聞いている。



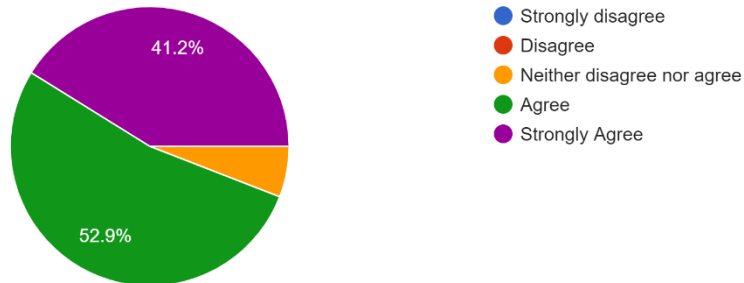
6. Cross-Cultural Communication: Imagine you are talking to people whose native language is different from yours. To what extent do you agree with the following statements: I choose and pronounce my words carefully.

異なる文化背景を持つ人や自分とは異なる母語を話す人と交流する時、はっきりと発音し、使う言葉に注意する。(例：複雑な単語や慣用句は避ける)



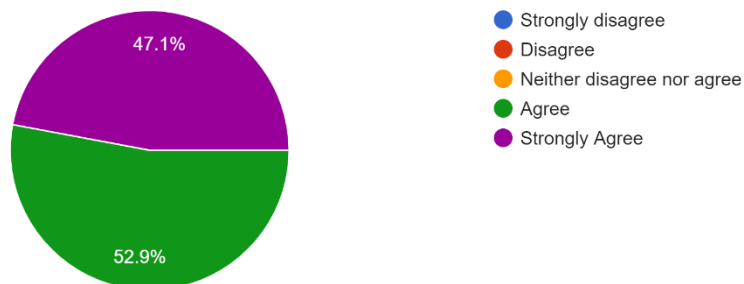
7. Cross-Cultural Communication: Imagine you are talking to people whose native language is different from yours. To what extent do you agree with the following statements: I give concrete examples to explain my ideas.

異文化コミュニケーション。あなたの母国語とは異なる言語を話す人々と話しているところを想像してみてください。あなたは次のような意見にどの程度同意しますか。自分の考えを説明するために、具体的な例を挙げる。



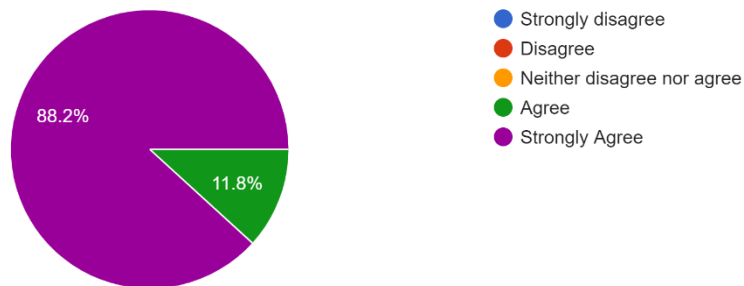
8. Cross-Cultural Communication: Imagine you are talking to people whose native language is different from yours. To what extent do you agree with the following statements: I explain things very carefully.

異文化コミュニケーション。あなたの母国語とは異なる言語を話す人々と話しているところを想像してみてください。あなたは次のような発言にどの程度同意しますか。私は物事をとても丁寧に説明する。



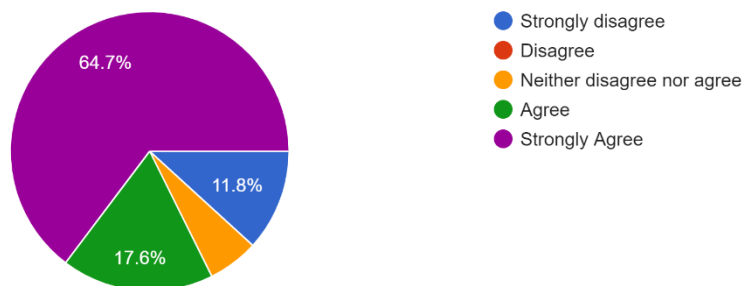
9. Cross-Cultural Communication: Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: I like to learn about people from other cultures so that we can work together.

異文化コミュニケーション。以下の記述にどの程度同意するか、または同意しないかをお答えください。私は、一緒に仕事ができるように、他の文化の人々について学ぶことが好きだ。

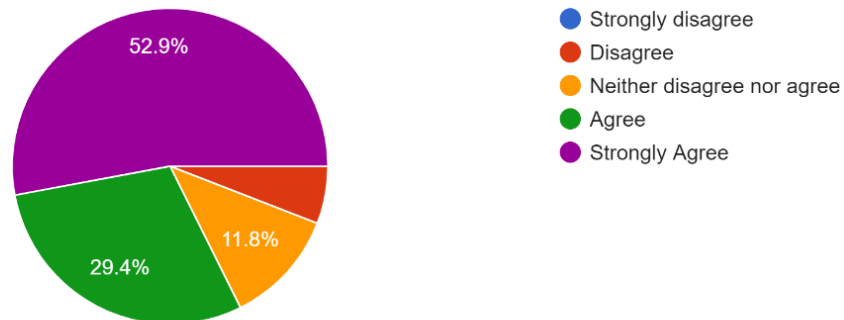


10. Cross-Cultural Communication: Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: I am confident that I can produce work with people from other places around the globe.

異文化間コミュニケーション。以下の記述に対して、あなたはどの程度同意しているか、または同意していないかを示してください。私は、世界の他の場所から来た人々と仕事を作り出すことができると確信している。

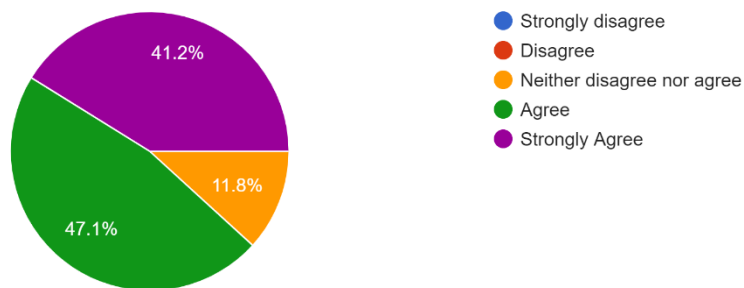


11. Cross-Cultural Communication: Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: I am able to adjust to new people, places, and situations. 異文化コミュニケーション：以下の記述にどの程度同意するか、または同意しないかを示してください。私は、新しい人、場所、状況に適応することができる。

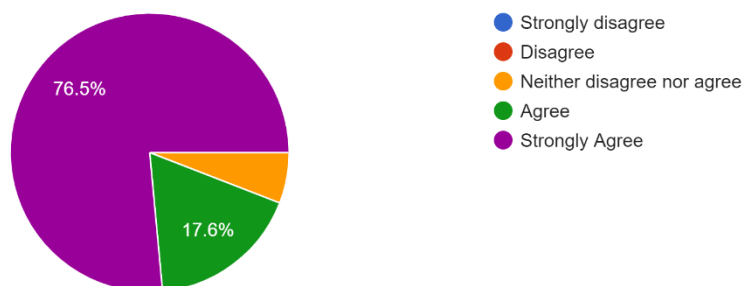


12. Cross-Cultural Communication: Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements: I can work productively with people whose cultural background is different from mine.

異文化間コミュニケーション。以下の記述にどの程度同意するか、または同意しないかを示してください。私は、自分とは異なる文化的背景を持つ人々と生産的に働くことができる。

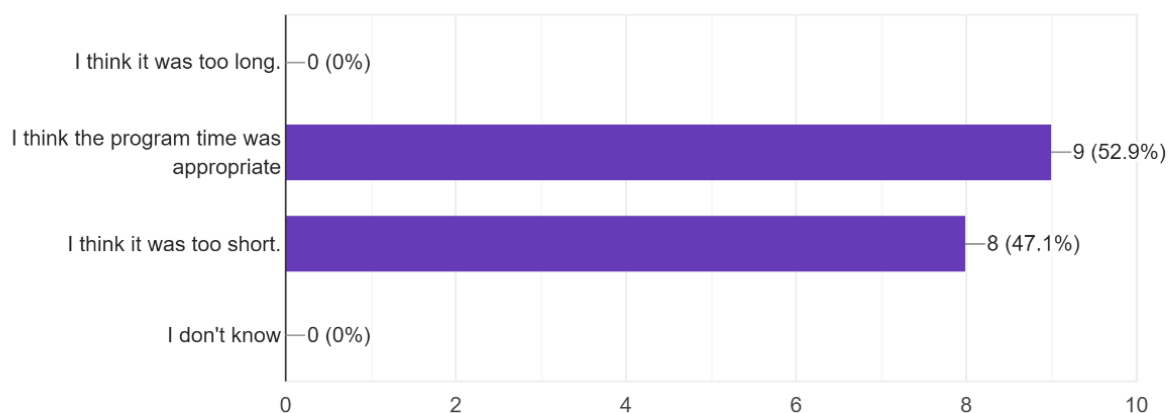


13. Satisfaction with Virtual Exchange: I would recommend Ryudai IAP to other students オンライン交流会の満足度 について：Ryudai IAP を他の学生に勧めたい



14. Program activities: Please select one answer best reflecting your assessment of virtual program time (hours or days)

プログラムの活動：オンライン交流会の時間(時間または日数)の評価について、最も適切なものを1つ選んでください。



15. Please give your comments regarding this 2021 IAP Virtual Program

Summary:

- I think this program is great because it gives insights to students from different countries, universities, and majors.
- It was a good chance for me to have international exchange for the first time.
- It was good for me to practice my English.

まとめ:

- このプログラムは、様々な国、様々な大学から来た、様々な専攻の学生にも知見を与えることができ、とても良いと思います。
- 初めての国際交流のチャンスでよかったです。
- 英語の練習ができてよかったです。

Individual responses:

- I really enjoyed joining the program and getting all the stories about other countries and cultures
- It was my first international academic experience, and it was a really great program. The program has well guided me for the future works of my academic life. Really wished we could have been there physically. Many thanks to the organizing committee.
- It was a good platform to obtain experiences of international exposure
- I really love the diverse culture! I like to get to know new friends with diverse majors.
- I think this program is very good because it can add insight for students from various countries and universities countries and can learn how to organize teams from different countries.
- This is a good program. Although it was held for the first time, everything went well.
- The program is very interesting
- This program is a good exchange program, I would like to give a big thank to the organizing university for the opportunity.
- I wanted to be informed of the 2021 IAP Virtual Program as soon as possible.
- I could not participate some days, but I was able to work with everyone and reconfirm my own country through information from another country.
- This program is very good.
- I think my lack of English conversation skills put a lot of strain on the members of the group. However, the experience of international exchange with people of my own age was a very good one.
- Thank to IAP for giving me such a great experience
- I'm really grateful to the IAP for this opportunity
- It was a great program.
- Thanks to all the coordinators of the IAP Virtual Program. I am very grateful to get the opportunity to join this great program. This program has allowed me to meet new friends from different backgrounds and build a new network. I could observe and learn about different perspectives through discussion as well as other countries' cultures. This program also allowed me to improve my English skill, my cooperation and management ability, and also boost my confidence. Through the final presentation event, my knowledge has been widened by the amazing job of all the groups which have delivered interesting and profound topics and material as well as the good feedback from the audiences and the coordinators. IAP Virtual Program has become an unforgettable experience and will lead to many opportunities in the future.
- Great opportunity and it gave a platform to gain, share and enhance the knowledge, and gave an opportunity to cross-cultural communication.

16. Please write down your suggestions to help us improve this virtual exchange program next year.

Summary:

- Content: More group activities and longer program time are needed.

Supplementary lectures on current topics by lecturers from various universities are needed.

- Administration: It would be better if all breakout session participants could be called back to the main session once the breakout room discussion is over.

It would be helpful to have a manual or leaflet that participants can refer to know the background and goals of the program.

- Prior learning: Speaking was not a problem with the help of translation software, but it would have been better if we could have practiced listening beforehand, since listening is largely dependent on individual ability.

まとめ：

- **内容：**グループ活動を増やし、プログラムの時間を延長してほしい。
各大学の講師による時事的なテーマについての補足講義が必要です。
- **運営：**ブレイクルームのディスカッションがおわったら、すべての分科会参加者をメインセッションに呼び戻すことができれば、より良くなると思います。
プログラムの背景や目標を知るために、参加者が参照できるマニュアルやリーフレットがあると助かります。
- **事前学習：**スピーキングは翻訳ソフトの助けを借りて問題なかったが、リスニングは個人の能力に大きく左右されるので、事前にリスニングの練習ができればよかった。

Individual Responses:

- I think it would be better to have a longer program like three weeks I guess, so the participants can prepare the presentation better
- Icebreaking sessions worked well. And it will be better, if you can regather all breakout room participants back to the main session before ending the meeting. Otherwise, people will be a little confused about whether to leave the meeting or stay until the host end it.
- Add some academic lessons, such as one or two lecturers
- I suggest for the further program it shall be arranged and managed carefully, such as the opening and the introduction. I think Dr Bixia Chen needs an assistant.
- In the future it is possible for team advisors to better match the schedule so that they can monitor the team better.
- If there is no covid-19 epidemic, I want you to organize a face-to-face event in Japan.
- Maybe add the number of participating students
- This program is online form by Zoom. I think if the Covid situation will deceased cases that we should make this event on-site

- I thought we should practice English more.
- There was a lot of autonomy, and we were able to exchange a lot of information, but I would like to know the schedule a week in advance.
- This program is so good. So, I don't have any further suggestions.
- Speaking was no problem with the help of a translator, but listening was largely dependent on individual ability, so it would have been better if we could have practiced listening beforehand.
- The time is too short
- If it is a physical exchanging program that would be more productive than virtual exchanging
- Give more activities to students and arrange more meetings.
- I think it will be great if the program was conducted for a longer time. So the participants can explore more aspects and prepare better for the presentation. And also, it will be helpful if there is a program manual book or leaflet that can be referred by the participant to know the background and goal of the program. I think it will be more focused and structured if the program gives a certain big theme each year. Supplementary lecture from a lecturer from each university about current topics is strongly needed to give the big picture and foundation to the participants. I think it will be great too if the committee can give the participants a certificate as a commemoration that could be cherished.
- Give more group activities and time of the program