

Yadama Machi Junior Delegation Report

A group of 14, Yadama Machi Junior Delegation, consisting of nine of the 2nd grade of Yadama Machi Junior high school, two of the 2nd grade of Yadama Machi high school and three of the group leaders visited Zeist city in the Netherlands for 11 days from 6 to 16 January 2013.

A leader of the delegation, Yutaka Sato who is vice-principal of Toyomane Junior High school and they left Yadama Machi on 6 January. With KLM's generous support, after arrival in the Narita airport, they made an in-flight tour inspection, where they cannot usually see, with a great interest.

The delegation arrived in Amsterdam on 7 January and were welcomed by Chairman Mr. Stinsma of International Foundation, De Hofreis, Mr. & Mrs. Kadokawa who reside in Zeist and a guide, Ms. Chima Yamaguchi followed by the visit of Anne Frank House.

On 8 January, they visited CLZ school and were accorded a tremendous welcome at the party. In the 8th afternoon, they made a courtesy visit to Zeist City Hall where they were welcomed by the mayor, Jansen and learn about the Zeist city. They became fascinated with the visit to Zeist castle, which is one of the beautiful buildings of the Middle Ages. In the evening, the students had a first meeting with each host family at the CLZ school and stayed at each host family house.

During two days class on 9th and 10th January, the students enjoyed communicating with Dutch students in English and Dutch with their gesturing.

Farewell party was held in the 10th evening and a whole lot of people attended the party including the school related people and host families. At the party, the delegation introduced each school in Yadama Machi, performed Karate and Wadatsumi song. Both school students enjoyed each other and deepen a friendship at the disco party afterwards.

On 11th January, the delegation visited Japanese school in Amsterdam and there were more conversation because they communicated in their mother tongue in a foreign country. In the afternoon they visited the Japanese Embassy in Hague city.

On 12th January, the delegation visited State Hermitage Museum, National Museum and Zaanse Schans Museum.

They spent a whole day together with their host families on 13th January.

On 14th January, the day of their departure, it was emotional moment to say goodbye to all people who have helped them out during their stay in the Netherlands. The delegation left for Japan with wonderful experiences and friendships.

Feedback

Leader of the delegation, Yutaka Sato, vice-principal of Toyomane Junior High school deputy:

Before visiting the Netherlands, the delegation set the goals of "Teamwork which helps each other", "Footwork which actively moves" and "Broad network to strengthen people's bond through the exchange program in the Netherlands". I was impressed by the students who were proactively exchanged communication everyday

setting aside their fear of the uncertainty from the earthquake. There are many positive feedback from their host family such as " Staying for seven days is too short. We wanted them to stay for a couple of weeks." "Japanese students are all polite and cheerful."

Junior High School – Takuro Kajiyama

"I was constantly surprised about the differences in school culture"

I was very surprised by the state of the class and the school rules. There is no school uniform, everyone goes to school in their own clothes. It was very shocking to see that you can bring snacks and juice and a mobile phone to school. During class, each student could bring their (lap top) computer, too. In computer class, it was fun to learn by using the internet freely.

Compared to the Japanese school, the contents of teaching, the rules and school culture are quite different. All in all it was a very good experience for me.

Junior High School – Juna Sasaki

"I will not forget the feeling of gratitude if I see them again"

I felt anxious at the beginning and was so nervous that if somebody asked me a question, I could not answer properly. However, by making cup cakes together and dancing, I was able to enjoy a very special experience.

On the last day, my host mother gave me a hug and said that she is very happy to have me as her host daughter. My host friend Iris did not touch her breakfast, and looked very sad. When boarding into the bus I gave a last hug to my host family and friends and kept waving until we could not see them anymore. I would like to see my host family again to say "thank you".

And more