

Triangular Relationship between Canada, Japan and Cambodia

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1. Introduction

My ideal internship would be that in which we Japanese students work as a pipeline between a Japanese and a Canadian organization, giving Hygiene education to local people in Cambodia. Considering Japan's role in the 21st century (see chapter2), this internship experience will successfully help us involve ourselves in working together toward coexistence with all countries. In addition, Canada and Japan will benefit from the project in terms of cross-cultural acceptance from communication experience. Moreover, Cambodia has a lot of young people. About 50 percent of its population is younger than 25 years old according to the World Factbook. When it succeeds in overcoming a tough situation inside the country and, for example, if the local are fully aware of hygiene issues, it leads more advance on Cambodia and they will perhaps grow to be on equal terms with Canada and Japan. I would like to advocate a triangular relationship between Canada, Japan and Cambodia.

2. Japan's role in the global community in the 21st century

Japan will play a significant role in contributing to the global community by working on the Sustainable Development Goals in the 21st century. According to the SDGs, we should promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. We also

should strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Back in the 20th century, the world experienced W.W.I and II and the Cold War. Each country strived for its own national benefit, not for global benefit. As a result, some of the most badly damaged countries are still poor and weak.

Japan succeeded in rehabilitating itself after W.W.II although right after the devastation it was totally impossible to imagine what Japan is today. It was an important fact that Japanese people tried very hard to develop and step forward and were hardworking. However, this was not the only reason for Japan's success. This success was achieved thanks to international support. International cooperation was an indispensable factor.

For these reasons, we should make an effort to lessen disparity among countries with international partners. Here I would like to take Cambodia as an example.

3. Hygiene education and cross-cultural understanding

Working in a triangular relationship, hygiene education and cross-cultural understanding are a key point.

For one thing, Cambodia has a lot of hygiene problems. For instance, some people

still don't have enough toilets at home and schools and have no habit of washing their hands before meals, so this causes transmission of diseases. Others don't have access to clean water. Children waste their time they are supposed to study in school by going to a distant place to get water and vulnerable infants suffer from water contaminated by harmful bacteria. If this situation is improved, Cambodia can focus on its economy and young people can become a drive force for more achievement.

For another, we Japanese students should work together with people from many other backgrounds. Canada is a mixed society in terms of a variety of cultures. Canadian organizations accept people from different backgrounds and workers learn to get along with each other. A wide range of ideas are generated from the minds of workers from different backgrounds. We rarely encounter such a situation in Japan, where it is recognized important to keep harmony by keeping silent and by not emphasizing one's opinion too much. Thus we can realize how important it is to appreciate the ways of their international partners without stereotyping or insisting on conventional ways, even though the partners' idea may seem to be minor and is not in common in the other partner's society. Canadians can also become more culturally knowledgeable and respect even minority cultures, such as Japanese and Cambodian culture, which, in turn, will lead Canadians to develop a more open-minded attitude to

other cultures.

4. Triangular relationship between Canada, Japan and Cambodia

Japanese NGO TFSR-Kyoto (Tools For Self Reliance-Kyoto) is disseminating technology of filtering dirty water which local people stock in holes on a ground and is teaching how to prevent and cope with dengue fever in Cambodia. Canadian organization Samaritan's Purse Canada also is addressing hygiene problems in Cambodia by providing local families with filters to give them access to clean drinking water.

Both of the Japanese and the Canadian organization successfully address the same kind of Cambodian issues. Therefore, the key is that if they cooperate with each other, it will generate many more positive results than they individually work.

How can we connect the Japanese and the Canadian organization? What kind of positive results can we expect?

The answer for the first question is an internship. They have not experienced a joint activity and do not know each other, so a joint internship project can be a good chance to broaden their horizon. They will try hard to interact with us internship students because we need a lot of help. As a result, we can work as a pipeline between these

organizations and make a wonderful triangular relationship between Canada, Japan and Cambodia.

As for the answer for the second question, in addition to improvement on hygiene situation in Cambodia and better cross-cultural understanding on Canadians and Japanese (see chapter3), we Japanese internship students can learn to communicate in English. Under the circumstance Canadians, Japanese and Cambodians all have a shared goal, even though we do not have confidence in English, we will try to make ourselves understood toward success in our project in Cambodia. This kind of active attitude is required for Japanese when working with international partners in various aspects.

Furthermore, if the global community is filled with a triangular relationship, we will come to sustain peaceful coexistence with everyone, including minority people. This is why I would like to join a "triangular relationship"-internship which plays a pipeline role in connecting a Canadian and a Japanese organization and promotes relation between Canada, Japan and Cambodia. (within 1000words)

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