



Our school interacted with Anyang foreign language high school to discuss 4 themes, SDGs (poverty, environment, gender) and the relationship between Korea and Japan. SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Japan has domestic problems about poverty, environment and gender. Some of them are similar to those of Korea. It is important to compare each country's problem and explore the solutions between approximately two countries as a first step. On the other hand, there are serious political problems to solve between them. It is very precious that young people like us consider the solution to improve the relationship together.

## Relationship between Korea and Japan

### 《About Takumi Asakawa》

#### I. Introduction

Takumi Asakawa nurtured and afforested as a staff member of Governor General to make Shuyama green in Korea was under Japanese colony. On the other hand, he was a Japanese who loved and studied the culture grown in the climate of the Korea. At the time that many Japanese people were arrogant, he was one of the few Japanese loved by Koreans. For high school students who will live in the global world in the future and will be active in a different cultural society, it will be very meaningful to learn how to live Takumi Asakawa as a sample to be appreciated by locals. From that reason, Takumi Asakawa was selected as a theme.



#### II. The reason why he was loved

Why was Takumi Asakawa able to be so friendly to Koreans, why is he even still loved by Koreans. In contrast, Japanese and Korean students summarized the actions and spirits of Takumi Asakawa in five key words "courage", "belief", "respect", "philanthropy" and "sacrifice". And those who raised the spirit of Takumi Asakawa were "family love" and added speculation that it is "Methodist" with a motto of Christianity, especially philanthropy. It was reported that there are many things to learn from Takumi Asakawa's action that touched people without discrimination and prejudice.

### 《Suggestion from high school student》

Moreover, we also discussed how we can improve the relationship between Korea and Japan based on discovering from Asakawa.

#### I. Why do anti-Japanese or Korean emotions occur?

While we interacted with Korean students, we realized there are quite different receptions and views between Korea and Japan. We wondered what the cause of these differences is. We thought that education of history and the news media have great influences on these emotions. We guess almost people in Japan and Korea get information from them.

#### II. Proposal of solution

We proposed several solutions relating to cause of anti-Japanese or Korean emotions.

EDUCATION	CULTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make each of two countries' history textbooks, and combine them together.</li> <li>It is important that the both countries' perceptions are included and the readers can compare them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interact through pop culture such as SNS, K-pop, and Japanese anime more actively.</li> <li>It is necessary to remove prejudice against each country. Cultural interaction is an effective way to achieve it.</li> </ul>
MEDIA	POLITICS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compare the news of Japanese media with that of Korean media.</li> <li>We should not believe what our news media says. Comparing both countries' news would exclude prejudice and misunderstanding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share the territory of Takeshima between Japan and Korea together.</li> <li>The historical reception of both countries are still different. Compromise is more significant than a meaningless argument.</li> </ul>

## SDGs

### I. Present condition

Relative poverty is now a problem in Japan and Korea. In Japan, 16.1% of people are in poverty. In other words, one in six people is poor. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> among the OECD member countries. Especially in Japan, poverty in one-parent families is serious. About 54.6% one-parent families are poverty. On the other hand, 13.8% of Koreans are in poverty in Korea. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> among in the OECD member countries. Especially in Korea, the poverty of the elderly stands out. About 49% of the elderly are poverty, which is an overwhelmingly high number among the OECD member countries.



In addition, at the gender group discussed young girls are raped in Korea and there are few women in managerial positions in Japan. At the environmental group discussed littering in Korea and the amount of garbage incineration in Japan.

### II. Solutions

From social aspects, there are many ways to help those in poverty by making different rules and social welfare and non-profitable organization Here are some examples to solve poverty problems in each country. In Korea, it is important that we solve poverty problems among elders. While in Japan, it is important to solve poverty among single parent families.

#### Korea

- More investment in public pension system.
- Establish a nursing care system ran by the government that allow elders to live with substantial living standards

#### Japan

- Organizing social welfare.
  - Ex: Help children financially to go to school. Such as higher schoarships
  - Help one parenting families through cheaper child care and higher subsidy.
- Expand employment rate.
  - Not judging people from educational background.

From mental aspects, it is important that people stay encouraging, motivated and positive to deviate from poverty line. It is also important that people around be aware of such social problem, and be willing to help those in trouble.

## Conclusion

Through this interaction program we were able to find different solutions for the SDGs topics and relationships between Japan and Korea. During the discussions, we faced the difference amongst the way we think between two countries. This was seen especially when we discussed the historical relationship of Japan and Korea. It was not an easy task to accept each other's way of thinking. However, through this program, we were able to understand how to communicate in order to understand each other. Although we are still learning, we hope to continue this interaction program and make use of it next year too. Starting from Japan and Korea, we would like to move our perspective to the world and be an opportunity to help countries talk more peacefully and flexibly when facing a common obstacle.

## References

- <http://www.oecd.org/social/income-distribution-database.html>
- <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>