

TEA 2017



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Kyoto, Japan

Compiled by Nono Yamada
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Introducing the TEA 2017 planners/ staff



From left to right: David (JB Hong Kong), Rei (JB Indonesia), Nono (JB Japan), Reiko (JB Japan), Kohta (JB Japan)

Description of the workshop

TEA (Teamwork of East Asia) is the annual Junior Branch workshop, which aims to strengthen Junior Branch in Asia Pacific region through JB training: by encouraging self-development, knowledge acquisition, international cooperation and active participation of JBs. First started in Guangzhou, China in 2011, with participants from JB Japan, China and Mongolia, this workshop used to focus on cultural understanding among JBs from East Asian countries. However, after having a difficult time communicating with JBs from East Asian countries due to their lack of well-experienced JBs, JB Japan has been trying to team up with JBs of other Asian countries to run the workshop. Since 2015, TEA became a workshop that not only JBs from East Asian countries can take part in, JB from other Asian countries are also welcomed to join. Throughout these years, TEA was held in various Asian countries such as Vietnam and Indonesia. In this year, 2017, TEA was held in Kyoto, Japan, with 33 participants from 5 different countries, Japan, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Mongolia. Having the participants from JB Indonesia and Vietnam which has been developing and continuing growing recently was surely one of the huge successes of this year's TEA. Hearing their stories of both

their successes and failures greatly helped us to think critically about our local and national Junior Branch and motivated us to have more eager attitudes towards development of our own Junior Branch. Moreover, having the participants from JB Hong Kong and Mongolia was also one of the major successes we had at the workshop. It provided us with a new big step to re-establish a sustainable relationship with the neighborhood countries in order to work together to develop Junior Branch in the neighborhood.

We greatly believe that the multicultural environment at TEA allows us to always meet people who have different backgrounds and diverse ideas with the same passion about CISV and Junior Branch. Sharing stories of our own Junior Branch, seeking to solve problems each country has and working together towards the same goals are some of the best parts of the workshop that bring us great possibilities of learning more about Junior Branch and developing ourselves to be a global citizen which CISV always inspires us to be. Both the planners and the participants had a great experience at the workshop and we hope that they will take back everything they have learned at the workshop to their home and share them to their local and national Junior Branch for their further development. Finally, we hope that this workshop will continue be a precious experience for everyone who participates and will keep inspiring participants to be an active global citizen with their open mindedness and flexibility.

Goals and objectives of TEA 2017

Every year at the workshop, we put emphasis on training participants through inspiring their leadership skills and providing them with new attitudes, skills and knowledge in order to help them successfully run Junior Branch in their country. Moreover, in TEA 2017, we also made it a goal to educate the participants to gain a better understanding of CISV's four educational content areas and also to develop their activity-planning skills. Major emphasis was put on each educational content area and how they are used to plan and develop activities within CISV. In addition, we also aimed to create a more concrete and sustainable relationship between Asian JBs through understanding each other at the workshop and solve both local and global problems together in order to develop Junior Branch in our neighborhood.

Participants at TEA 2017

At the workshop, we had 33 participants from 5 different countries: Japan, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Mongolia. It was very nice and inspiring to see the participants coming from different backgrounds and places, all being so passionate about Junior Branch and its future development.

Highlights of TEA 2017

1. JB Introduction



The first activity of the workshop served as an introduction to the participants about CISV and Junior Branch. Through the introduction, the participants gained a better understanding of CISV Statement of Educational Purpose, which is to educate and inspire action for a more just and peaceful world, and how we should actually contribute to the achievement of this purpose. We also talked about Junior Branch Statement of Purpose, Essentials and Goals and discussed what should be done to achieve these purposes, essentials and goals of Junior Branch. During the introduction session, we also asked the participants in each country to draw an imaginary person that represents their Junior Branch and write down their ability, hobbies and weakness. The participants had great opportunities to learn about Junior Branch in other countries and see how their Junior Branch is related to each other. We believe that this introduction activity greatly helped them to have more eager attitude to get involved in CISV and Junior Branch both nationally and internationally.

2. Planning Introduction



In addition to the Junior Branch introduction, we also had a planning introduction activity where we encouraged the participants to develop and practice comprehensive activity-planning skills. This introduction activity focused on providing the participants with new skills, tools and elements that prepare them to plan activities for their local and national Junior Branch. We believe that in order to get the best results and have the biggest impacts, it is important that people have the right attitudes, skills and knowledge to run successful activities and therefore at the workshop, we made sure that everyone was at the same level and would gain comprehensive skills of activity-planning. We talked about all the important elements such as Golden Circles, ASK, Learning by doing and DRGA, which we always use when we plan activities and shows them how they are all related and important in order to run successful activities. Moreover, we also talked about CISV's four educational content areas and how they are used to plan and develop activities within CISV. The participants also had an opportunity to discuss in-depth what peace education and globalization mean to them, and how CISV's peace education can help us work towards peace and better cope with globalization. Through providing the participants with important attitudes, skills and knowledge, we explored how we can contribute to facilitating peace and changes through planning activities, both locally and as a global citizen.

3. Focusing on CISV's Four Educational Content Areas



As a way to inspire the participants to follow CISV's peace educational approach, we prepared four activities about CISV's four educational content areas. Each activity focused on each of CISV's four educational content areas and we aimed to dive deeper into all four educational content areas through diverse perspectives. The contents of each activity are as follows:

- Sustainable Development

The first activity of this session focused on “Sustainable Development”. We explored the area of environmental sustainability and asked the participants to discuss issues of environmental responsibility relating to the global carbon emissions. Through identifying different actors on a local, national and global level, we encouraged the participants to discover their habits and behaviors that are detrimental to the environment. At the end of this activity, we invited the participants to make their own lifestyle changes for the future environment. The participants were also encouraged to form their own ideas and opinions about the issues of environmental sustainability happening in their own country and share them to the whole workshop.

- Diversity

In this activity, we explored the fields of cultural/social diversity and stereotypes. We asked the participants to discuss the issues of stereotypes and made them realize how stereotypes affect the self-perception and behaviors of people who are stereotyped. Stereotypes limit us from developing our great potentials, making choices about our own lives and achieving our future goals. We believe that this activity strongly inspired the participants to think about their own areas of prejudice, to identify how we develop our attitudes about others, and empowered them to take actions to reduce stereotypes in their own lives and in society. Through this activity, the participants also gained an ability to contribute ideas on how to apply what they have learned to everyday life.

- Conflict and Resolution

The activity about “Conflict and Resolution” focused on reflecting the importance of acknowledging cultural differences. We aimed the participants to understand what can be conflict and how resolutions can apply to different situations through dealing with the issues of cultural differences. Through discussing how we should react to the conflicts existed in our own lives and what should be done to solve the conflicts, we encouraged the participants to understand how we should react to the other people’s different perspectives and opinions. We believe that the participants gained abilities to resist creating conflicts from lack of understanding and also to respect cultural differences. At the end of this activity, we also talked about some cultural conflicts happening in our own country and discussed how we can solve them through applying what we have discussed.

- Human Rights

In this activity, we focused on this year’s CISV educational theme, “Human Rights”. Through introducing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights set by United Nations, we explored the fields of human rights as the basic standards for humanity. In this activity, we aimed to make the participants understand that human right issues are very complex and debatable, and to show how supporting certain rights often imply putting other rights at the risk. The participants were greatly encouraged to form their own opinions about controversial topics of human rights such as euthanasia and hate speech, and to understand how people have different opinions and arguments to support certain human rights. We wrapped up the activity by stating that it is always important to make sure we are not violating other people’s opinions and arguments when we run activities about human rights.

4. Planning Group



The third day of the workshop was for the participants to actually plan and run their own educational content activity using Golden Circles, ASK, Learning by doing and DRGA developed in our planning-activity introduction on the second day. We divided the participants into 4 different groups and each group planned an activity focused on each of CISV's educational content areas. This was a great opportunity for the participants to understand and develop the ASKs they have already gained within CISV and to fully understand the great usefulness of ASK, Learning by doing, DRGA and CISV's four educational content areas for planning and implementing peace educational activities. In addition, we also aimed to train the participants to develop their debriefing and evaluation styles. The participants learned about the importance of having a debriefing session after each activity has taken place and what steps and questions we should go through in order to successfully convince messages and achieve the goals and indications. Moreover, the participants also learned how evaluating after the activity helps us see how well we have delivered the messages to the audience and how this results can positively impact us to improve the way we plan and run activities. This session was surely a great opportunity for the participants to develop their planning-activity skills and learn all the essentials of planning, which would greatly strengthen the peace educational focus of their local and national Junior Branch.

5. Cultural Sharing Activity



Since we had a diverse mix of participants this year, we also had an activity where each country showed a little about their culture and share it with the whole workshop. Each country prepared a short presentation about their country and brought some snacks and sweets to share their culture with the participants from other countries. It was very interesting to experience each of their unique culture and see how our culture is very similar to each other. The participants from Vietnam and Mongolia also showed us a dance with the mix of their traditional and contemporary cultures. They showed us how the relationship between their traditional and contemporary cultures plays an important role in their country and explained how their cultural tourism market has been changing rapidly through its development. This cultural sharing activity helped us to have a better understanding of each country and culture, and allowed us to have a more concrete and sustainable relationship between Asian JBAs as well as creating an inclusive atmosphere between us. Everyone seems to have enjoyed the activity and it was very inspiring to see their willingness to explore other cultures and find some connections and ways to deal with different cultures and cooperate with them.

Conclusion

We strongly believe that this workshop was a huge success in all aspects. The participants had great opportunities to meet JBs from other Asian countries and train themselves to be more actively involved in CISV and Junior Branch through gaining new knowledge and experiences. Exchanging ideas and opinions of diverse topics inspired all the participants to gain their leadership skills, and also new attitudes, skills, and knowledge to run and develop Junior Branch in their country. The workshop was also a great opportunity for JB Japan to re-establish a sustainable relationship with each country and start cooperating together towards the same goals. Although running this year's TEA was very challenging for all of the planners due to having much more participants from very diverse places than usual and their different levels of knowledge about CISV and Junior Branch, we had a precious experience to challenge ourselves and try new things to make the workshop more inspiring and educational for the participants. We succeeded to achieve all the objectives and goals we set before the start of this workshop and therefore we can surely say that this year's TEA was one of the most successful and educational workshops of them all. It was a precious learning experience for both the planners and the participants and this could not have happened with the generous and kind helps from PACE Foundation. We would like to extend our gratitude to all people who have made this possible. We hope that TEA will continue to be held to inspire many Asian JBs to take actions together for our further development and more importantly for achieving our CISV goals.

