

THE 2015 YNU FIELD STUDY-TRIP

In the Philippines



A group of eight students and three professors from the Graduate school of International Social Sciences went on a field-study visit to the Philippines from February 19 to February 28, 2015

The study trip to the Philippines since its inception 2005 has produced fruitful for the student's research. After 10 years, we again participated in our IBLAW field study-trip with the theme "In Quests for a Sustainable, Prosperous and Peaceful World". Our team, consisting of eight students from Japan, Haiti, Korea and Vietnam, accompany with two professor, visited many agencies, authorities located in Metro Manila and Leyte Island.

List of Participants

Professors and Staff

	Surname	Given name	M/F	Nationality	
1	Kobayashi	Takaaki	M	Japan	Assoc.Prof
2	Takee	Tomoko	F	Japan	Assoc.Prof

Students

	Surname	Given name	M/F	Nationality	
1	Tran	Van Long	M	Vietnam	D2 (Group leader)
2	Kimura	Kayo	F	Japan	M1 Assistant G.Leader
3	Pontius	Erskine	F	Haiti	M2
4	Uto	Takayuki	M	Japan	M2
5	Tada	Katsunari	M	Japan	M2
6	Choi	Inchul	M	Korea	M1
7	Nozaki	Taira	M	Japan	U2
8	Kuwabara	Yohei	M	Japan	U1

Reports from students in our study trip are as follows:

REPORTS BY STUDENTS

GROUP REPORTS

The Japan International Cooperate Agency (JICA)

- **Date and Time: February 20, 09:00 – 11:00H**
- **Meeting place: 40/F Yuchengo Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819, Alaya Ave, Makati City**



The Japan International Cooperate Agency (JICA) is an agency of the government of Japan responsible for implementing Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries. In the Philippines, JICA has been one of key development partners since 1960s. JICA contributes to the Philippines by sharing Japan's technology and knowledge with the Filipinos.

At first in this session, JICA staffs gave us some basic information about JICA's cooperation to the Philippines. Table 1 below stands for the bilateral assistance to the Philippines and Table 2 is about technical cooperation to the Philippines.

Table 1: Bilateral Assistance to the Philippines (CY 2011)

Scheme	Net Disbursements (USD Million)
Grant Aid	32.76
TCP	61.16
Loan Aid	663.51

Source: Handout in the session.

Table 2: JICA's Technical Cooperation to the Philippines¹ as of 2012

Training Participants in Japan	34,873 people
Experts Dispatched	7,111 people
JOCV	1,521 people

Source: Handout in the session.



The government of Japan has the following three priority issues/areas on its ODA to the Philippines.

- 1) Achieving Sustainable Economic Growth through Further Promotion of Investment
⇒ such as transportation, energy, infrastructure, governance, etc
- 2) Overcoming Vulnerability and Stabilizing Bases for Human Life and Production Activity
⇒ such as disaster, environment, health, agriculture, etc

¹ The Philippines is the third largest recipient countries of technical cooperation by JICA.

3) Peace and Development in Mindanao

⇒ governance/human resource development, poverty reduction, etc



Among them, we heard an explanation about ongoing projects focusing on rehabilitation and recovery from typhoon “Yolanda” (regarding pillar 2) and the Pasig-Marikina River channel improvement (pillar 1 and 2).

In the project on rehabilitation and recovery from typhoon Yolanda, the government of the Philippines emphasizes a concept of “Build Back Better, Faster and Safer” as a national policy. The concept means that it is important for typhoon affected areas not to be restored to its former state but to be revived “better” and “safer” than previously. Based on this concept, various projects are being implemented.



Regarding the Pasig-Marikina River channel improvement project, we received an explanation of its overview. The project objective is to mitigate flood damage in Metro Manila caused by channel overflow of the river, and thereby to contribute to the sustainable economic development in this area. The project components are divided into two measures. One is structural measures including improvements of river wall, dike, and steel sheet pile. The other is Non-structural measures such as awareness campaign. We watched a video about this campaign.

Writer: Takayuki UTO

Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)

Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines (TCCP)

- **Date and Time: February 20, 14:30 – 16:30H**
- **Meeting place: 6/F Department of Foreign Affairs Building, 2330, Roxas Building, Pasay City**



We visited two organizations such as DFA and TCCP in order to get information about diplomacy of Philippines, and DFA ambassador, Mr. Jose Ma. A. Cariñor, gave us a useful presentation about how the Philippines thinks of their diplomacy and what goal they have. The points of the explanation are as follows:

About DFA

1. DFA is focused on the soft power diplomacy because like Japan, the Philippines does not have the big power such as United States has, so they found the way which is soft power diplomacy to develop their economic and make their initiatives in the international society.
2. Since DFA is doing the soft power diplomacy the Philippines would like to get along with the countries which have the same policy as theirs: the soft power diplomacy. Especially, it is the important point that the Philippines and Japan have the same policy on diplomacy.

About TCCP

- Executive Order No. 16 (September 1, 1992) created the Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines (TCCP), with the Secretary of Foreign Affairs as Chair and the DFA as Secretariat to the Council, to coordinate and implement various cooperation schemes between the Philippines and other developing countries.
- The Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines (TCCP) acts as the national focal point for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and as such implements a technical cooperation program in favor of developing and least developed countries (DCs and LDCs), coordinates related projects and activities implemented by government and non-government organizations, and undertakes research on the technical assistance requirements of DCs and LDCs.



- TCCP will be tasked to play a pivotal role in the country's soft power diplomacy initiatives. TCCP has recommended changing its nomenclature to the Philippines International Cooperation Agency (PICA) like Japan International Cooperation Agency. Therefore, JICA is kind of the model for their policy.



Writer: Katsunari TADA

Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (OUMWA)

- **Date and Time: February 20, 16:30 – 17:30H**
- **Meeting place: 6/F Department of Foreign Affairs Building, 2330, Roxas Building, Pasay City**

The migration team had to visit in total six places in the Philippines: Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (OUMWA), International Labor Organization (ILO), Commission of the Filipinos Overseas (CFO), Department Of Labor and Employment (DOLE) , Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). OUMWA was the first destination, the first step of what was in fact a great adventure in our search of migration related discoveries. When we arrived there we had a general presentation about OUMWA by the Ambassador Eric Andaya, after the welcome words of the Undersecretary Jesus Yabes. We had the opportunity to access the legal section which communicates with the embassies in the countries where the Philippines sent migrant workers. We could have a short talk with the officers. There is one legal officer for each country where there are Filipino workers. They are also in good communication and coordination with the embassies. We had another presentation by another staff member Mr. Lorenzor who has been many times to risky countries to help, among other things, rescue Filipino in difficulties. He was assisted by Mrs Hazel, a legal officer.



The general presentation by the Ambassador Eric Andaya, the Executive Director of OUMWA



The office of the legal officers: one for each country



The presentation of Mr. Lorenzor jointly with Mrs Hazel

The meeting could be summarized as follows.

OUMWA is located in the department of foreign affairs. It is the unit in charge of the overall assistance to nationals operations of the department of foreign affairs. It coordinates the activities regarding assistance to nationals provided by various agencies. It provides assistance and legal services to Filipinos overseas in distress. It formulates the relevant policies and makes recommendations. When there is a problem they take over to resolve it. The office was created to provide strong mechanism to help the Filipino overseas. As for 2013, US\$ 1 million were spent on

lawyers' expenditures. They have a legal mandate which is to make sure the rights of the workers are respected during the judgments. They provide two kinds of assistance:

- 1- Legal: they take care of criminal , labor case , appeal of death penalty
- 2- Consular: they deal with maltreatment, repatriation, unpaid salaries, contract distribution, and shipment of remains.

OUMWA works in good cooperation with IOM (International Organization for migration), they give and get feedback from each other. They cooperate to help the Filipinos overseas. It is important to note that in most of the places we have been to, they keep saying that they don't encourage or develop foreign employment; they want to make it a choice. If working abroad is the choice they make, the government wants to make sure that they are protected. They also help them when as a result of this choice they are in trouble. As Mr Lorenzor said, they try to get them "out of trouble" whether they are regular or not, even if they are in countries in crisis.



Writer: Pontius ERSKINE

Yokohama National University and University of Santo Tomas Joint Seminar 2015

The YNU-UST Joint seminar was held on February 21, 2015 at the Graduate School – University of Santo Tomas. The session begin at 8:30 in the morning.

The seminar opened with Philippines National Anthem. Professor Marilu R. Madrunio , PhD. Dean, UST Graduate School, performed the welcome remarks.



The first presentation on “Spratly Island and International Law” was performed by Professor Kakee Tomoko. She presented one of a hot topic relating to International law, conflicts between China and Japan, China and the Philippines as well as other South East Asian countries regarding the Law of sea.



“Entrepreneurial Education” was the second presentation, presented by Professor Conrado Montemayor, PhD from University of Santo Tomas. He divided his presentation into two modules: Principles of Entrepreneurial education and Applied entrepreneurial education.



YNU and UST students at the seminar



Professor Ichiro Araki asked Professor Kakee Tomoko after her presentation



Group Photo- YNU and UST team

Pasig – Marikina River Channel Improvement Project

- **Date and Time: February 21, 13:30 – 15:30H**
- **Meeting place: Pasig River, Manila**

The Philippines is known to be one of the countries that are most vulnerable to natural disasters. Metro Manila has a population of more than 10 million, but this area is subject to typhoon. Particularly, The Pasig – Marikina River flows through urbanized area which is economic/administrative center of the Philippines, so a flood of the river has a considerably negative impact on Pilipino society.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been implementing “Pasig – Marikina River Channel Improvement Project” since 1999. This project is aimed to reduce flood damage in Metro Manila by improving Pasig – Marikina river channel. The project is carried out by a joint venture between TOYO CONSTRUCTION CO., LTD. and SHIMIZU CORPORATION, both are Japanese companies.

We visited the project site in order to understand how JICA’s project is implemented in the Philippines as developing country.

The engineering representative allowed us to inspect the project site from on the boats, so we were able to look around the site comfortably.

While inspecting, we observed that there were many residences near to the river. According to the explanation, some people have no choice but to live there for a variety of reasons despite it is illegal. The companies (TOYO – SHIMIZU JV) said they tried to negotiate with them for their moving, but they have many difficulties. It is important for the “inclusive” development of the Philippines to eliminate this dilemma.



On the other hand, we also observed from on the boats that there are many high rise buildings near to the river. We could catch a glimpse of two aspects of the Pilipino society.



We learnt a lot through visiting one of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) project site and seeing workers involved with it. We appreciate TOYO – SHIMIZU JV so much. We couldn't have such a great opportunity without their cooperation.

Writer: Takayuki UTO

Grandspan Development Corporation (GDC)

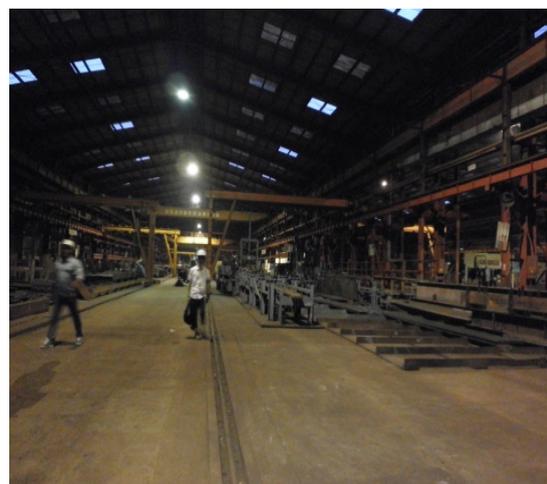
- **Date and Time: February 21, 16:30 – 17:30H**
- **Meeting place: Pasig River, Manila**

Grandspan Development Corporation (GDC) is an internationally recognized steel fabrication company established in 1979. GDC deals with steel fabrication, tubular section, trailer manufacturing, hauling equipment and general construction. Its steel products have passed rigorous quality standards².



We visited its factory because GDC makes the steel piles for the “Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project” we also visited in this study program.

Although the operation on that day was finished, we were able to observe huge factory. We appreciate Mr. Alfred S. Tiu (the CEO of GDC) so much. We had a valuable experience.



² Grandspan Development Corporation: <http://www.grandspan.ph/> (accessed 14/03/2015)



Writer: Takayuki UTO

The City Mayor of Guiuan

- **Date and Time: February 22, 09:00 – 15:00H**
- **Meeting place: The City hall of Guiuan**



We visited the city hall of Guiuan in order to get some information about how they are recovering from bad situation made by typhoon Yolanda. We had a chance to ask some questions to the mayor of Guiuan. The points of the explanation are as follows:

Guiuan is a second-class municipality in the province of Eastern Samar, Philippines. As of the 2010 census, it had a population of 47,037 people. However, a lot of people died due to the typhoon Yolanda.

At the time of typhoon hit, the big problem was that they could not contact with other governments because the infrastructure on communication was damaged. However, as soon as the typhoon hit, many assistance came to Guiuan city from organizations like international NGOs and other cities that did not affected despite of unable to contact with outside of Guiuan.

The city hall of Guiuan was badly damaged by typhoon, therefore the city hall is still located in the temporarily houses. However, some houses are actually permanent houses because they cannot afford to have new facilities.



In the Guiuan city, there are some buildings like day care center under the construction by JICA. JICA projects created some opportunities for local people to work for JICA projects. They appreciate foreign countries assistance like JICA does.



Writer: Katsunari TADA

The Provincial Governor of Leyte

- **Date and Time: February 23, 08:00 – 11:00H**
- **Meeting place: The Provincial Governor of Leyte**



We visited the provincial governor of Leyte in order to grasp the information about how provincial government did when typhoon Yolanda hit the Leyte Islands badly. We had an opportunity to interview with Hon. Ranulfo "BOB" S. Abellanosa who is one of the board members Leyte province. The points of the explanation are as follows:

1. Leyte is a province the Philippines located in the Eastern Visayas region. Its capital is Tacloban City and occupies the northern three-quarters of the island of Leyte. The province of Leyte is located west of Samar Island, north of Southern Leyte and south of Biliran. To the west of Leyte across the Camotes Sea is Cebu province. On 8 November 2013, the province was largely



destroyed by Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan), killing a reported 10,000 people, having previously suffered similar destruction and loss of life in 1991 during typhoon Thelma.

2. There was no communication problem between the Provincial Governor of Leyte and other governments in the Philippines, but some people living in Tacloban city, who I interviewed, said that there was a problem because The Provincial Governor of Leyte could not



inform the correct number of dead persons to national government so that people who affected by typhoon could not get enough support soon after the typhoon hit.



Writer: Katsunari TADA

Watching the recovery of rural public health centre from the damage of typhoon

- **Date and Time: February 23, 13:00 – 14:00H**

We visited at one of the village near Tacloban on the afternoon February 23rd. I was just impressed the situation in which many peoples even now live in temporary house. In that area, JICA have been constructing public health care centre. I learned that JICA also



running these business first. They also try to construct community hall and high school. They would like to enhance vibrancy of that region. Their key word is that “build back better”. We just hope that construction goes successfully and the village build back better.



Writer: YOHEI Kuwabara

The Tacloban City Hall

- **Date and Time: February 23, 14:00 – 16:00H**
- **Meeting place: Tacloban City**



We visited Tacloban City in the Leyte Island. This area suffered serious damage in the typhoon “Yolanda” in 2013. The city is on the road to restoration from it. We met Mrs. Cristina Gonzales-Romualdez, the wife of the city mayor of Tacloban (at the same time she is a City Councilor) in order to hear of the situation at that time Yolanda hit there and present issues.



She kindly told us that the city was confronted with many difficulties including recover and restoration. The most impressive story to me was about the distribution of the relief supplies. She explained that it was difficult for the municipal to decide “Where” “What” “How” to deliver the huge amounts of support commodities. This story means that it is important that recipients of assistance also should make elaborate preparations against cases of emergency. However she thanked donors for their support. There was a list of organizations on the blackboard meaning these organizations including international organizations and NGOs were very cooperative with the municipal.

At the session, we talked unexpectedly about the relationship between Tacloban City and Fukuyama city in Hiroshima prefecture, Japan. They have had a special treaty of friendship since 1980. In fact, we found some trucks which the word “Fukuyama” was written on the body of them. It happened that professor Kakee came from



Fukuyama City, so we got excited over talking about it (Actually, I also have lived in the city).

We realized Tacloban City and Japan have a close ties, so we should maintain the relations by cooperating each other.

We appreciate what she has given us this opportunity in spite of her condition of being busy.



Writer: Takayuki UTO

Watching the recovery of the Cathedral, Tacloban

- **Date and Time: February 23, 16:00 – 16:30H**

We visited the cathedral that away than an hour from my Tacloban Airport. The Cathedral, take a lot of damage for super typhoon, was now in progress the new construction. It was the site where we can feel the super typhoon of power in 2013. Cathedral of roof made of concrete, and many of the buildings were destroyed in a huge wind. Father of this cathedral was explained to us the damage situation of the typhoon, Father told us to guide the current construction site. After you visit the damaged site, they provided us with Filipino food. The food was unique and was very delicious. Araki, Kobayashi, Professor Kakee, donated for the cathedral of repair.



The photo above is cathedrals that were damaged by the typhoon.

Reporter: CHOI Inchul

International Labour Organization (ILO) Country Office for the Philippines

- **Date and Time: February 25, 09:00 – 11:00H**
- **Meeting place: 19F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City**

The migration team visited International Labour Organization Country Office (ILO) for the Philippines in the morning on February 25. ILO is one of the United Nations' specialized agencies that deals with labor problems. The staff of ILO, Ms. Ma Concepcion Sardaña and Ms. Catherine Calalay Laws, welcomed us and gave us two presentations about information of migrant workers, ILO's general works and its programs to support migration workers.

First, Ms. Sardaña explained the basic information and works of ILO. The points of the explanation are as follows:

1. ILO was established in 1919 to promote social justice and internationally recognized human and labor rights through "Rights at work", "Social protection", "Employment opportunities" and "Social dialog".
2. Its uniqueness is "tripartite" structure. This structure consists of governments, employers and workers organizations and ILO encourages them to promote social dialog between them to solve social, economic and many other issues.
3. ILO aims to promote "decent work" that means a productive work. However, "decent work" doesn't mean "just working", but "the work that protects the rights of workers and generates enough income".
4. To achieve the four points that are mentioned in 1, ILO has conducted many programs with other organizations such as International Organization for Migration (IOM), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) and many NGOs. Implementing partners also include national and local governments, employers and workers.



Next, Ms. Laws gave us the presentation about general information about migrant workers and ILO's programs for them. The details of it are as follows:

1. There are 105.5 million migrant workers in the world. 30% of them are in Asia and 14 million migrant workers are staying in ASEAN countries.
2. Regarding the Philippines, 10% of its population (10.5 million) are working abroad and 10% of its GDP (26.9 billion USD) comes from their remittances. The most of the top 10 destinations of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are Middle East countries and Asian countries.
3. The drives of migration are economic disparities, demographic changes, labor shortages and wage differentials among developing countries and developed countries. There are many issues and challenges with migrant workers such as health problems, employment conditions and irregular migration flows.
4. ILO is a specialized organization of United Nations that deals with migration workers. It supports them by strengthening the efforts of social partners who provide direct services to migrant workers. Also, ILO has been promoting standards of migration policy and the rights of migrant workers.
5. Currently, ILO Manila implements ASEAN TRIANGLE Projects, which aims to strengthen regional legal and policy framework to more effectively govern migration and protect the rights of migrant workers in a gender responsive manner. ILO also established Asia-Pacific Knowledge Network on Migration (AP-MagNet) in which professionals and practitioners can share, debate on and leverage technical and practical knowledge on labor migration and human trafficking.



Writer: KAYO Kimura

Board of Investment (BOI)

- **Date and Time: February 25, 09:00 – 10:30H**
- **Meeting place: Ground Four, Industry and Investment Building, 385 Sen, Gil Puyat Ave, Makati City**

Our purpose of visiting BOI was research of activities of BOI, Philippine economy and investment environment of the Philippines. BOI is the national investment promotion agency of the government.

Their activities are based on the governments set goals of encouraging more economic activities that will take the country to a higher level of global competitiveness and opening more opportunities that will generate more gainful employment for the people. For example, they have such activities as due diligence assistance, business registration facilitation and aftercare service. And they make competitive investment incentives.



According to their presentation, there are “Magical 10 Indications of a Growing Philippine Economy”. They are stable and resilient economic growth, continuous inflow of OFW remittances, steady export growth, steady investment flows, robust domestic financial sector coupled with credit growth, efficient revenue collection, improving global competitiveness ranking, dynamic people, strengthened governance and anti-corruption measures, credit ratings. Moreover there are five advantages of business in Philippines. They are rich talent pool, infrastructure development, critical market access, first-class lifestyle and competitive investment incentives.

I thought Philippines have a lot of advantages of business after their presentation. However, Philippines will develop more and more. Philippines must be more important partner for Japan in the future.



Writer: TAIRA Nozaki

Mitsubishi Corporation

- **Date and Time: February 25, 10:30 – 12:00H**
- **Meeting place: 14/F LV Locsin Building, 6752 Alaya Ave, Makati City**



On 25th February, we visited Mitsubishi Corporation Manila branch. Mitsubishi Corporation is one of largest general trading companies in Japan as you know. The purpose of visiting this Manila branch is research of international business and Japanese company which is moving overseas. Mitsubishi Corp. was establish in 1870 as “Tsukumo Shokai”. And the name was changed later. In 1947, after WWII, Mitsubishi and other conglomerates were forced to dissolve. Mitsubishi Corp. has over 200 offices or subsidiaries in over 90 countries. Manila branch is one of the oldest in them. Mitsubishi has a lot of kinds of business, for example, infrastructure, energy, chemicals, industrial finance and so on. Mitsubishi Corp. began to trade in Philippines more than 60 years ago and they got partnership with Ayala Corp. The reason why they got the partnership was sheer accident. Ayala Corp. was looking for Japanese company in the Marcos administration to get business know-how. At the time, Mitsubishi corp. had already a branch in the Philippines so Ayala Corp. chose Mitsubishi as a partner. Mitsubishi Corp. is developing several business all over the

Philippines. For example, in Davao there is Davao Central Chemical Corp. as a partner and in Laguna they develop electric plant. In Philippines there is unique culture, custom and demand. To success business in the Philippines, you should consider them.



Writer: TAIRA Nozaki

Commission For Filipino Overseas (CFO)

- **Date and Time: February 25, 14:00 – 16:00H**
- **Meeting place: 1345 Pres, Quirino Avenue Corner, Osmena Highway, Manila**

The migration team, composed of members of the Yokohama National University (YNU) delegation and of University of Santo Thomas (UST), visited the CFO on Wednesday, February 25th 2015. We met two responsible: Mr. Elfred Ulysses G. del Rosario , Mr. Gregorio M. Jabal. They showed us a video and made presentation about the CFO activities and projects. After that we had a “Questions and Answers” session.





What is to be noted from our meeting is that:

CFO was created by the Batas Pambasa Blg 79 to:

- Provide assistance to the President and the congress of the Philippines in the formulation of policies and measures concerning or affecting Filipinos overseas.
- Develop and implement programs in order to promote their interests and favor their well-being.
- Serve as a forum for the preservation and the enhancement of the cultural, social and economic ties of the Filipinos abroad with their home country.

Its clients are more specifically:

- the Filipinos permanent residents
- the naturalized Filipinos or who have dual citizenship
- Filipinos spouses or partner of foreign nationals
- Descendants of overseas Filipinos
- Participants of exchange visitors programs
- Youth Filipinos overseas

For 2012, they estimated the Filipinos overseas at 10.5 millions in more than 200 countries. Among this number 47% are permanent, 40% temporary workers and 13% irregular. The CFO is taking care of the Filipinos pertaining to the permanent residents' category exclusively. The temporary workers are under the responsibility of POEA and OWWA and their family members under the OWWA. All those agencies work according to a country team approach and coordinate very well with each other. Its frontline services include PDOS (Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar) for permanent visas holders from 20 to 59 years old. For those of 60, only registration is required similarly to the children from 12 and under. They provide peer counseling to them.

Writer: KAYO Kimura

Ayala Corporation

- **Date and Time: February 25, 14:00 – 16:00H**
- **Meeting place: 25/F Romulo Lounge, Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Alaya Ave, Makati City**



There are a lot of conglomerate in the Philippines. Ayala Corporation is one of the oldest conglomerate. In Japan, there are few conglomerate, so main purpose of this visit was to research mechanism, advantage, and disadvantage of conglomerate. Conglomerate is a large company formed by joining together different firms. Ayala Corp. is formed by Ayala Land (real estate), Bank of the Philippine Island (financial services), Globe (telecommunications), MANILA WATER (water utility) and IMI (manufacturing) as listed businesses, and ac energy (power generation), AC INFRA (transport infrastructure), Live it (BPO and education), Ayala Automotive (automotive) as non-listed businesses. Amidst the Philippines economic growth, their unique portfolio of businesses provides various engines for growth and diversification. Advantage of conglomerate is that they can adapt to changing Philippine economy by changing their portfolio of businesses. Important factor that could make a difference to operation of company include other economic conditions affecting demand, supply and price conditions in the domestic and overseas markets in which the company operates, changes in government regulations, tax laws, and

other statutes and incidental factors. On the other hand, disadvantage of conglomerate is that it takes long time to learn the business very well when they advance into a new business. Ayala Corp. also contribute to society of Philippines. For example, they developed Makati, which is one of the most important cities in business of Philippines. The land was owned by them for a long time, so they could do. Ayala Corp. have strong connection with Japan. For example, Ayala Land, MANILA WATER and ac energy have developed strategic, long-term partnership with Mitsubishi to ensure success.

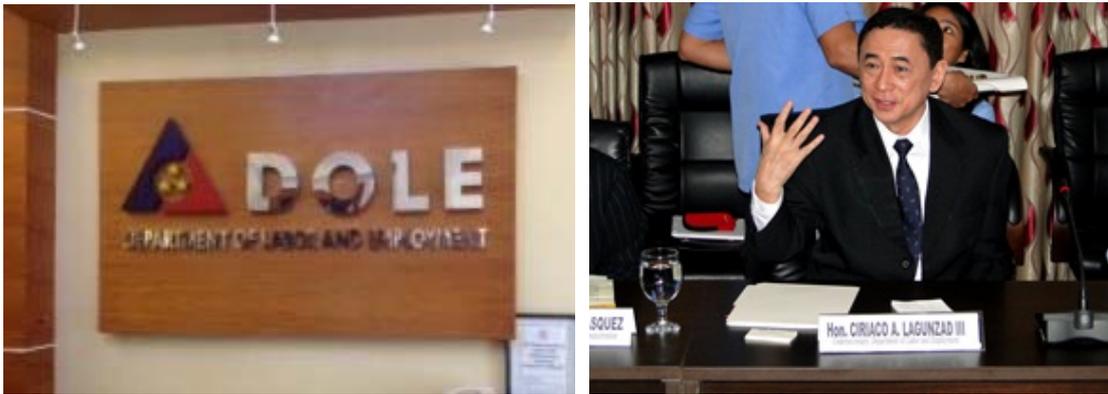


Writer: TAIRA Nozaki

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)

- **Date and Time: February 26, 09:00 – 11:00H**
- **Meeting place: DOLE Building, Murralla Wing Corner, Genmeral Luna St.**

The migration team visited the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in the morning on February 26. DOLE is a government agency that has some specialized organization such as Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO), and Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).



At the beginning of the meeting, Undersecretary Mr. Ciriaco A. Lagunzad III gave us warm welcome remarks. After that, the staff from OWWA and NRCO explained the works of each organization. After the introductory remarks of the undersecretary, Ms. Carmelina F. Velasquez, Director of OWWA, gave us presentation. The details are as follows:

1. Some of the trustees of OWWA come from other related agencies such as POEA and Office of the Undersecretary of Migrant Workers Affairs (OUMWA). The mandates of OWWA are as below:
 - a) Development and delivery of welfare programs and services.
 - b) Ensure the capital built-up and the validity of the fund.
2. It is operated by the single fund which OFWs pay. Each OFWs has to pay US\$ 25 for membership before leaving the Philippines. If an OFW gets injured or dies in the host countries, certain amount of money will be paid from the fund. The membership contract is valid for two years.
3. OWWA also offers education and training programs before and after working to OFWs such as pre-departure education programs, scholarships and training and inventive programs. In addition to these programs, it offers welfare programs and repatriation programs for distressed OFWs. (For further information, please see the OWWA pages of this report.)

4. OWWA has 17 regional welfare offices in the Philippines and 32 overseas field offices in 24 countries to support OFWs and their families.



Next, Mr. Louie Chaneco, the staff of NRCO, gave us the other presentation which is about NRCO.

1. Reintegration programs started in 1980s through OWWA and NRCO was established in 2007. It aims to OFWs reintegrating into the Philippine society, enjoying the gains of overseas employment and contributing to the attainment of national goals. To achieve this vision, it helps OFWs and their families work with entrepreneurial mindset and empowers them to plan for investment, business and local employment.
2. Reintegration program consists of three parts: on-site, upon-return and pre-departure programs. On-site program provides information of investments and livelihood opportunities. Upon-return program encourages OFWs to venture productive and sustainable undertakings. Pre-departure program offers OFWs language and cultural trainings and helps them set common goals.
3. The core ideas of the program are as below.
 - a) The program does not ask OFWs to return the Philippines now.
 - b) The program is not only for workers but also for their families.
 - c) The program encourages saving, not borrowing.
 - d) The program has entrepreneurship component.

e) Implementation of the program is a multi-sector concern.

4. Specifically, NRCO offers seminars that intend to serve OFWs to achieve financial planning and management, to offer special loan interventions to support enterprises and to give tool interventions to bring about improved socio-economic well-being of undocumented OFWs. It also has a special program, *BALIK PINAY! BALIK HANAP BUHAY!*, for returning women



Writer: KAYO Kimura

Department of Justice (DOJ)

- **Date and Time: February 26, 10:00 – 11:30H**
- **Meeting place: Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila 1000**

In the morning of February 26, we visited The Department of Justice (DOJ) which is the government's principal law agency. As such, the DOJ serves as the government's prosecution arm and administers the government's criminal justice system by investigating crimes, prosecuting offenders and overseeing the correctional system. The DOJ, through its offices and constituent/attached agencies, is also the government's legal counsel and representative in litigations and proceedings requiring the services of a lawyer; implements the Philippines' laws on the admission and stay of aliens within its territory; and provides free legal services to indigent and other qualified citizens.



Our research mission at DOJ is to understand the Philippines legislative and institutional attempts to comply with Article X of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT 1994) in the administration of their laws, regulations, and to find out common challenges, shared goals and innovative solutions to enhance transparency in governance. Therefore, our discussion concentrated on observation and evaluation of the Transparency

norm's compliance in Transparency and Public Participation in rulemaking process related to trade in the Philippines.

At first, Senior State Counsel Marlyn Laurino Angeles gave a brief presentation about the structure, functioning of DOJ. Subsequently, Assistant Secretary Geronimo Sy discussed various matters including Transparency norm, Public participation, anti-corruption efforts, and the balance between privacy and transparency with Professor Ichiro Araki, students from YNU and UST.

Through considerably discussing, Mr Geronimo Sy deliberately clarified following concerns'

1. The process of law-making related to trade and investment in compliance with the Transparency norm.

2. The DOJ and other agencies in legislature and executive branches regularly facilitate the public participation. Citizens, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, and others outside the government are able to contribute to and comment on proposed rules related to trade.

3. DOJ's anti-corruption efforts toward a just and peaceful society anchored on the principles of transparency, accountability, fairness and truth.



Writer: TRAN Van Long

Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)

- **Date and Time: February 26, 13:00 – 15:00H**
- **Meeting place: BIR National Office Building, Diliman, Quezon City**

In the afternoon of February 26, we came to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). The Bureau of Internal Revenue (Filipino: Kawanihan ng Rentas Internas, or BIR) is an attached agency of Department of Finance. BIR collects more than one-half of the total revenues of the government. The powers and duties of the Bureau of Internal Revenue are: (1) Assessment and collection of all internal revenue taxes, fees and charges; and (2) enforcement of all forfeitures, penalties, and fines connected therewith, including the execution of judgments in all cases decided in its favor by the Court of Tax Appeals and the ordinary courts.

Our research target at BIR is to intensively understand the Philippines legislative and institutional attempts to comply with Article X of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT 1994) in the administration of their laws, regulations, and government orders governing trade in goods in the context of their local culture and practices. Moreover, we try to examine common challenges, shared goals and innovative solutions to enhance transparency in governance of the Philippines regarding publication of tax regulations.



Prior to the main meeting with Commissioner, we had a short conversation with Assistant Commissioner Marissa Cabrerros. She kindly introduced some general information about BIR, organization and officials.

After that, we had a valuable meeting with Commissioner, Ms Kim S. Jacinto-Henares. She elaborately answered all of our questions and concerns regarding Transparency, Accountability, and Integrity of the agency.

Related to the role of public participation and public hearings in Tax regulation making process, Ms Kim defined that the law requires that public hearings be conducted upon each proposal for a uniform tax regulation. Public notice of such hearings is required and will be submitted for publication to publications dealing

with State and local taxation and by the posting of such information on a Commission web site when it is established. Within available resources, the Commission will conduct two or more public hearings at geographically diverse sites on such proposals. Provision will be made, whenever possible, for participation in hearings through telephonic means.

Regarding anti-corruption efforts, Ms Kim emphasized the high degree of legal compliance with Anti-Corruption Law at BIR. Like other agencies and authorities in the Philippines, every official and employee, except those who serve in an official honorary capacity, without service credit or pay, temporary laborers



and casual or temporary or contractual workers, shall file under oath their statement of assets, liabilities and net worth and a disclosure of business interests and financial connections including those of their spouses and unmarried children under eighteen (18) years of age living in their households.

Commissioner Kim S. Jacinto-Henares also discussed with professors and students from the Graduate School of International Social Sciences of Yokohama National University (YNU) and Graduate Students from the University of Santo Tomas (UST) on BIR's transparency policy in connection with confidentiality restriction and the BIR's public participation in good governance Also present were DCIR Estela V. Sales, ACIR Marissa O. Cabreros and ITAD OIC-Asst. Chief Liza Lorelie S. Levardo-Cruz. Thereafter, the visitors were presented with the BIR's organizational structure and the role of Public Information and Education Division (PIED) in the promotion of public transparency by PIED OIC-Asst. Chief Ma. Lourdes D. Narvaez.



Writer: TRAN Van Long

Court of Tax Appeals (CTA)

- **Date and Time: February 26, 15:30 – 17:30H**
- **Meeting place: BIR National Office Building, Diliman, Quezon City**

Following our visit at Bureau of Internal Revenue on February 26, we came to the Court of Tax Appeals (Filipino: Hukuman ng Paghahabol sa Buwis ng Pilipinas). This is the special court of limited jurisdiction, and has the same level with the Court of Appeals. The court consists of 8 Associate Justices and 1 Presiding Justice. The Court of Tax Appeals is located at Agham Road, National Government Center, North Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City in Metro Manila.



Our research target at CAT is to understand the Philippines Court of Tax Appeals attempts to comply with Article X of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT 1994) in the administration of their activities, functioning, organization and procedures, and to find out common challenges, shared goals and innovative solutions to enhance transparency, anti-corruption and promote judicial independence amongst Vietnam and the Philippines regarding Transparency reform toward an open society.

At first, Ms. Ecca Sudla, the Secretary of CTA and Presiding Justice Roman del Rosario warmly welcomed us at the lobby 3:00 PM After that, we had a fruitful

experiments in discussion with Sir Roman del Rosario. He clearly clarified our questionnaires regarding Transparency, Accountability, and Judicial independence of the Court of Tax Appeals, such as:

- Regarding the role of The Philippines Judicial and Bar Council, he emphasized that the Council has helped strengthen judicial independence at the Court of Tax Appeals. It is involved not only in the judicial selection process, but also in the evaluation, training and discipline of judges, and in the administration of the court system in the Court of Tax Appeals system with a significant level.
- To prevent from corrupting, at the CTA, the judicial salaries, benefits and pensions are adequate to attract and retain qualified candidates. Also, groups from outside the judiciary cannot provide funds to judges. The information regarding the salaries, benefits and pensions of judges are available to the public.



- The civil society organizations – such as the media, human rights groups, women organizations, labour unions, business groups or any judicial or legal association – have been active in promoting judicial independence. They maintain monitoring the Judiciary, doing research on the Judiciary. The media is continuously facilitated to be involved in the judicial process at the CTA.
- The CTA decisions are written and recorded. Similarly, all court decisions and cases are published and available to the public. We can easily access this kind of information through the internet.

After the discussion, Ms. Ecca Sudla guided us to examine the Court's organization and facilities. She particularly explained the meaning of each symbol or notice, the using method of information system where we can access any legal case published.



Writer: TRAN Van Long

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)

- **Date and Time: February 26, 14:00 – 16:00H**
- **Meeting place: EDSA corner Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City**



In the afternoon on 26 February, the migration team visited Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA). POEA is one of the government administrations that belongs to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and it plays an important role in the overseas employment program. The meeting was consists of watching DVD about POEA and discussion between the staff, Director Mr. Levinson C. Alcantara, Director Ms. Laura S. Timonera and Mr. Alfredo Robels Jr., and students. The main points of the meeting are as follows:

1. POEA's vision is "Excellence in governance for world-class Filipino migrant workers". In order to achieve it, POEA connects all stakeholders, promotes giving jobs to Overseas Filipino Workers, protect their rights and tries to reintegrate them into Philippine society.
2. On average, 3,000 clients come to POEA office every day. There are two kinds of people who visit there. One is people who are seeking jobs and the other is people who have already job contracts. People who are working abroad have to register at POEA and POEA offers them to immigration programs including industry regulations, employment facilitation and worker's protection.
3. Violation and exploitation are the problems that OFWs are faced with. POEA conducts pre-employment orientation and anti-illegal recruitment seminars against these problems. Also, it handles on-site welfare services such as counseling, legal assistance and repatriation.
4. POEA and OWWA offer pre-departure orientation seminar (PDOS) that are country specific. Not only OFWs but also their family are admitted to join them so that they can prepare for working and living abroad.
5. There are two reasons why the Philippines sends its people abroad. One is "constitutional" reason that moving to other places is the right of people. The other is "economic" reason that the overseas employment program was taken as

an economic strategy to gain money when it started in 1970s. The number of OFWs has been increasing but it is not regulated mainly because the government thinks that they should not prevent anybody from accessing to jobs.

6. Many talented workers are working as OFWs and this phenomena is called “brain drain”. The present government and POEA do not encourage people to work abroad and they put a premium on creating local employment in the Philippines.



Writer: KAYO Kimura

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)

- **Date and Time: February 27, 09:00 – 11:00H**
- **Meeting place: 7th Street Corner F.B. Harrison Street, Pasay City**

OWWA is an attached agency of the department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). It promotes the well-fare and well-being of overseas Filipinos and their dependents.

At DOLE on February 26th we had a first introduction to the OWWA, its mission, objectives, programs and services. On our visit at the agency itself, we could get more details and see the different sections and offices. The persons in charge presented their roles and activities briefly. There again they told us that when it comes to migration issues, all the agencies and the relevant ministries and department work together. They don't overlap.

It is important to remind that the agency has a twin mandate to strengthen and expand the package of services offered to Overseas Foreign Workers (OFWs) members and their dependents. It also ensures capital build up and fund viability.

The membership guaranteed by a fee of US \$ 25, gives rights to:

- 1- Social benefits
- 2- Education and training benefits or assistance
- 3- Workers Welfare Assistance Program
- 4- Repatriation program
- 5- Reintegration Program

The visit at the OWWA in Pictures

a) The language training program



During our visit we could assist some activities of the education and training program. A group of people, mainly women, destined to household in Saudi Arabia were receiving language training in Arabic. This training was part of the pre-departure education program, Country Specific Orientation Seminar (PDOS).

b) Entrepreneurship class for the returnee



At the PDOS (Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar) training room, some Filipino returnees from several countries and different sectors were receiving entrepreneurship lessons to manage their business and contribute to the

development of their country after spending time and gaining some money abroad.

It is to be noted that since there are cases where the Filipino workers come back with zero money; they have been sending remittances to their families whom did not save anything; there is also a program to teach them and their families, financial literacy. So that when they return home they can invest and that the families can manage the money better.

c) At the IT center

After our visit to the class of entrepreneurship class for returnees, we made a short stop at the IT training class. It is the result of a Bill Gates program which began in 2005 with a partnership with Microsoft. It offers basic computer skills in one week. The goal is to help the dependent of the



OFWs to be able among other things to manage the network, in order to communicate

with their family members overseas. They have the possibility to join advanced program outside the OWWA after the training period.

d) The section of case management



After the training class we went to the section of case management. There, they receive complaints. Some people wait until their return to complain for bad treatment, nonpayment or payment or job non conform to previous arrangements. The responsible told us that although they have this case management program they don't overlap with any other agencies. They work together following the country team approach. The one who receive the case can send it to the appropriate agency or section. Generally, if the workers commit crime, DFA (Department of Foreign Affairs) holds the case. If it is more work issue, then POEA (Philippines Overseas Employment Administration), OWWA (Overseas Workers Welfare Administration) or DOLE (Department of Labor and Employment) do the follow up. So far, the best ways they have found to solve the conflicts has been through mediation, to solve the problems between employees and employers or agencies.

Cases come from Saudi Arabia more than any other countries; it concerns mainly household workers for bad treatment. There are also cases of people who overstayed without regularization of their situation and then when they need to return to the Philippines they cannot leave Saudi Arabia because the law there is

particular. They need the exit visa which is given by the sponsor. The maximum period of stay is two (2) years, if a worker wants to extend their stay they need to undertake the legal process otherwise they encounter many difficulties which can delay their departure.

To resolve their conflicts with this particular country as well as others regarding the protection of workers they talk to the countries in very diplomatic ways to try to reach an agreement. Now they are working on the Abudabi dialogue.

Repatriation issues and demand come also from other countries such as Nigeria, Lybia and so on. They manage and undertake all the appropriate procedures cooperating with the relevant agencies or organizations. When the people arrived, they have a special section to take care of the workers in distress. It is called: half way home, it was our last stop.

e) At the Halfway Home



The halfway home is a section at OWWA which takes care of the workers in distress, who have mental illness or who have been victims of abuses. They stay there with board and lodging, usually for 3 or 5 days, until they get the ticket to go home. At the halfway home, they can receive counseling, assistance and help. They don't have to pay anything for the services. The fees are already covered by the US\$ 25 membership fees.

Writer: Pontius ERSKINE

Philippine National Police (PNP)

- **Date and Time: February 27, 09:00 – 11:00H**
- **Meeting place: Camp Crame, National Headquarters**



Q: Please explain about Crimes against and by foreigners.

Many crimes against Koreans such as abduction and murder in the Philippines are reported, what is the main reason for that? What is the Philippine police's response to the crimes against Koreans? Crimes conducted by Korean are also very interesting. Please tell us comparative explanations of the Crimes against and by Korean.

A: Currently, Korean residents are most increase in foreigners in the Philippines. Unfortunately, it is true that Korean in the Philippines has increased the associated crime. However, recently in South Korea police, has worked been dispatched to the Philippines, because the Philippines police are also watching, I expect the prevention of crime

Q: The impression we have about domestic security is not so good. What do you think about that? If this impression is wrong, please advise us the current situation of the Philippines?

A: In the view of tourists to visit the Philippines, They are considered to be dangerous in the Philippines security situation. But, Philippines police to maintain law and order on the basis of the law, the person who violates the law, go to jail based on the law. For each country the wrong security situation and purpose, we are doing the best.



Q: We heard you emphasize a lot about the improvement of the human rights condition. Please explain about how you make an effort to improve human rights conditions. Could you show us the most impressive example of the improvement of human rights in the Philippines?

A: Criminals, as victims, regardless of the presence or absence of crime, Philippines police to respect the human rights of all people. Human rights in the Philippines have been a lot of improved in 25 years. This point of view, the Philippines police, has been for a long time, a lot of effort to improve human rights of criminals and victims in the country.

Q: How do you respond to the computer crime or cyber-crime?
What kinds of computer crimes or cyber-crimes are mostly reported to the Police?

A: Like many other countries, cyber-crime has increased in the Philippines. Illegal account transactions, takeover of illegal personal information, infringement of privacy, are increasingly situation worse.

Q: Philippines suffer from a lot of typhoons every year. To deal with the disasters resulted from the typhoons, what kind of measures do you have? What is the main role of the Police in dealing with natural disasters?

A: The typhoon affected areas, military and police I help the recovery been dispatched. Especially the police, it is necessary to the role of the police for maintaining security in the affected areas by typhoon. Philippines police, plays grasp of deaths, injured transport, and the role with an emphasis on maintaining order on-site for recovery.



Writer: CHOI Inchul

Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)

- **Date and Time: February 27, 15:00 – 17:00H**
- **Meeting place: Camp Crame, EDSA, Quezon City**



On Feb 28th, we visited the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, called PEZA. This government agency is attached to the Department of Trade and Industry. The task of this organization is to promote investments, extend assistance, register, grant incentives to and facilitate the business operations of investors in export-oriented manufacturing and service facilities inside selected areas throughout the country proclaimed by the organization. Our mission was to learn the Philippine economic development and prospective.

The session was very fruitful. I had asked some questions via email in advance. The presenter, Mr. Elemer kindly explained the overview of the organization and answered my questions respectively. I will give you some examples. First, I asked to PEZA what is the advantage of doing business in the Philippines. He explained that Philippine have the abundant of good human resource that can speak English fluently, which is one of the most important ability in globalized business situation, and have friendly mind. As I said before, PEZA aims to promote investments, employment and export, so these quality advantages as well as the number will push Philippine economy forward. There are the pools of human resource in this country. Actually, they have abundant of international school in the nation. I was so surprised that people even in the rural area can speak English. Plus, they will give an incentive to each company, such as reducing tax and giving consulting service, although they are forced to build their company in the designated area and hire the Filipino to some extent. Second, he will explain about my question in the email-which industries are growing and receiving the most investment? He indicated that now Philippine are famous for business outsourcing, but in the near future they would like to create new knowledge-based industries.

After session, we had Qs and As times. Every member including Filipino students is very interested in this organization and has many questions. I asked about the Filipino foreign exchange reserves. Mr. Elmer point out that investment from foreign country is the easiest way to get foreign exchange reserve. Filipino government has enough that can survive for 11 months in the any sanctions from other country or in the depression.

Overall, the session was very meaningful for every student. The Filipino GDP grows at 6.1%, which is the second highest in the Asia after China. In this session, we got to know only a little about Filipino economy and its situation. We have to constantly watch the economic situation in Philippine from now on.



Writer: YOHEI Kuwabara

MESSAGES FROM PARTICIPANTS

The YNU field trip to the Philippines turns to be 10 years old. In 2006 I joined this trip as a doctoral student. Since then, the field trip has become increasingly sophisticated. This time I was very pleased to see students discovered a great deal of pleasure to know about Filipino society and become more proactive day by day during their stay in the Philippines. In this regard, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the professors and students of the UST, especially to Professor Tommy Tiu, for their well-thought-out arrangements as well as for their warm-hearted and generous supports. As for the YNU part, I must say that the outcome of this field trip owes much to Professor Kabashima's prolonged dedication.



Associate Professor

Kakee Tomoko

In this fieldtrip program in the Philippines, I learnt a lot about the diversity of Filipino society through interaction with people living there. Our interests were mainly divided into three categories: "Economic and Low", "Oversea Filipino Worker (OFW)", and "Recovery from disaster/Development cooperation", so we were able to visit various places. We visited political institutions, Japanese/Filipino corporations, and met fishermen. In each session, we learnt various systems, living conditions and connections with Japan, from their respective positions. As a student measuring Development



Cooperation, the fact that I had many opportunities to communicate with local people in the Philippines was actually helpful to my study. Now I can combine theory with practice easier than before.

Regarding daily life in the Philippines, each communication with students from University of Santo Tomas (UST) was also good experience to me. I was

surprised many times that every UST student speaks knowledgeably on a wide variety of topics about their own country: history, culture, customs and social/economical systems, etc. They answered any questions accurately. On the other hand, however, I sometimes couldn't answer the questions about Japan when asked. I fully realized I still need to study more about JAPAN. I will try to deepen understanding of not only the Philippines but also Japan.

In this program, we also had many opportunities to meet active Japanese people in the Philippines. I had sometimes imagined myself to work abroad, but it had not been clear. In regards to that point, I'm sure this experience helps me make my imagination stronger. Although our schedule was limited, it was very meaningful that we could visit many places and have sessions with people we cannot usually meet.

Finally, I would like to appreciate all people involved in this program. Thanks to countless supports from professors and students of UST, we could perform our program smoothly, thank you very much. And I also appreciate YNU participants. It is my pleasure that I have stayed 10 days in the Philippines with all of you. I wish I can visit the Philippines with you again in the future.

Graduate Student

Takayuki Uto
