

Reflections on the Social Innovation Forum in Singapore

CAMPUS ASIA program Social Innovation Forum in Singapore in July 2023



Teamwork makes a dream work. For me this phrase talks about collected efforts that make significant results and have a capability of changing the world. CAMPUS ASIA program Social Innovation Forum in Singapore is my very first experience of the teamwork on the much global scale. And this marks one of the first steps into to the better world as we got to know each other and our points of views.

The 4 days program although might have seemed short it was rich on activities and discoveries. They included discussions on various topics, establishing new connections, learning about new cultures, visiting historical places, listening to lectures and from those activities I had two main takeaways.

First major takeaway is from the people of Singapore and their respect for one another. During our trip thanks to NTU University and its students we had an opportunity to learn more about Singapore and its history as well as people. Asking ourselves questions like “how do the people from so many different countries collaborate with each other and live in unity?”, “How does country this small grow and strive?” and “what are the values of Singaporean people?”. Of

course, it's hard to find an answer to any of those questions within 4 days but the sole purpose of it was to try and understand other people and how such a diverse Asian community communicate with each other. It is really inspiring and astonishing to know how people not only co-exist with each other but also work together in such a unity and respect. Respect that can be shown in the way they treat their food and share their space or learn phrases in each other's languages even though they technically share one main language. This might seem basic, but it shouldn't be anything extraordinary in the first place as respect is something basic.





As for the other one, no matter how “close” we can be in terms of our cultures or histories we still can learn from one another much more than we think. It might sound obvious, but I personally tend to forget about important basics like this when I am too caught up in my daily life as a student. And I am grateful that I was reminded about it from my fellow students from Korean, China, Singapore, and Japan who participated with me in the forum. It was a unique chance for me to have such a multicultural perspectives and communications for the questions we do not always ask one another or try to avoid removing a possibility of the conflict, however that are those conversations that might be unpleasant for some which make a difference. I hope to have such an opportunity again in the future.

It’s interesting how 4 days can change a lot within you if you approach it from the right mindset and have the community that is very supportive as well as honest in their opinion. As a student I am very grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow not only academically but also personally to all the of the participated universities and my home University- Waseda University.