

From Campus to Community: My Adventures in Social Innovation Forum

Day 1: A Warm Welcome and Cultural Exploration

The first day of the Social Innovation Forum (SIF) at Waseda University began with a welcoming session for students and faculty from partner schools. This was a great opportunity to meet fellow participants from different backgrounds. I was especially excited about the group work activities introduced later in the day by Professor Koyama, which promised engaging learning experiences ahead.



development.

The highlight of the day was the excursion to the Takadanobaba neighborhood, where we explored the area and its significance within Tokyo's cultural fabric. It was eye-opening to walk through the local streets and observe how urban life and community spirit coexist. The afternoon reflection session allowed us to share insights gained during the walk, and the lecture on the Shin-Okubo area by Mr. Shigeyuki Yamamoto offered an interesting perspective on how community-based volunteer groups play a role in urban



Day 2: Discovering Shin-Okubo and Deepening Understanding of Community Development

On the second day, we delved deeper into the Shin-Okubo neighborhood. This time, the focus was on understanding how community development initiatives can address local needs. The excursion was particularly inspiring as it showcased how grassroots efforts contribute to sustainable community building.



After returning to campus, we had another reflection session where we discussed our experiences. The lecture by Mr. Yamamoto continued to emphasize the importance of community-based actions in fostering innovation and cooperation among residents. His insights provided a strong foundation for our upcoming group project.

Day 3: Presentations and Designing a Social Innovation Project

The third and final day was both exciting and challenging. The morning session featured presentations by students who shared their long-term study-abroad experiences. Hearing about their journeys and growth abroad resonated with my own exchange experience and reminded me of the personal and academic growth that studying in a foreign country can offer.



The rest of the day was dedicated to group work, where we collaborated on designing a social innovation project. Working with peers from various disciplines and cultural backgrounds was

an enriching experience. The final presentation of our project was the culmination of our learning throughout the forum. It was rewarding to see how each team member contributed unique perspectives to address the challenges of community development.

Final Thoughts

Participating in the SIF at Waseda University has been a highly educational and inspiring experience. It not only deepened my understanding of social innovation and community development but also allowed me to collaborate with a diverse group of individuals. The forum has provided me with valuable skills and insights that I will carry forward in my academic and professional endeavors.