

# REPORT on **New York Study Tour 2017**

12 second-year students visited New York from January 2nd to 6th, 2017

Here are reports on the lectures, workshops and visits they had there.

Please enjoy the reports and share with them what they've learned during the five days.



## **1. Lecture by Mr. Jeff Bowman**



I learned about marketing and technology from Jeff, and I learned about human rights from Ms. Odom. In that lecture, I think that the most interesting thing that I learned from them is their opinions about women's equality. I asked the question, "What do you think about women's equality? In

Japan, many people think a man should work a job and a woman should do housework. Do you have any solution or opinion about this question?" I asked this question because problems like this occur, though everyone wants to work well.

Mr. Bowman said that in Japan, gender equality is a heavy problem in workplace. However, in India, the caste system is a serious problem in society and working place, and in America, race difference is a big problem at work. So each country has each problem.



This was his opinion. I think we each have different problems, but there are

similar solutions to those problems, because they are all from culture or background. I would like to find similarities in that next. ( Y. I. )

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In Mr. Bowman's lecture about the American market, I learned two main things that truly surprised me.

First, I learned that Asians in America get high income, are generally highly educated, and are early adopters, so they are not targeted as much in terms of marketing. I was very surprised when I heard this, since more and more immigrants from Asian countries are

coming into the U.S.

Second, I learned that as minorities now will become the new majorities in the future, white people will become the new minorities, especially in terms of the population. This change is already happening in the top ten cities in the U.S. This fact was very shocking for me, since I thought that white people will keep on being the majority as they have been throughout history. ( Y. K. )

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Through Mr. Bowman's lecture, I learned the problem of the companies that they pay workers in developing countries less money than workers in advance countries. He said that this situation will continue through globalization in the future. However, he said that we can find some hints to solve this situation from education. Also, he said that there are several marketing types such as multi-cultural and cross-cultural. In these marketing types, the companies have to adopt themselves to the needs of minorities and other ethnicity. For example, American super markets have to prepare Chinese ingredients for Chinese immigrants. Also, I think that the Japanese marketing situation will become difficult because of globalization in the future. The number of Japanese workers will be increased and foreign workers will come to Japan. Then, the Japanese companies have to know about other cultures of them to adopt their needs. (N. W.)

## 2. Lecture by Ms. Tanya Odom

She said that most Americans do not realize the diversity in America, because of incidents based on race and this election. The reason why we must struggle with living with other cultures is because we feel afraid of differences. For example, when IS started committing terrorism, I thought that IS consists of Muslims. Then, I felt afraid of Muslims. At that time, I felt afraid of the religious differences, and I did not want to acknowledge the differences.



I think this tour was a good opportunity to think about diversity internationally, because society will be more globalized, so we will need to live in diversity in every country in the future. I think I need the skill to acknowledge people who have different cultures, background and so on.

I think I need the desire to acknowledge others. Also, I need to check that my ideas are not biased. If my ideas are based on biases and they are not true, I have to realize it and change my mind. (F.I.)

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She said that diversity is important for our life. I agree with this statement, because I

think that a wider perspective will make our life better. Knowing other cultures makes understanding of our own culture deeper. For example, when we know the new culture, we can compare it with the Japanese culture, so we can understand it deeply. For example, I feel the difference between America and Japan when I walk along a road. In Japan, if there is someone in the way, most of Japanese avoid the person without any word. However, in America, most of them say something like "Excuse me. " or "Thank you." I think that this is the difference of national character. Most of Japanese do not want to talk with whom they do not know. Thus, we can review our culture knowing another culture. For this reason, I think that we should accept the diversity and live with the diversity.

(T.O.)

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Ms. Tanya Odom said that conversation doesn't mean just talking, it is disagreeing each other and learning more about each other's opinions. We can prevent troubles by knowing that we have differences in the conversation and we can be free to do what we really want to. I was convinced by her opinion and thought that that's why conversation is sometimes difficult. We cannot change the world without conversations.

She also said discrimination is caused by people who are scared of changing the world. Of course, changing the world is scary, but I am sure that it will connect the world filled up with differences, if we are not too afraid of changing. (K. M.)

### **3. Talk with Mr. Numata**

What I learned from meeting with Mr. Numata is how to play an active part in an international way. I was impressed because this topic is the purpose of SGH. He said we should not be afraid of challenges. We cannot predict when or where we will be helped and who will help us while we are in foreign countries. He said that in order to get more help, we must not hesitate to talk, and I really agreed with that. I felt that he has many personal relationships and that is because of his personality. I thought he succeeded because once he decided, he was not afraid of challenges and that made personal relationships possible.

Also, he said that patience is important to live in foreign countries. In America, culture is different in every place,



so of course we have to adopt each culture. When he was a student, he could not eat enough food, because he had no money. At that time, he often considered how to eat more delicious food and sometimes, he endured hunger. When he was in junior high school, he didn't have enough opportunities where he could learn English. So he continued to commute to the Osaka EXPO site and learned English by talking with foreigners there. At first, he paid money to enter it. However at last, one person who worked at a pavilion asked him to work with them. So after that, he entered the site for free and talk with foreigners for free. I think that such experiences are from his patience. Having heard of this patience and challenging spirit, I understood how he achieved such a life. (Y. I.)

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Mr. Numata said that the first step of globalization is to make foreign friends, and he also told us the importance of friends and that there are no relationships between friendships and the international situation. I thought that I have to think great deal of meeting and trying to talk to foreigners without being afraid of them.

Mr. Numata learned English by communicating with people who came from all over the world to the World Expo in Osaka. Also, he said there is no worthless experience. I suppose that most great people have a remarkable ability to take action. I will take my first step and challenge myself to many things.

I want to be a person who contributes to world globalization like Mr. Numata. (K. M.)

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Mr. Numata told us many important things throughout his experience.

First, he succeeded in the United Nations by having personal connection. Before he joined meetings, he searched the backgrounds of attendees. So he could advance the meetings and negotiations smoothly by doing it beforehand. I think that it is important to know other people's backgrounds and respect them.

Second, when he had just been to America, he did not have enough money to live, but he cooperated with his friend and overcame that. For example, when he could not buy foods, his friend gave food to him. His friend also did not have enough money to live, but his friend helped him. When I heard this, I thought that wherever I am, the existence of friends is important.

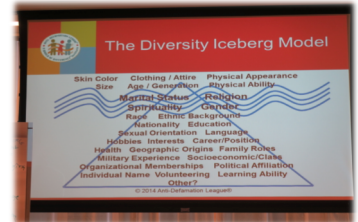
Third, he said that there is no useless experience, so students should try to do everything and experience various things. Right now I do not have anything that I want to do in the future, so I will try to many things from now on. I want to find future dreams. (H. M.)

# 4. Workshop at Anti-Defamation League



First, we did a dominoes activity. This activity's rule is easy. First, one person says two favorite things. Next, another person who has the same favorite thing goes next to the first person. The next person also does the same thing. This activity helped us to know each other

and understand that everyone is different. Second, we heard a lecture about the iceberg of diversity. During this lecture, I thought that we see only 20% of a person, just like an iceberg, so we should not judge people by their looks.



Next, we introduced our own identities using pipe cleaners. We made 4 shapes that express our favorite things or self-introduction, and we talked about the shapes. In this activity, I thought we had our own identities. Last, we watched a short movie in which a black guy can be a victim of a bias, and

I thought it is a very sad thing.

After we came back to Osaka, I will see a person without having a bias, and will not judge her/him by their looks. It is a very important thing because we cannot understand a person truly by looking at the person's looks. For example, if we look a foreigner in Osaka, we may think he lives in a foreign country and he cannot speak Japanese. But there are many foreigners who live in Osaka and can speak Japanese. So I want to see a thing from various points of view. (H. M.)

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ADL, the Anti-Defamation League was built to oppose discrimination against Jewish people. Now the ADL opposes all discrimination. At the ADL, we learned about identity and how discrimination occurs. I was especially surprised by the structure of discrimination.

According to the lecture, discrimination consists of three steps; The first step is stereotype. For example, "All geeks have bad manners." Based on stereotype, we will have

prejudice, like "I hate all geeks because they have bad manners." However, all geeks do not have bad manners. Based on stereotype and prejudice, discrimination finally occurs, like "I will never sit next to geeks."



When I heard this, I was really surprised. I had thought that discrimination was just discrimination. It changed my view completely. I am sure that the lecture at ADL will be useful for our future. (Y. T.)

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I learned how my identity is important for me for the first time, through doing the activity of identity structure. I made 4 different shapes that describe my identity in this activity. My 4 types of identities are piano, English, shopping and makeup. All of them are important parts of me, and I noticed that each of my identities connected with each other. After making my identity structure, trainer asked me to remove the most important part from my identity structure. When I removed it, I felt uncomfortable because it felt like my identity became a different one. Through this experience, I could know that denying or ignoring any part of someone's identity makes them feel uncomfortable, so I think that we should pay attention to both our own identities and others'. (S. O.)

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The most meaningful activity for me was watching a short movie. This movie is about stereotype. This movie's situation is in the store, and there are black man, white woman, and Asian man. Asian man is cashier. When black man came into the store, Asian cashier and white woman had bad image for black man, and they thought he do something bad, but he does nothing bad and he was OK. Through watching this movie, I learned that people have stereotypes and some people discriminate against other races. I had thought that I don't have stereotypes, but I noticed I have them when I talked about the short movie with other members. Then I thought that it is bad to judge people based on stereotypes. In Japan, there are stereotypes for example, Tokyo people is cold. Through this experience I will change my mind and tell other people about things I learned at ADL. (C. E.)

## 5. Guided Tour of United Nations



The most surprising thing was the gifts from many countries. Most of them have some meaning. One meaning is hoping for peace in the world. For example, the gift from Japan is "Heiwa no Kane (The Peace Bell)" <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese\\_Peace\\_Bell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_Peace_Bell)>. Some gifts represent the risk

of overdevelopment. For example, the gift from Italy is the monument of the broken earth which looks like a machine. It means that technology will destroy the earth. They were all thought on very much and sent to UN by each of the countries. I think that it shows that a lot of countries hope for peace on the whole earth. At least, the countries that sent gifts meaning peace to the UN think so. I was glad to know that there are countries which hope for the peace in the world. (T. O.)

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When I entered the United Nations I saw many gifts from countries in the world. However,



while I was walking along the corridor, I was impressed the most by the posters on the wall. They were the declarations of human rights. On these pictures, short statements and drawings are shown. The messages are short, but I felt that they were strong and reached my mind directly. One example is "no one should be

subjected to torture," this is a part of the messages, and on the same picture there is a drawing of a human cut by scissors. I thought that the message is really simple, but it carries a big influence on us to pay attention to that issue more carefully. (I. Y.)

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I was very surprised when I saw the moon-like circles illustrating the military budget. It showed me clearly about how huge money is being used to make war. The amount of money



was too big to imagine for me.

I think that this world will be happier if that money is used to protect the earth and people. Military was invented to fight with an enemy to protect oneself, but it definitely creates sadness. On the other hand, a weaponless world will not create any sadness, fear and jealousy. Therefore, I think that we should not use money to create weapons, but rather for protecting peace. (S. O.)

## 6. Lecture on Corporate Social Responsibility

### at a company in U. S.

I learned that DTCC respects the differences and backgrounds of their employees and provides the best environment for them to work in. I was surprised to hear that there are so many employee networks at DTCC, such as LGBT, women, Asian, black, Hispanic, and veteran networks. I think that this is a very important thing to do because every employee can feel included if they belonged to a certain network with people who have the similar backgrounds as they do. They would not feel like they are minorities in the company.

When I start working in a company, I would like to spread the idea of making networks based on the backgrounds of the employees. I would like to make a network for returnees, so that I can share my experiences with people who are like me.

(Y. K.)



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If a company puts in systems for diversity, we can make win-win relationships in the workplace. For example, the DTCC, an American post-trade financial services company providing clearing and settlement services to the financial markets, accepts religious diversity, and established personal rooms for praying. Thanks to this

system, workers feel "My identity is accepted from the company!" Then, workers are motivated and can conceive innovative and productive ideas. Finally, the DTCC can make more profit. We can say that is a win-win relationship between the worker and the company.

I think that Japanese companies also can make a relationship like the DTCC, by accepting workers' identities. I think that Japanese people tend to hate difference and love unity. For example, if no one suggest ideas at the meeting, it is difficult for us to suggest





something even if we have ideas. This means Japanese tend to make light of individuals. So probably many people do routine works, and it is difficult to be innovative. This causes workers to crazily work every day, and companies cannot make much profit.

In order to solve this problem, we should put systems for diversity in, like the DTCC does. If we put the system, employee stop hating difference, and all the people can suggest ideas. In addition to that, they should invite consultants into the office and have conversations on including employee's identity. I sincerely want more Japanese companies to notice to this. (R. N.)

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We went to DTCC and met Ms. Nadine Augusta. DTCC is Depository Trust & Cleaning Corporation. This is an American financial service company. I learned about religion in the workplace there. Ms. Nadine told us that religion is taboo in the US, so many companies don't touch it. In Japan, almost all of us are not religious, so it is different from the US but I think in both Japan and the US, we should acknowledge difference like religion and take them into account. These days, most of the world is diversifying so I think that is important point.



Also I learned about women in the workplace. Ms. Nadine talked about women's talent and said their husbands should do more and keep work life balance. I thought that women equality is the problem that we should think about. As she said, I think that husbands should help their wives sharing the housework. It is an important thing. (C. E.)

## **7. Guided Tour of Museum of Chinese in America**

I learned a long history of Chinese immigrants in America. The most surprising thing was that they had to do heavy work instead of Americans. Some of them worked twenty hours at a laundry, so they did not have enough time to sleep and they became sick. Also, they had to irons, which were very heavy, so I think it was hard and difficult for women to do. (N. W.)



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I learned about the history of Chinese immigrants in the U.S. I would like to spread the information of how they were treated by Americans in history. They were once excluded because of a wrong stereotype, depriving them of benefits that other Americans had, for example, jobs and money, but during World War II, they were included as friends together against Japan. After that, they became opponents during the Cold War. I had



not known how Chinese were liked or discriminated against by Americans before visiting MOCA. From this visit, I learned that Americans had treated Chinese people whatever they liked depending on the era. I think that we should not change our attitude toward people depending on a situation of whether they are good for us or not. (I. Y.)

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Americans used to discriminate against the Chinese terribly. They changed the target to discriminate against after WWII had happened.

Why I would like to spread this information is because this fact shows the feelings which Americans used to have. Americans, at that time, could not acknowledge the race difference, and they could not help but discriminate against someone who had those differences. When it comes to bullying, people who cannot acknowledge differences will continue to bully someone. Therefore, I think the history of Chinese Americans is important in order not to discriminate and not to bully. (F. I.)

## 8. Guided Tour of TENEMENT Museum

I thought that immigrants in weak positions completely became part of the diversity in the United States now, because of their desire. Residents of the TENEMENTS had been trying to earn money, even though the environment was extremely bad. When I thought about the reason for effort, I conceived the importance of religion. In the TENEMENT, there are many religious things: for example, crosses, pictures of Christ, and statues of Christ. Immigrants probably prayed to Christ for their success, and it encouraged them to live in a hard environment. From this, I learned that something to encourage us is necessary when we challenge ourselves to play in an active part worldwide. In immigrants' lives, religion encouraged them. Even if I don't



have a religion, I think I can have the things that encourage myself. So from today, I am going to look for the thing that encourages me. (R. N.)

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TENEMENTs are apartment houses that immigrants who came to the USA lived in. Each room did not have a lock on the front door, a bathroom, or enough windows. Moreover, sanitary environment of the TENEMENTs was really bad, so many immigrants died because of the environment. Most of immigrants who lived in TENEMENTs left their house within three years. Through seeing the TENEMENT and listening to its story, I thought that immigrants had difficulty in getting along in the environment of NYC, but with their difficulty, the USA became known as a country of immigrants. I think that we should thank them. (Y. T.)