

World Embassy Tour

2014 – 2015 GRIPS International Student Council Initiative

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Serving The Purpose



Japan has been trying hard to enhance its soft power through various means. International education is one of the instruments that has been utilized by Japan for many decades. GRIPS has been serving as an important public diplomacy tool in order to maintain its position in the international relations arena. To strengthen GRIPS' relationships with major players in the world and to enhance the knowledge of GRIPS students. World Embassy Tour was conceptualized and executed by Yu-chen HSIEH, the president of International Student Council (ISC)..

PROGRAM DESIGN

Desire Of Learning

Students are the most important assets of GRIPS. Therefore, the program was designed to meet students' expectations. Ensuring that students having fun while gaining valuable knowledge during their stay with GRIPS.

The program guaranteed opportunities of global networking by

1. visiting various embassies in Tokyo
2. Experiencing the cultures from all over the world
3. Enjoying seminars conducted by Ambassadors/diplomats
4. Chatting and networking with Ambassadors & diplomats
5. Enjoying food from different countries.

Student delegates served as diplomats of GRIPS, representing the highest quality of education offered by GRIPS.

The project directly and indirectly promotes the name of GRIPS in the world of diplomacy and international relations.

EMBASSIES

With student networks, we were able to organize 6 embassy visits. They were Australia, China, Malaysia, South Korea, Switzerland and the Philippines.

Australia

Date: 25 August 2015

Number of delegates: 15

Australia was the first embassy that confirmed our visit. The tour started with a very warm greeting by the deputy head of the mission to Japan, Mr. Tom Connor followed by presentations presented by diplomats from various departments in the topics of political strategy, trade policy and resources and industry. Q&A session and networking activity were provided with Australian beverages and finger foods.

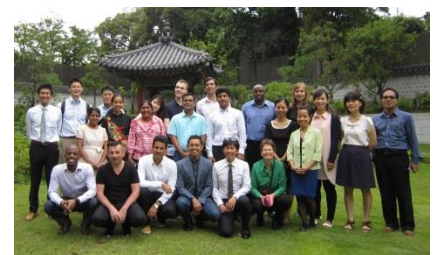


South Korea

Date: 28 August 2015

Number of delegates: 23

The visit started with a brief introduction by a senior researcher at the South Korean Embassy, Ms Wonkyung Rhee. We visited a mini history museum, a Korean styled garden followed by presentation introducing Japan - South Korea relations and the challenges South Korea is facing. At the end of session, the embassy provided Korean lunch box during Q&A session with senior diplomats of the embassy.



Switzerland

Date: 4 September 2015

Number of delegates: 18

Dr. Matthias Frey, the head of science and technology office of the embassy organized the seminar with topics in very interesting Swiss political systems, trade relations and education promotions. All delegates were also amazed by the hospitality offered by His Excellency, Ambassador Urs Bucher. During networking session, delegates enjoyed the simplism architecture design of the ambassador residence and luxurious food and ice cream made by professional in-house chef.



China

Date: 8 September 2015

Number of delegates: 21

Chinese Embassy visit exceeded our expectation. The visit was organized by a young diplomat, Zhang Han. Delegates first went to a summit-talk styled room to experience the atmosphere, allowing delegates taking photo there. Then we were guided to a huge hall and greeted by more than 10 diplomats. Including the minister counselor, Rong Ying and the emcee, Xie Yunhui. There was not a seminar, instead, GRIPS delegates were divided into 4 groups to network with diplomats, making the discussion more interesting and lively. Chinese finger food were served during the discussion. Delegates were led to Chinese garden next to Ambassador's residence where the smell of peace between Japan and China could be felt.



The Philippines

Date: 9 September 2015

Number of delegates: 14



Thanks to the arrangement by Ms Vanesa Sumera, the secretary to the ambassador. GRIPS delegates were able to enjoy the whole program. An embassy tour and history introduction were very well guided by Consul Dominic Xavier M. Imperial. His Excellency, the ambassador, Manuel M. Lopez delivered a very informative lecture to all delegates. Topics including Japan – Philippine relations, economic growth and tourism. GRIPS delegates were encouraged to ask many questions during Q&A session. The networking session were spectacular, delegates were treated with authentic Filipino food and drinks.

Malaysia

Date: 10 September 2015

Number of delegates: 12



Fun chat is just not enough to describe the Malaysian embassy tour. Delegates were briefed on the topics of political system, multiculturalism, tourism and religious issues. During the Q&A session, numerous interesting questions were asked, such as politics, culture cross-religion marriage and Muslim related questions. Senior counselor Azri Mat Yacob managed to organized the Malaysian embassy tour in a fun and open way.

THE OUTCOMES

Successful Public Diplomacy.

World Embassy Tour (WET) was a very successful initiative. Participants did not just enjoy wonderful food offered by each respective embassy, but learned and grasped the position each embassy held.



WET was a Win-Win-Win projects. The project was not an event just for students, but it benefited all participating embassies and GRIPS itself. For students, the project allowed students to gain more knowledge in how the world politics works. This was also an excellent opportunity to enhance the soft power of each participating embassy through meeting these future leaders from all over the world. And for GRIPS, WET was a connector to promote GRIPS' very unique programs, allowing both embassy staff and students understand the world class education GRIPS has to offer.

THE LEGACY

To be continued?

The program can maintain GRIPS' well-established reputation and it is so far the quickest way to enhance the knowledge of students in the world of international relations. WET has set a benchmark, we sincerely hope the legacy can be continued for future GRIPS summer program led by the director of Alumni office, Karin Hillen.

For more information, please contact

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