



OCA Report

March 2018

OCT 2017 TAIWAN / MANILA TOUR

ASIAN BEAT PROJECT



Mihoko Kitano (Sampoko)

I was in charge of the Taiwan/Manila tour this time and I am happy to report on this project. We visited Taichung and Taipei from Oct 28th to Nov 2nd, and Manila from Nov 2nd to 5th in 2017. 19 people from Japan, 10 from Taiwan, 1 from the Philippines and 5 OCA staff members participated in this tour.

Preparation for summer camp and tour

When I visited Taiwan to rehearse in May, my first impression of the Taiwan Cast was there were a bit quiet but they loved to dance.

We had a summer camp at the end of August to gather all cast members from the three countries - Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines. At first they were nervous, but the tension gradually disappeared. In the evening of the first day, we had a campfire. I noticed they were enjoying love talks in different languages. I felt very happy about it.

One theme of the camp is how to convey each other's goodness without relying on words. In order to make "Friendship beyond nationality and language", we value verbal

communication less than "feeling" and "pleasure" in a common language of dance & games.

By doing so, they can enjoy this international exchange program more.

After the summer camp, each cast practiced at home until the tour started. The 19-member Japanese team gathered from all over Japan and had rehearsals and workshops 3-5 hours a day for three days. In order to create Japanese performance, we combined a variety of cultural works taking advantage of each other's different personalities.



At the same time, we introduced a workshop which set up a "challenge zone" to look deeply at their own personal growth. Now we were ready for the tour.

The visit to Taiwan, the Philippines - Filled with excitement

The cast members deepened their friendships day by day. It seemed like they didn't waste any time-being together for only nine days. In addition, I think that one of our big achievements was utilizing the day duty system which encouraged cooperation and empowered each cast member as a part of the team.



At Taichung University of Science and Technology, we had an exchange program with 100 college students like last year. At Dayeh University, 500 students enjoyed our show. At the Aletheia University in Taipei, 100 students enjoyed a dance party with rock bands and dance groups.

After finishing the program in Taiwan, we visited the Philippines for the first time. Ms. Raquel Nakayama spoke about her life and many of us were impressed and learned a lot. Her message encouraged young people who face difficulties in their lives. The dance party was the biggest highlight. The fun and excitement of that night has become a very precious memory that symbolized this program. I appreciate everyone in the Philippines who made this program succeed.

Results of this year and future developments

As for the Common Beat Taiwan Performance in May 2018, we want to make it succeed by maximizing the relationships with the Taiwan team which we have built through Asian Beat. Then it will also raise their interest in the 2018 Asian Beat Program. I want to use this big trend to the momentum of the program. Also, by inviting Korean cast members to the Asian Beat Program, we can expand the diversity of casts and create more interesting programs.

Even now after the tour has finished, the cast members have been exchanging messages through LINE. How nice if this could be the start of '50 years of friendship' like Mr. Takahashi did. Then we could call this program successful in building lasting friendships.

The theme of this year's program was "Bond". Two weeks is a short time to spend together, but I think that friendships between cast members transcended nationalities and languages and strong bond was created.

It was an exciting program that was a bit different from the previous years. Thank you very much for your warm support and cooperation.





Mika Takahashi (Mika)

The most peaceful entertainment in international exchange!

It was a valuable experience that we could interact with the local students by participating in overseas performances unique to the Asian Beat Project. Most surprising was that I met the Philippine All Stars (below) in Manila and could dance with them. The Philippine All Stars became world champions when I participated in the world championship as a Japanese representative at the World Hip Hop Dance Championship held in Las Vegas in the past. Their stage was amazing and I felt a refreshing wind blowing from the stage. The shock at that time changed my view of life. I also met a team choreographer from the Philippine All Stars, and more than anything, I made nice friends and brothers in the world (^ ^).

I want to understand other people more by studying foreign languages. I have been procrastinating for a long time! It was a wonderful trip to revisit myself!



Tamami Kageyama (Love Me)

The theme of this tour was "Bond".

The Asian Beat challenged all the participants and connected us. I chose the word "believe" when we uttered one word at a green room before the final dance performance started. I was blessed with a wonderful friends whom I can believe. I think it is never too late to start doing what I want to do.

Be true to yourself and do what you really feel.

We could enjoy the Asian Beat Program by opening and concentrating our minds. I thank everyone I met because I could rethink my beliefs deeply. If anyone is not sure about joining this program, I would like to recommend by saying "Join it. A treasure of a wonderful encounter is waiting for you."

I will continue treasuring encounters with the Asian Beat in the future.

I will continue challenging myself with a flexible mind and body.

"Challenge Forever" has become my motto.





Masato Oya (Ma-Bo)

When I first thought about joining the Asian Beat Program, I made the right choice. I could not imagine connecting with people who have a different language and culture, but I did it with singing and dancing. I was so impressed with the connection between people. Raquel gave us a speech about a strong friendship which has lasted for 50 years. The story made a profound impact on us.

The relationship has been continuing even though they live in different countries and lead different lives.

By the way, I cannot speak English at all.

I am confident I can get along with people well although my communication skills are limited. I could connect with more people than anyone else in this Asian Beat Project. I want many people to join this program.



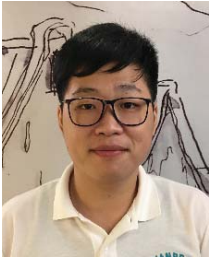
Mika Oshiro (Mika)

This year's Asian Beat had a memorable theme of union, wherein members were expected to create a more intimate kind of relationship with others being treated as family members. More members from all three countries gathered to create a massive performance, giving roles and stage time to each country before performing together. With a less strict schedule of practicing for the shows, the members were given leisure time to hang out with each other.

Having been part of Asian Beat for the second time, it was more relaxing for me to do the program, especially since I know the flow of it; however, with a new set of members, it was still quite challenging for me. I had to accept the change of the new generation of Asian Beat members, for the ones I know can't join anymore. It was a thought that did not cross my mind until later on when I met the new members. This, however, did not hinder me from getting along with everyone, despite the slight sadness I felt during the first few days.

With Asian Beat's goal to gather more members and to share the passion of music and unity by singing and dancing, I truly believe that this yearly program will continue to be successful. I am honored to say that with Asian Beat, I have found my vocation through talking and communicating with other people; and with this, in the future, I am hoping for a chance to continue on performing with another new set of family members.





Eric

I am very happy to participate in the Asian Beat project this year. During the journey, I could feel the strong rendering power of songs and dances. Members of the project came from Japan, Taiwan and the Philippines three different countries. Although they are all located in Asia, their cultures are different. Especially language. We communicate our thoughts by singing and dancing together. At the same time, we also cultivated profound friendships. During the trip we visited many places, each performing a burst of stunning sparks. I also made new friends and got applause that intoxicated me. In addition to performing, we also learned about Taiwanese culture with foreign members. For example: the night market, local cuisine and historic temples and attractions.

At the last stop of the journey, we heard a very beautiful story. The heroine shared her life experiences. Because she came into contact with the show, she made many good friends and her husband. She also shared her positive outlook on life and brought me back from the doldrums. I am very fortunate to be able to participate in this project. I believe all participating members can also be like the speaker and her friends keeping alive the friendships.



Talk Event of

Ms. Raquel Calma Nakayama

Reported by Koji Okumura

Raquel shared with us the TURNING POINTS in her life on the second day in Manila. She came to Japan fifty years ago at age 15, and became friends with us through activities at MRA Mobile High School, Sing Out Asia. After that, we have kept in touch with her for more than 50 years. She kindly supported the Asian Beat Tour in Manila with Atek Jacinto. We cannot introduce all the contents of the talk event here, but here is the summary. Her lessons are:

- * Be true to yourself
- * Have the courage to express your feelings, dreams, challenges, problems to your family and close friends.
- * Do not be afraid to make mistakes because without these you will never know when you are right.
- * Open mindedness – listen twice as much as you talk.
- * Mindfulness – Pay close attention to the present moment.
- * Gratitude everyone for everything, no matter how small.

She left Manila, the Philippine at the age of 15, leaving parents and brothers for studying alone in Japan. She participated in the activities of Sing Out Asia while learning at Sophia University and at the MRA mobile school in different circumstances, culture and life. She has made many friends through musical activities in various parts of Japan and the US and touched various people and cultures. Her talk was very moving and will remain in our hearts.

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Participants from Taiwan



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Zi-Ming, Liu



Domi
趙文
Wen, Chao



Eating
彭一庭
Yi-Ting, Peng



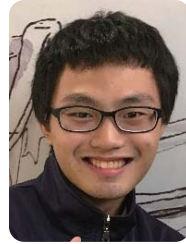
Eric
杜哲旭
Zhe-Xu, Du



Eva
王瀨玉
Jing-Yu, Wang



Gruuu
陳鈺婷
Yu-Ting, Chen



Jimmy
冉啓佑
Chi-Yu, Jan



Julie
吳謹慧
Chin-Hui, Wu



Penny
康文品
Wen-Pin, Kang



Zoe
呂佳璇
Jia-Syuan, Lyu

Participants from Philippines



Mika
Mika Oshiro



Gab
Gabriel
Mendoza



Paulo
Gerald Paulo
Mendoza

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Participants from Japan



Aimi
山下 愛
Aimi Yamashita



Akki
中山 彰仁
Akihito Nakayama



Ban Ban
伴 捷人
Hayato Ban



Chibaron
千葉 耕平
Kohei Chiba



Harupe
竹之内 春香
Haruka Takenouchi



Hi chan
片瀨 瞳
Hitomi Katafuchi



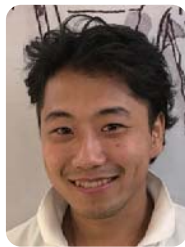
Hinako
藤本 日菜子
Hinako Fujimoto



Hiro
富樫 弘考
Hironori Togashi



Love me
影山 玉実
Tamami Kageyama



Ma-Bo
大家 賢人
Masato Oya



Mika
高橋 美加
Mika Takahashi



Mina King
檜松 美奈子
Minako Naramatsu



Nyao
門脇 菜生
Nao Kadowaki



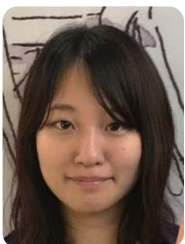
Og
迫 裕樹
Yuki Sako



Sachi
下田 さち
Sachi Shimoda



Saito
齊藤 翔
Sho Saito



Seatile
山瀬 加奈
Kana Yamase



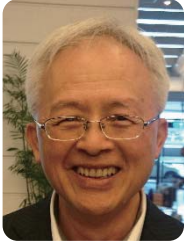
Yui
久米 唯
Yui Kume



Yo chan
植木 洋子
Yoko Ueki

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林定三
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Robert
陳建舟
Robert Chen



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Ying, Shu-Feng



Paul
黃凌軒
Ling-Hsuan Huang



Atek
Atek Jacinto



Raquel
Raquel Nakayama



Claire
黃榆喬
Yu-Chia, Huang



Ryo
安達亮
Ryo Adachi



Akiyama
秋山泰三
Hiromitsu Akiyama

Organizers



Takahashi
高橋信幸
Nobuyuki Takahashi



Ted
我妻宣忠
Noritada Agatsuma



Boo
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Koji Okumura



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Mihoko Kitano



Momo
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