

Urawa to the world!!

~ the plan to protect world heritage sites through partnerships ~

Urawa Girls' Upper Secondary School

1. Aim

We decided to consider international cooperation activities, but we thought it would be difficult for high school students to consider worldwide problems such as war and conflict in terms of environment and economy. Therefore, we decided to investigate the conservation of world cultural heritage, which we thought would be more familiar and easier to generate new ideas. We aimed to explore ways of international contribution through this research.

2. Supposition

when we cannot protect cultural heritage using local technology

adopt Japanese technology

the problem when protecting other countries' heritages

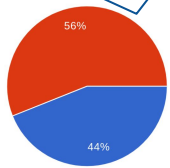
communication

3. Research method

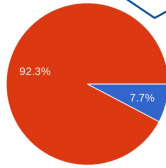
- ① We took a survey of students in Ichijo and saw the current awareness.
- ② We asked some questions to Japan Consortium for international cooperation in cultural heritage by email.

4. Survey results

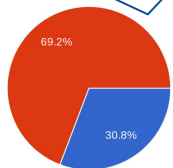
① Do you know that some cultural heritages are threatened?



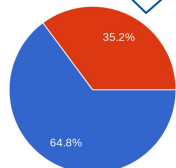
② Do you know about the way to protect a work of art by using Japanese paper?



③ Do you know about the way to protect works of art or wooden architecture by using gold leaf?



④ Do you know about the way to repair architecture by using lacquer?



● Yes
● No

Questionnaire

Japan Consortium for international cooperation in cultural heritage

① The difference in awareness about heritage sites between Japan and other countries

1. The recognition of heritage site

Developing countries:

Maintain the important roles in cultural perspective

Developed countries:

Think about the value of heritages, make efforts in order not to lose it by deterioration and so on

2. World heritage Convention

...The matter that whether we can make a universal understanding of the concept of how we should succeed the heritages beyond the border

② The good points and bad points about using Japanese technology for repairing the heritage sites across the sea

◎ Good points

- Providing some means to fix the heritages
- Being able to influence many countries from a cultural point of view

✕ Bad points

- the risk that Japanese technology could lead to the destruction of heritages if we fix them by using it without considering the backgrounds of how they have been succeeded domestically
- ▶ The need to consider that succeeding heritages has cost so much time
- The difference in concern and sense about preserving heritage
- ▶ The necessity of communication in the field, flexible and the best choice, external expression

③ The obstacle when we protect cultural heritage beyond borders

difference in sense of value

- ▶ We should keep in mind that conservation activities are mainly carried out by the country which holds the cultural heritage.

④ Can we use Japanese traditional architectural technology to protect cultural heritage whose culture and materials are different from Japan?

• teaching the philosophy of Japanese conservation and way of repairing

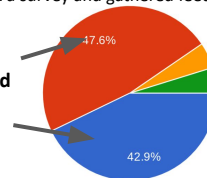
- ▶ thinking the way to apply Japanese technology by country
- The difference in materials (ex. Europe and America→stone / Japan→wood) is not so big. It is possible to apply Japanese technology.

5. Practice

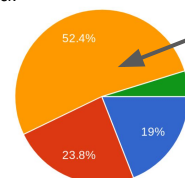
We offered information about the conservation of world cultural heritage by making a leaflet and using social media.

→ took a survey and gathered feedback

got interested in the topic



not willing to participate in conservation activities



6. Conclusion

Japan can enhance a sense of presence by providing Japanese technology. However, the understanding of the prevention of world heritage sites differs between developing countries and developed countries, which makes it difficult to work together in fixing them. Also, the awareness of the conservation of world cultural heritage is low among students, and the number of students who are willing to participate in conservation activities is low.

7. Issues

- how to aim for mutual understanding beyond borders
- how we can contribute to world issues more effectively
- ▶ It is important to take small actions. (butterfly effects)
- how to get more people involved in the conservation of world cultural heritage

8. Future outlook

- Japan can tell the importance of protecting world heritage sites and traditional cultures from a practical perspective as one of the most developed countries, which will give developing countries a new sense of values and make it easy to gain agreement with other countries.
- We need to think of a way to contribute to the conservation of world heritage that is easy for young people to participate in.

9. Reference

Japan Consortium for International Cooperation in Cultural Heritage