

**DAY-5** 27th March

## What Society Do We Live In?

The TYCA participants started the "Urbanization & Diversity Day" with a walk around Omotesando and Harajuku. They ate Okonomiyaki and Monjayaki for lunch and walked to the Meiji Shrine, where the group experienced some Japanese traditions. At the Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery, the group learned more about Emperor Meiji and his important role in Japan's modernization process and development. Back at the Olympic Center, the participants started reflecting about all lessons learned so far.

### "Japanese Spirit"

Learning about the traditions, history and daily life in Japan yielded many new ideas and experiences. The Japanese, in the past and the present, have a clear idea of who and what they are. It can be seen in their streets, as tolerate foreign products and influences while maintaining their strict Japanese identity. However, there is no such thing as

perfect assurance that this place is safe even in Japan, known as one of the safest countries in the world, and the damage will be egregious if there were any untoward incidents because of laxness in security.

**Politician**



Crowded street

### "Green Space"

The orientation presented by Mr. Makoto Shirai impressed the participants about how Japanese people change their standard of livings. The area around Meiji Jingu Shrine used to be empty before the Meiji era, however, it is now covered with thousands of trees. It is believed that the trees were planted due to religious reason, but at present, it provides green space and environmental friendly area

which scientists have proven to be a necessity in big cities such as Tokyo. However, some developing countries would not be able to build the green space like the one in Tokyo as scientists believe that it is quite a challenge to convince government since it would entail destroying the existing infrastructures.

**Scientist**



Forest in the Midst of a Modern City

### "Impact of Western Civilization"

There was a period of time when Japan struggled to take in enormous amounts of Western culture including industries, technologies, and politics. Upon the introduction of such new culture, the nation of Japan which at the time had been under developed, greatly modernized. The foundation of Japan's growth to become one of the leaders of the world in the 20<sup>th</sup> century could be found here. It is

impossible to deny the fact that the original Japanese industries could have been economically damaged from the sudden change in the society's demands, but such negative impact seems insignificant. The apparent negative point about Japan's influx of western culture can be found when considering culture and the loss of national identity of the Japanese citizens.

**Economist**



Lecture by Mr. Shirai

### "Developing a Country, Keeping Identity"

Based on traditional supports, the country can develop through imagination in a more efficient way. For example, during the dramatic change in Meiji era, the people were encouraged by Emperor Meiji to contribute to the development of the country. At the same time, the government observed other countries' strengths and applies those

strengths into their developing strategies. This way, Japan was able to develop keeping traditional terms. However, the short comings are that the scenery of Tokyo was lost because sometimes the modern and the out-dated areas got mixed up. So it is important to know and consider about the country's root and identity before thinking of development.

**Sociologist**



Torii of Meiji Shrine