

Mero Sathi Project Final Event

(June 2, 2016)



Akinori Seki Seminar at Tokyo Keizai University held a special lecture with Mr. Kazumasa Kakimi in association with AAEE, Asia Association of Education and Exchange. This was the final event of the AAEE “Mero Sathi Project”. At the beginning of the seminar, Prof. Seki asked Mr. Kakimi some questions that everyone might have been interested in. The answers were brilliant and not only made us smile, but also changed our outlook towards people. He told us that “The surest way to be happy is to make others happy.”

Through our experience so far, how many times have we ever acted for other people? In my case, I can count them, so I found I have not done enough for other people. The program provided us with a lot of tips and we want to put them into practice.

In the middle of this special lecture, one of our project members, Yuto Ishii (he was in our seminar last year) talked about what our seminar did last year and ideas that he got from this seminar. He said, “Learning language is just the first step in connecting people from different countries. We have to have consideration for others. It is the most important thing.” This was his conclusion about learning language.

Finally, Prof. Seki concluded the event by raising a question to the audience about whether we have tried our best to make others happy.



Yuto Ishii, the former seminar member



Prof. Akinori Seki

Special Lecture by OK Baji (Kazumasa Kakimi)

Mr. Kakimi graduated from Waseda University; he worked at Junshin Women's High School. As his hobby is hiking; he wanted to try to climb the Himalayas and one day he decided to do it. While climbing there, he almost died, because of the avalanche, and his supporter for the journey at the mountain peak was killed in the avalanche. This incident shocked him so much that he visited the village his supporter grew up in.



When he went there, he found that a lot of people there had a difficult life. For example, children didn't go to school and had to work from age 6. After this visit, he decided to quit his job and started to help them as a volunteer in Nepal. Now he is called "OK Baji". It means OK Grandfather. After he started his voluntary job, he built more than 200 schools, brought sick people to the hospital, and so on. Whenever someone was in confusion, he always asked about their problem and helped them. This is the reason everyone who knows him; definitely greets him and shows respect towards him.

What our seminar did for this event

We didn't know about this event until two weeks ago. We were really surprised when we heard about it. Because it was suddenly decided, we chose the event leader within one day. This was our first event, so we started to address it step by step. First, Prof. Seki said



"please invite at least 50 people", so we passed out pamphlets in our university during lunchtime, posted on SNS, asked the public relations department to post our pamphlets on the University's homepage, and went to some shops to

put our pamphlets in. Then we thought how we should conduct our event. During the discussion, Prof. Seki said “Let's try to make an original event” We couldn't help but open our mouths. Anyway, we had to think about what we would do in the event, so we decided to make background music, because some of our members could play instruments, like *taiko* (a Japanese drum), flute, and guitar. After we decided what we would do, the time left was very short, so they practiced their instruments seriously. However, after of all these efforts we could hold a nice event.

What we learned:

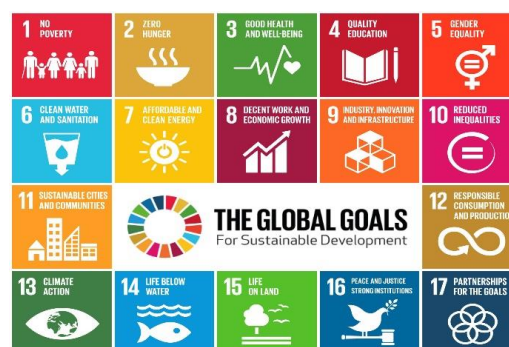
It was hard for us to conduct the event, because we had never managed an event until our seminar started, but every one of our seminar's members tried to do their best for succeeding. We were sure it was a big success. Although we faced various difficulties throughout the event due to lack of experience, we were still



able to learn some important tactics. Especially, we learned that being flexible is quite important in preparing for an event like this in a short period of time. We would like to make good use of this experience in our future activities.

By the way, one of the main themes of Seki Seminar 2016 is 'Sustainable Development'. Do you know what it is? This summer we are going to visit Vietnam and do a joint-research about this topic with college students in Vietnam for 2 weeks! Now we are studying hard and thinking about how we can tell Japan's appealing points to Vietnamese students.

Thank you for reading!



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