

ROTARY WORLD PEACE FELLOW REPORT

FIRST REPORT NOVEMBER 2009

Yoko Miura

2009-2010 Rotary World Peace Fellow

University of Bradford

Course: Peace Study

Sponsor District: 2770

Host District : 1040

1) Academic activities and progress

The academic year has started on September 28 and I enrolled Peace Study course which has considerable flexibility for module selection. "Introduction to Peace Study" is the only core module and I registered 2 other modules in Semester one, "Nationalism, Peace and Conflict" and "Conflict Resolution: Theory and Practice 1". All modules will be held over 12 weeks but Introduction to peace study was intensive and ended in its 6th week. We could learn here various types of topic, such as a history of peace, gender, climate change, war on terror and structural violence.

Our first essay submission deadline was on November 5. I chose the identification of the 19th century peace movement as my essay topic. Although peace movement defines to aim directly abolishing war, I sought argument on the role of humanitarian activities and law by focusing on First Geneva Convention and the Red Cross which was both initiated by Henri Dunant. Fortunately for me, Professor Peter van den Dungen is one of the specialists for those areas and I could borrow some related books (including his publications) from him.

All Rotary peace fellows had Professor Tom Woodhouse as a tutor and we discuss not only academic issues but also specific matters for Rotary



With Host Counsellor, Margaret Hammond

2) Involvement with Rotarians **in your host area**

I arrived in UK on the 22nd of September just one week before the course started. My host counsellor, Margaret Hammond, kindly picked me up at Manchester airport and offered a room for the night. She also prepared some essentials for me so that I could start new life here without any problem.

Three days after arriving in Bradford, I participated in LINK WEEKEND with other peace fellows and ambassadorial scholars in UK. It was held in Leicester and we had a great opportunity to get to know each other and also to improve international understanding.

Then we attended District conference in Southport. We handled Rotary International booth at Friendship house and had a chance to talk to many Rotarians.



1040 District Conference at Southport with Japanese ambassadorial scholar

Also our Class VIII attended Bill Huntley Memorial Peace Seminar for Class VII on October 31. This gave me the first opportunity to make public speech since I arrived in Bradford. Class VIII had 150 second speech per fellow and described the motivation to be Rotary World Peace Fellow, the reference to interests and challenging goal for world peace.



Class VIII at the seminar



Class VIII at Seminar dinner

3) Impressions of the program

My current impression of the program hasn't changed yet from the one before arrival. It's well organized and designed to fulfil various areas of interests. But it was a bit tough to manage the first one month for me finishing up my first essay and at the same time attending Rotary conference every other weekend. This is surely because of my limited capacity for English writing and reading. I hope I could overcome this issue before second report.

4) Success and challenges as a Rotary World Peace Fellow

So far, I haven't attended any peace conference or enrolled internship exemplified in the report instruction.

In terms of academic success and challenges, the completion of the first essay upon such time pressure was a first success. However it would be a challenge for second essay to manage my time better. We haven't gotten result of first essay but I should review comments to utilize next one.

For AFE programme, I started searching some potential position preferably in financial area at NGO. However I was told that most of positions were probably located in those countries which are on the Rotary ban list. As I still prefer to

work in the fields, I am planning to visit some organizations during winter vacation and hope to get some ideas. Also Tom arranged the meeting for us to hear more details of Class VII's AFE experiences. This will enable me to have more concrete idea for my AFE.

Finally, I would like to thank Rotary foundation supporting Rotary World Peace Fellow programme and my sponsor and host districts treating me with gentle patience.