MA. GEMMALYN DE CANO MORTA’S JOURNAL

August 20, 2010 (Friday)

Today, I am excited and ready for our delegation (Our Adviser, Interpreters, and the four (4) of us SLI Ambassadors) to go to the NAIA Airport. Our flight for Doha, Qatar is scheduled at 6:35 AM so we need to be at the airport three hours before our departure time. It was a long trip from Manila to Qatar about more than seven (7) hours. We arrived at the Doha Airport at around 11:00 AM, our next flight was scheduled at 3:35 PM, so it was a long wait. We just walked around the Doha airport. Finally, we departed Doha, Qatar bound for Heathrow, London. While in the plane, I loved the food the plane serves and our group was very happy. We arrived at London at around 11:30 PM. I had a jetlag since the time was different. We met Ms. Pat together with a delegation from Japan (Faculty, Interpreter, and Students). We introduced ourselves and after we all took a bus going to Herstmonceux, Castle. The bus ride lasted for two (2) hours and we finally arrived at the Castle Dorm 1:45 AM. We were all very tired from the long trip and I got confused due to the time difference so I was fast asleep when we got to our room. I now know what London looks like … what a beautiful environment and place to live in … I am very excited for the next days to come so I can take the time to seeing more of the place.

August 21, 2010 (Saturday)

Anna is my roommate. The next morning, she wakes me up because it is time for breakfast at the Castle. All of us go together to the Castle, which was about 5-10 minutes’ walk from the dorm. While walking, we saw how beautiful and nice the environment at the Castle is. Once we arrived at the Castle, we started to eat our breakfast. Finally, delegation from the other countries like Japan, China, Russia, and USA arrived and we enjoyed interacting with each other. I started to learn new things e.g. diversity of culture and their respective sign languages. I met the U.S.A. group, a student from RIT-NTID, they are nice people and we exchange questions.

August 22, 2010 (Sunday)

Today, I am very happy and enjoyed learning about the history of the Castle especially the secret places. It was a wonderful and beautiful story as if we were in a land of paradise. Next, Mr. Gerry Buckley led an activity about building a network of friends, which I enjoyed the most. Though communication was difficult because of language diversity, we all tried our best to successfully understand each other. It was fun and wonderful. Today, we also presented our part entitled Filipino Deaf Leaders and watched the presentation from other countries. I felt good and learned about Deaf leaders from other countries. I shared my experiences with other participants and it was nice to meet them all especially the PEN-International presenters and organizers of the Summer Leadership Institute.

August 23, 2010 (Monday)

Today, I liked the presentation shared by Mr. Gerry and Ms. Judy Buckley. The shared about their family life experiences that involved culture and shaped leadership. The most and inspiring part was that of Ms. Judy’s life struggle

I watched Gerry and Judy Buckley’s presentation about their life experiences, culture and how his/her family shaped and influence leadership. I was curious to learn about Judy’s experience, how hard it was for her. I feel that I understood her and it touched my heart love others. Some got ready for the group photo with the other countries. I learned that it was hard to communicate effectively with other countries, but during the summer leadership institute, it was nice to
communicate through gestures and drawing on paper. I experience understanding diversity of the students from the different countries.

August 24, 2010

I feel happy and a little nervous about the activity “What is my Personal Diversity, Character and Make-up?” It was my first time to experience being in a group of four with students from other countries. We had to support each other, work for our goal and never give up on the activity. I feel happy about the experience. I am aware of the lesson, the character and goal.

August 25, 2010

I was curious about the Nippon Foundation which was presented by Yoshida. I appreciate the support that the Nippon Foundation gives to PEN-International and the collaboration between Japan and America. After the activity in the workshop, I learned more how to be a good leader from other countries, especially in a diverse country. It was a very unique dance presentation from Russia last night. We enjoyed the dance from Russia.

August 26, 2010

Started I have learn about the activity from one week in Pen-International. I feel serious and know about the Deaf Leader from different countries and what PEN-International has done through networking with our country. I like to work together in a diverse world. I want that Deaf persons can be given a chance to become a leader. I hope I understand about the survey of other countries. Our SLI team of the Philippines experience one week of workshop activities that were wonderful. I feel good about the idea of yourself in a friendly country. I love one Deaf world and PEN-International.

August 27, 2010

Our SLI team and PEN-International inform us about the trip to London. I like learning about new places and the history of London. I saw to Big Ben and the London Culture. I had a beautiful time during the trip to London. I feel so great, wonderful and happy in London.