My Experience at Summer Leadership Institute in England

Raymond J. Manding
Philippine Student Ambassador
My Journal shared...
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• My first international trip was a great experience for me as I met different international students and gained their friendship. I learned a lot of new things about different languages, cultures and most importantly about leadership, which developed my knowledge and skills as a young leader. I would like to share it here…
“The leadership instinct you are born with is the backbone. You develop the funny bone and the wishbone that go with it.”

-Elaine Agather
Travel Time from Manila to Doha, Qatar to London
1st Day: August 20, 2010

- Philippine Delegation (Sir Leo, Sir John, Ma’am Febe, Jonathan, Anna, Gemmalyn and Me)
- Assembly at the carport, De La Salle-College of St. Benilde leaving for the airport at 3:00 am on August 20, 2010
We left Manila bound for Doha, Qatar at 6:30 AM. It was a long trip about nine hours staying in the plane. I felt a little pain in my butt and both legs but I enjoyed watching the movie and listening to music while I slept...
• When we arrived at Doha, Qatar airport, I saw the well-known desert. I imagined the movies “Prince of Persia” and “Aladdin”. I wish I could fly on the magic carpet... As we waited for our connecting flight, we stayed and strolled around the Qatar airport and took time to shop at the “Qatar Duty Free”.
- We were excited to take our next flight to London. It took again seven hours to travel and my butt and both legs began to ache again, but I enjoyed the flight since this is my first time to travel out of the country. Indeed it was a great experience for me.
At last we finally arrived at London and it was exciting to see the place. England is the place I dreamed of since I was a child. Finally my dream became real. I love it... 😊

We met Ms. Pat together with the Japanese delegation at the airport. We introduced our delegation. Then we took a bus after fetching the Chinese delegation from the other terminal going to East Sussex.
Herstmonceux Castle, East Sussex, England
2nd Days: August 21, 2010

Free Day...we toured the whole Herstmonceux Castle...
The place is so beautiful. Green Environment.
I breathed healthy fresh air. I felt like the environment
was an air-conditioned room. 😊
Sir Leo (Deaf Faculty Adviser) provided advise and helped in the preparation of our final group presentation.
Our two Interpreters (Sir John and Ma’am Febe) practiced voice interpretation
We, the student ambassadors practiced both the Leadership and Cultural presentation.
Meeting and Introduction with Delegates from Japan and USA

Ryosuke and Takeya from Japan, shared about Japanese Sign Language and Anime (Japan)

Derrick, Jeff, MJ, Erica and Alim from USA, shared how to play cards...shared different Filipino playing card and American playing card.
Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner Meals

• These foods are “yummy”, delicious and healthy meals ... different from the Philippines. I missed “RICE” 😊
3rd Day: August 22, 2010: Introductions, Expectations, Policies & Communication
c/o Mr. DeCaro, Ms. Kavin and Ms. Montgomery

- Introduction of all participants from different countries and discussion of expectations and policies of the activities.
INTRODUCTION OF EACH DELEGATES

RUSSIA

USA

PHILIPPINES

JAPAN

CHINA
Venue (Castle) Tours

- History of the Castle ... So historic...
- Surprising: A story about a ghost: the headless drummer! Believe or not. 😊
“Ice-Breaker…Be-Friending”  
(Gerry and Judy Buckley)

- Facebook: Build network of friends. Gerry Buckley explained the power of networking to make and meet new friends.
- I suggested to use papers through communication because of different languages and to enhanced communication skills.
- It was challenging to communicate through gestures and writing in order to know each other and become friends. So fun and enjoy…
Break Time and Interaction with Deaf Ambassadors

• Appreciated learning new languages, culture and gain new friends...
• Enjoy talking and sharing about each countries’ Sign Language and Culture...
Different student groups from China, Japan, Russia, USA and Philippines shared and presented their delegation’s chosen Deaf leaders.
Opening Reception

Eating…Enjoy…Talking…
4th Day: August 23, 2010, Ms. Febe’s Birthday (Interpreter)

Birthday Greetings: Five Different Sign Language greetings of “Happy Birthday” from China, Japan, Russia, USA and the Philippines.
What did I learn?
Judy is hearing & has American Indian’s blood while Gerry is Deaf & Irish-American. Two very different cultures are Deaf & Hearing, Indian & Irish, and languages & experiences with their families.

Their daughter is a good leader & successful in Veterinary Medicine.

I was interested in learning about growing up and learning the culture.

Filipino Deaf are hopeful for their Filipino Sign Language to be preserved and grow in the future. I will also keep my goal & skill. I appreciated their sharing.
“Effective Communication and Negotiation Skills”
(Jim DeCaro)

- Sir Jim lead us to think the qualities of a leader.
- Different student groups shared and brainstormed the qualities of a leader.
- Now, I am aware of the positive qualities of a good Leader. I learned a lot of many terms regarding leadership qualities.
“Cultural Diversity”  
(Pat DeCaro and Alim Chandani)

- It was so interesting to learn the meaning of cultural diversity shared by different groups of students.
- Chinese Culture: Green hat defined wife having an affair with other man and Sir Jim wearing green hat is an example that Ms. Pat had another man. Very funny… 😊
Learning Paper Hat Making: Demonstration of Deaf students from Japan. It was fun “Unrelated movements of the two partners” that we laughed at them when Gerry and Judy Buckley were so fun and sweet. Japanese Culture is a great activity.
Student Cultural Night
(Philippines)

- We presented about the Filipino Culture and we are proud of our country as other delegations watch us. We took time to teach them how to dance Filipino Folkdance after the presentation.
5th Day on August 24, 2010: Ice-Breaker...Amazing Race Photo

- It was a mixed group as one from each country worked together as a team for the Amazing Race Game.
- It was great and fun and I enjoyed communicating through gestures as the team had to be creative.
“Assumptions & Expectations Regarding People Who are Deaf”
(Pat DeCaro)

• I believe a Deaf Can Do and can be equal with the Hearing world. Deaf should have the courage to make a difference in their chosen career, field such as being a doctor, lawyer, etc.

• I love the story of “The Frog” realizing the importance of achieving goals & how to achieve it. Deaf can do...😊
Networking and Advocacy to stop discrimination (e.g. ethnic groups) and to gain respect are essential. We need people’s support and I think this should also work in the Deaf community.

Issues of Global Deaf Community shared by five Deaf Groups show some common needs and problems e.g. accessibility, media closed captioning, interpreter access and other needs. Hope these will be achieved in the future.
“What is My Personal Diversity, Character and Makeup?” (M. Lamb & C. Heschke)

- I learned about diversity, character and communication that defined conflict, culture and effective communication.

- After reading the “Alligator River” I learned that revenge and being boastful are not good. I liked reading 😊
Chinese Art was very interesting because of its creativity and colorfulness. It was a good learning about the Chinese culture e.g. race and traditional dancing. Chinese materials are good and unique with variety of symbols and meaning. I appreciated some materials they gave us. 😊
What was interesting here was the games with the chairs in a circle and drawing our hand on the wall, making us a Deaf Star from Hollywood. I giggled… These activities were fun, and we love the Chocolate. Tito Jim was so funny taking photos wearing a hat 😊
6th Day on August 25, 2010:
Ice-Breaker…Crocodile River

- This game puts great emphasis on the importance of hard work where we, as a team, must work together to achieve goals from start to end e.g. reaching our destination. I enjoyed the teamwork and cooperation…Fun.. 😊
“Setting Goals & Achieving Them”
(Scott Gentzke & Alim Chandani)

• I learned how to set my goals leading towards my chosen career in the future.

• I learned to think and reflect on my chosen career to achieve.

• I appreciated the sharing of Kuya Alim and Kuya Scott. 😊
“Role Modeling & Volunteerism”  
(Scott Gentzke & Alim Chandani)

• Role Modeling, letting me know of my position, hobby, value and favorite.
• Volunteerism, willingness to serve, work with an organization and other events.
• Draw Person, great sharing and brainstorming as a Team: Daria from Russia, Meng from China, Tomoka from Japan, Jeff from USA and Raymond from Philippines.
The Nippon Foundation
(M. Yoshida)

- Good Information/details and I appreciated the support Nippon provided to improve Deaf Education.
“Deaf Culture”
(Pat DeCaro & Alim Chandani)

• True experiences about the issue of Deaf culture through our SLI sharing and role playing. Hope our Deaf leaders will help our country…
It was an interesting to learn about the Russian Culture. The activity was fun and I enjoyed it. I won in one of the activities. Daria and Elena’s costumes were so cute and nice.
7th Day on August 26, 2010: “Wrap Up: Moving Forward as Deaf Leaders” (Scott Gentzke)

- I appreciated learning from the seminar while we made different drawings, papers, dancing and acting about Deaf leadership.
- I appreciated learning about the types of Multiple Intelligences that I could match to my characteristics.
Fun Peacock Contest

Prize...Fun Dance...
“From Networking to Employment” (Denise Kavin & Scott Gentzke)

- Networking Activity: knowing SLI participants characters and backgrounds.
- Great learning that emphasize importance of networking with each other.
I appreciated learning from that seminar in one week. We presented what we really learned and its impact on us, Deaf Leaders for the future. We also shared our future plans for our country to improve the lives of Deaf people.
“Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.”

-Jack Welch
Congratulations to Summer Leadership Institute Team
I appreciated receiving a certificate as proof of our hard work, patience, and learning. It empowered us to help and make a difference to our Deaf community.
Closing Reception

- Last Days, chance to talk and interact with SLI TEAM. Fun... Eating... Talking... 😊
8th Day on August 27, 2010: Trip to London

GREAT GREAT JOURNEY around LONDON… DREAM COME TRUE.. I LOVE LONDON… VIEWING AROUND!
Trip to London
9th Day on August 28, 2010:
Farewell England
Back to the Philippines
My Special Moments
Unforgettable and I will miss you...

MARAMING SALAMAT PO!
MABUHAY!