

The 26<sup>th</sup> ASEACCU Conference in Hiroshima, 21-25th August, 2018

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“What does peace mean to you?” In this conference, in which the theme was Catholic education and peace initiatives, we were able to ask such questions without any hesitation. Attending this conference with students from other countries made me realize that the conference itself reflected an ideal future, peaceful world. During the conference, we were divided into small groups that included people of different nationalities.

My group included Indonesians, Koreans, Japanese and Filipinos. When we were discussing our final presentation, one of the group told me honestly that she was afraid to speaking English in front of an audience. As a group leader, I understood her situation but wanted our presentation to include all of us. Collecting opinions, one of the group thought of the good idea of a performance like drawing on the stage and expressing our opinions without speaking. Our performance was a success because of this creative idea. However, it couldn't have succeeded without all of us accepting and trying to include other people's situations and opinions. This was a challenging experience, but my definition of peace has been updated to mean that everyone understands different perspectives and cares for each other.

Lastly, I can say this conference has ongoing impact because we are able to support and empower each other to become better human beings and to make the world more peaceful. I truly appreciate all the support I received, especially from Nanzan University staff who were always ready to help me.

I am really excited to think of a future to which all of us will contribute in our communities as peacemakers. Our slogan is “Peace begins in our heart.”