

Farewell Speech

168th International Senior Seminar

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Director Senta, Deputy Director Ishihara, Professor Hirano, faculty and staff of UNAFEI, JICA, ACPF, distinguished guests, and my dear fellow participants.

Good evening, *kon-banwa*.

It is my great honor to be standing here representing all of the participants delivering this farewell speech. While I was preparing my speech, images of all the things that have happened in the last 30 days came alive, namely the snow day, ACPF receptions, Japanese class, VPO's houses, MOJ and, Shinkansen rides, beautiful temples and shrines, tall Kyoto and Tokyo Towers, and the moving Hiroshima events.

Our entire journey has not only been the most enriching but also the most entertaining.

These days, we have developed a filial affection towards each other and also with the staff of UNAFEI and JICA as well as our Japanese participants. All of our professors, administrative staff, especially Jun-san, Arisa-san, Ide-san and Minase-san, and our Japanese classmates Kata-san, Honda-san, Oku-san, Shio-san, Taro-san, Waka-san, and Yasu-san. They have become our second family as we have spent most of our time days after days, weekdays and weekends, from mornings to nights, breakfasts to dinners, on the trains and buses, in the gym, Lounge A and Lounge B, singing and listening to the very unique Karaoke songs we all enjoyed, and experiencing fun as well as flu times together.

Do you remember Saturday's lunch party at UNAFEI when we were all surprised with the birthday cake and drunken man magic show and amazing card trick by Director Senta? So, let us take this opportunity to thank all of you for being the best caregivers ever. We will remember each one of you for giving us your help and support whenever we needed it.

Though we all have not be that close but, that occasion of passing the smile crossing classroom, cafeteria, and Ping-Pong tables has been very nice and heartwarming. Also giggling in the Japanese classes and on the stage at the ACPF's reception dinner where we were all sounding out words that we were not quite sure what they actually meant (sorry to bring this back as some of us may be trying to forget that traumatized evening). Yes, we all did. And yes, all of these memories would be unforgettable.


We want to thank UNAFEI and JICA for giving us a wealth of learning opportunities by arranging lectures of experts from within Japan including the VPO's, and from abroad, sharing knowledge and best practices from participants from various counties (as Gaña-san pointed out that it is a good opportunity for us to "shop" for new ideas that will help us when we return to our own countries), and several study visits to places that help enrich our knowledge and understanding of the concept and the promotion of the Rule of Law. Our sincere gratitude also goes to the staff of Tokyo's Probation Office, the Supreme Court and the Tokyo District Court, the Hiroshima High Public Prosecutors Office, Halfway Houses, and the Juvenile Training School who welcomed us so warmly and kindly and patiently explained to us their work. With that experience came the various receptions from the MOJ

with the Vice-Minister of Justice, a chance to meet with UNAFEI alumni, and the super dinner reception provided by the ACPF Hiroshima Branch.

We have also benefited greatly from the group work assignment. Apart from the knowledge that we co-created in producing the paper according to the topic of our interest, working as part of a group has taught us skills that we can use in more than just the professional area of our life.

Now, as we are leaving, we want you to remember us the good times that we have had together and forgive us for our inconvenience to you in any way. Moreover, our best wishes for UNAFEI, JICA, and the ACPF will always be there and we sincerely wish that your organizations continue to get more interesting and exciting training programs that would benefit other participants from all over the world in many more years to come. We are leaving here today with a wealth of knowledge we will always treasure. We will utilize what we've learnt in our future endeavors.

Now, I will speak on my own behalf. My wish for everyone here is for you all to be successful and happy in things you find important.

 Thank you once again for all your support and friendship. Moments spent with you all will always hold a special place in my heart.

Domo arigato gozaimasu