

MOTTAINAI! The 48thers IATSS Forum News Letter



Living, Learning, and Leaping

FREQUENTLY SPOKEN

Adelle → "Oh! My goodness!"
Ayu → "Ok, La"
Bien → "Take it easy"
Bobby → "WOW"
Chan → "..."
Jamie → Eeehhh...
Koon → "Hold on na,
Man → "Well...
Mimi → "Hai, arigatou..."
Nandar → "Ok la,..."
Pita → "I'm a polar bear"
Pongcoy → "Let me go back to...
Sandar → "Yes...
Theany → "pretty good..."
Tian → "How come!?!?"
Tui → "No!



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Who are we? Good question! We're the luckiest 16 people on the planet earth being given these wonderful opportunities to do the "living" for Fifty Five Fantastic days in Japan. The greatest "living" moments that reincarnated us into brand new people. New people with fresh ideas and high sense of braveness, openness, and togetherness in establishing the tremendous team work. And what we so-called this greatest "living" will absolutely be frozen in our brain as the most unforgettable moments in our life. Despite the differences among us we're brave enough to face the "learning" challenges offered by this Fun, Fantastic, and Fabulous Forum. The "learning" challenges which not only sharpen our team work skills, but also shaped up our characteristics to be more mature in respecting those differences. We're always excited in "leaping" from one moment to another. This "leaping" provokes our mind to be always enthusiastic and happy in every second, every minute, every hour, every day, and even every week of our marvelous moments in this Fascinating Forum. We know that frequently we're argued and misunderstood our thoughts and opinions. We also realized that sometimes we miscommunicate our ideas. However, those misunderstandings will never bring us down. Instead, they will make our Living, Learning, and Leaping moments will stronger than before. MOTTAINAI!

Our Impression about This Fun, Fantastic, and Fabulous Forum!

IATSS Forum is one of the top 10 blessings in my life. At the age of 30++ (It's rude to say lady's age.), I have never thought that I could grow up more than what I was. But after 55 days in Japan, I can say that I have learnt a lot and grown up as a better person, thanks to everybody who made this special forum happen, every participant which some have become my close friends for a life time and of course, my beloved co-participant, Koon. This is just a short time together. However, I can't call it with another name but 'destiny'. You are all dear to my heart and I will cherish this precious memory forever. (Pita-Thailand)



My exception was getting experience of Japan Development, culture and nature together with broaden my horizons at the beginning of the forum. Now I found out that it was once in a life time opportunities for experiencing , skilling , develop maturity , understanding with diverse professional, culture and life styles , especially to reach a common goal by practicing thinking and learning together. And definitely develop one's individual leadership style by their strength. (Sandar – Myanmar)



The work in forum was very tough. I endured a lot of hardship. But I got through it and learnt so many things for my personal and professional lives. I am grateful for the opportunity that I had. I am thankful for the help of all staffs. And my most sincere appreciation goes to all fellow participants in the forum. (Koon – Thailand)

Punctuality, persistency, and patience are impression that I had when I finished 55 days of “*Thinking and Learning Together*” in Japan. lots of time efficiency which productive in my work. Persistency the situation is Japanese never give means; pressure taught me how to have peace of mind. These “three- during my 55 days living in the most world, Japan! I love you Japan.



Punctuality means, I learnt motivate me to be more means: no matter how tough up to hard times. Patience patience is needed in order P's” are the words that I got beautiful country in the (Bobby, Indonesia).

Being part of the 48th IATSS Forum was one of life's greatest emotions. It was a fruitful and fulfilling journey of self-discovery I would like to thank all that have touched my life in this journey. Domo arigato gazaimasu! (Man – Singapore)



55 days of training passed by very quickly. Despite the differences in our countries' background and diverse cultures, we have successfully gone through the programs "thinking and learning" together. All of us have benefitted in one way or another through the multi-disciplined seminars, study tours, home

stay program and group study during this forum. I have enjoyed myself thoroughly, thanks to the IATSS staffs who have worked hard to make this program successful. (Chan – Singapore)



To me, I found several value experiences from IATSS Forum that I created the slogan: **3Es** means in extremely great experiences learning styles, new discovery of cross culture among participants and Japanese people, extremely excited of Japanese Culture and beautiful places and last one is extremely memorable during 55days with some ASEAN participants, lectures, Japanese volunteers, IATSS Staffs that gave me impressive in my life. Therefore, I wish to come back again, if I have any luck. Many thanks! (Theany-Cambodia)



My stay at IATSS Forum is an unforgettable moment during my lifetime. I have learned many things within a very short time and, the more I learned, I see the less I have known. At the end of the day, I am fond of the concept of challenging the impossibilities as hard experience definitely contributes to the growth of man-kind. (Bien-Vietnam)

Time's up! My 55 days were end so fast:(I didn't' know which word I should say to express my great experience throughout the IATSS forum. The learning and experiences gain from IASS forum will surely be a tool to improve professional Mimi when I go back to Lao as I continue my work. I will always keep the good memory with all my good friends and special credit to the IATSS staffs. Last but not least "wow mottainai" (Mimi – Laos)



Time does fly every single second...I was really impressed and satisfied with my 55 days in Japan. The new friendship will be always be an unforgettable experience with me having share our common positive, values ideas and principles especially during our moment of conflict. These friends have been my comfort zone in making my mind to do constructive action because I felt I will make trouble because of my hot temper. I am now a new Jamie trying to think and do all the best, good and positive way I can be. (Jamie-Cambodia)

I never imagine that I would have unforgettable & wonderful, experience in Japan. I have learnt and gained many things from participate this program, for example, the way of thinking, multicultural working group, culture exchange, and wonderful places that I have visited in Japan. 55 days of thinking and learning together through IATSS Forum in Japan is so fast, but the memory of all days will stay in my mind forever. Thank you so much for all IATSS staffs that have worked so hard and taking care of us. (Tui-Laos)



I really appreciate IATSS forum and impress Japanese Kindness. Even though the small request, they emphasize the kindness. Domo Arigato Gazaimasu! Thank you very much, Nihone! (Nandar Myanmar)

IATSS Forum...Guess what??? Interesting, Exciting and challenging experience i have discovered in my entire professional years. Thank you IATSS for this excellent opportunity :) "MABUHAY" (Adelle-Philippine)



It is my unforgettable and colorful training that I never had before. 2 months indeed passed too fast. We not only follow IATSS motto "thinking and learning together" but more than that, we perfect together. I'm just wondering after this program, hand in hand, we could ACT together! (Tian -Vietnam)

Life at the IATSS Forum is likened to none. I enjoyed and learnt a lot during the 55 days of discovering new insights about Japan and other participating ASEAN countries. The experiences and knowledge I got from the forum will surely go a long way. I am still overwhelmed by the way the IATSS Forum is organized for us. We learnt not just from the things we hear and do but also from the way Japanese people structure their day to day activities. Lastly, I am forever grateful to the people working for the forum, the IATSS committee, the staff, the professors, and the Japanese volunteers. Thank you so much! (Pongcoy – Philippine)



How Lucky I am to be here...that's what I felt since I first landed in Japan. Joining the IATSS Forum is the unforgettable moment in my life. I have gained a lot of experiences as well as learned many things. I have gone through good and bad times believing that everything happen for a purpose, for me to learn something at the end of the day. Last but not least, I have found true friendships that will last for a life time from this special and amazing program. (Ayu- Indonesia).

WOW"... "WOW"... "WOW"!



These are the words that always came out of our mouth every time we amazed by new things that we experience in this “NINJA” land. When we took a bath for the first time in Onsen at Suzuka Youth Park during the Gassuku, our first word was; WOW. We “wow” because we have to get naked together at the same bath. Most of us come from countries that bathing is considered private and secluded. But, in Onsen, we must throw away our bathing habit and just enjoy and soak up together in nudity (with the same gender, of course!). The next thing that opened our mouth was when we saw the humanoid robot called ASIMO. This “little boy” could talk, walk, or even make a joke. And once again, the only word that came out of our mouth to see his “show” was WOW’. By saying “WOW”, we’re not only explicitly appreciated our “Big Bro’s state of the art technology”, but also implicitly learnt his culture directly from his home.



Never Say Good Bye...

Time goes by so fast. Fifty five fantastic days ended in a speed of the light. It’s time to say good bye. We’ve been through lots of good times and also bad times. We experienced lots of exciting moments. We went to so many magnificent places during our trips to Kyoto and Tokyo. The beautiful memory from our Fascinating Fifty Five days in this Fabulous Forum will last forever in our heart and soul. Some might say that it’s hard to say good bye. But we think it’s not that hard. Want to know why? We’re strongly inspired by one of Bon-Jovi Songs.

It says; “NEVER SAY GOODBYE, YOU AND I WILL ALWAYS BE FRIEND... TOGETHER UNTIL THE END! Yes, never say good bye because we will meet again in the future in Japan or at least in the on-line communities to keep our long lasting friendship until the end of time.

WE ARE ONE (the Theme Song for the 48thers IATSS Forum – MOTTAINAI)

Chorus:

We are one
Though we are many
And from all the land on earth we come
We share a dream and sing with one voice
I am, you are, we are from around the world.

We came from Cambodia, the Kingdom of Wonder
We came from Indonesia, the Beautiful Island
We came from Singapore, the City of Lion
We came from Philippine, the Pearl of the Orient.

We came from Myanmar, the Golden Land Myanmar
We came from Vietnam, the Country of Hidden Charms
We came from Thailand, the Land of Smile
We came from Laos, the Land of Million Elephants.

I came from Malaysia, Truly Asia
We came from Japan, the Land of Technology
I came from America, the Land of Many Faces
I came from UK, the Land of Afternoon Tea.

I came from Brazil, the Land of Nature
I came from China, the Land of the Great Wall
We all came from around the world
To think and learn together
We're pushy and fighters
For the green environment

Chorus:

We are one
Though we are many
And from all the land on earth we come
We share a dream and sing with one voice
I am, you are, we are from around the world.

(Repeat chorus and last two lines)