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**Results of the Survey on  
The Friendship Programme  
(Singapore)**



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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



## **Summary of Survey on the Friendship Programme**

### **Objectives of the Friendship Programme:**

1. To provide a channel for youths in Japan to interact and form friendship with their counterparts in ASEAN-Pacific region.
2. To create opportunities for youths in Japan to establish mutual understanding of their counterparts in ASEAN/Pacific region.

### **Survey Objectives:**

The purpose of the study is to gather feedback from past Singapore participants of the programme.

Specifically, the objectives are:

1. To evaluate achievements and impact of the Youth Invitation Programme.
2. To elicit suggestions for the programme content.
3. To draw suggestions for the alumni activities and JICA's support system.
4. To provide the general direction for future programme.

## Summary of Finding

1. As the selection criteria for the programme participants' is based on occupation and fields of specialisation, it is not surprising that the main source of awareness for this programme is the place of work (50.4%), government offices (17.9%) – these two sources drew 68.3% of the programme participants.
2. The majority of the participants see the selection process as fair, as indicated by 60.9% of the respondents. This could be due to the obvious link between selection criteria and sources from which the participants are selected (as indicated by the previous point). Only 1.5% (6 respondents) think it is not fair.
3. It is interesting to note that the objectives of the programme (i.e. to enable Japanese youths to form friends and create opportunities to understand their ASEAN/Pacific counterparts) are reciprocated by the participants. This means that the participants, on their own accord, had objectives similar to that of the programme. (Table 1. Comparison of Friendship Programme Vs Participants' Objectives)

**Table 1. Comparison of the Objectives of the Friendship Programme Vs the Objectives of the Participants**

Objectives of Friendship Programme (for Japanese Youths)	Objectives of Participants (Non-Japanese)	% Agree Strongly*
Opportunities to interact and form friendship	Interest in exchange programme Make friends in Japan Visit Japan	88.5% 87.9% 87.6%
	Make friends with fellow country-participants	73.5%
Opportunities for understanding	Professional knowledge Advise by my organisation	56.5% 27.2%
	Winning honour	11.0%

- There may be some "goodwill" effect i.e. having derived from the benefits from the programme, participants may not want to sound too critical of it, hence only those who indicate "agree strongly" to these positive traits are analysed.

Generally, the participants' motives are altruistic; winning honour is the last important objects of participating in the programme (11.0%).



4. On the whole the programme has met the participants' objectives and expectations. Table 2 is a comparison of benefits which participants derived from the programme Vs the participants' objectives of participating. (Only relevant statements are compared.)

**Table 2. Benefits Achieved Vs Participants' Objectives**

Participants Objectives	% Agree Strongly	Benefits achieved	% Agree Strongly
• Interested in exchange Programme	88.5%	Understand the importance of International exchange	80.1%
• Make friends in Japan	87.9%	Deepen interest in International issues	56.4%
• Visit Japan	87.6%	Mutual understanding with Japanese	81.0%
• Professional knowledge	56.5%	Learn about Japanese society	94.6%
• Advise by my organisation	27.2%	More professional knowledge	30.6%
		Better opportunity in career advancement	12.7%

5. In addition, there are other benefits derived by the participants which they had not set out in their objectives:

**Table 3. Benefits from the Programme II**

Benefits	% Agree Strongly*
From participating, they derived pride in their own country	59.3%
Enable them to communicate better with people of another culture	74.0%
Enable them to interact better in a group	73.6%
Change their way of thinking	40.00%

6. Both in terms of the participants' expectations and the benefit derived, the programme has been more effective in promoting the "software" of friendship i.e. awareness of international issues, interactive skills, understanding and friendship rather than "hardware" i.e. an exchange of information, technological knowledge and professional networking.

7. Due to the emphasis on the "software" of friendship, many participants do not agree that the programme can help them in the career advancement (46%).

8. The most beneficial activity was the homestay with the Japanese families. This again parallels the findings of the participants' emphasis on the "software of friendship" (both in the objectives as well as the benefits expected.)

9. The ranking of the beneficial activities are as follows:

**Table 4. Ranking of Beneficial Activities**

Activities	%
Homestay	25.4%
Observation tour enabling a better understanding of Japan	25.2%
Seminars with Japanese youths	22.9%
Lectures on Japan	10.1%
Visits relating to profession	08.2%
Use of Japanese Language	07.7%
Lectures on my profession	00.6%

10. The Friendship Programme has been effective in changing the impression of Japan. 50.7% of the respondents changes their impression of Japan for the better, in fact "much better", after participating in the programme.

11. The Friendship Programme has also been effective creating opportunities for building mutual friendships between the Japanese and the Singapore participants. About 6 in 10 participants are still maintaining contact with some of the people they met in Japan; another 3 in 10 keep in touch with their fellow-participants from Singapore.

Table 5. Maintenance of Friendship Link

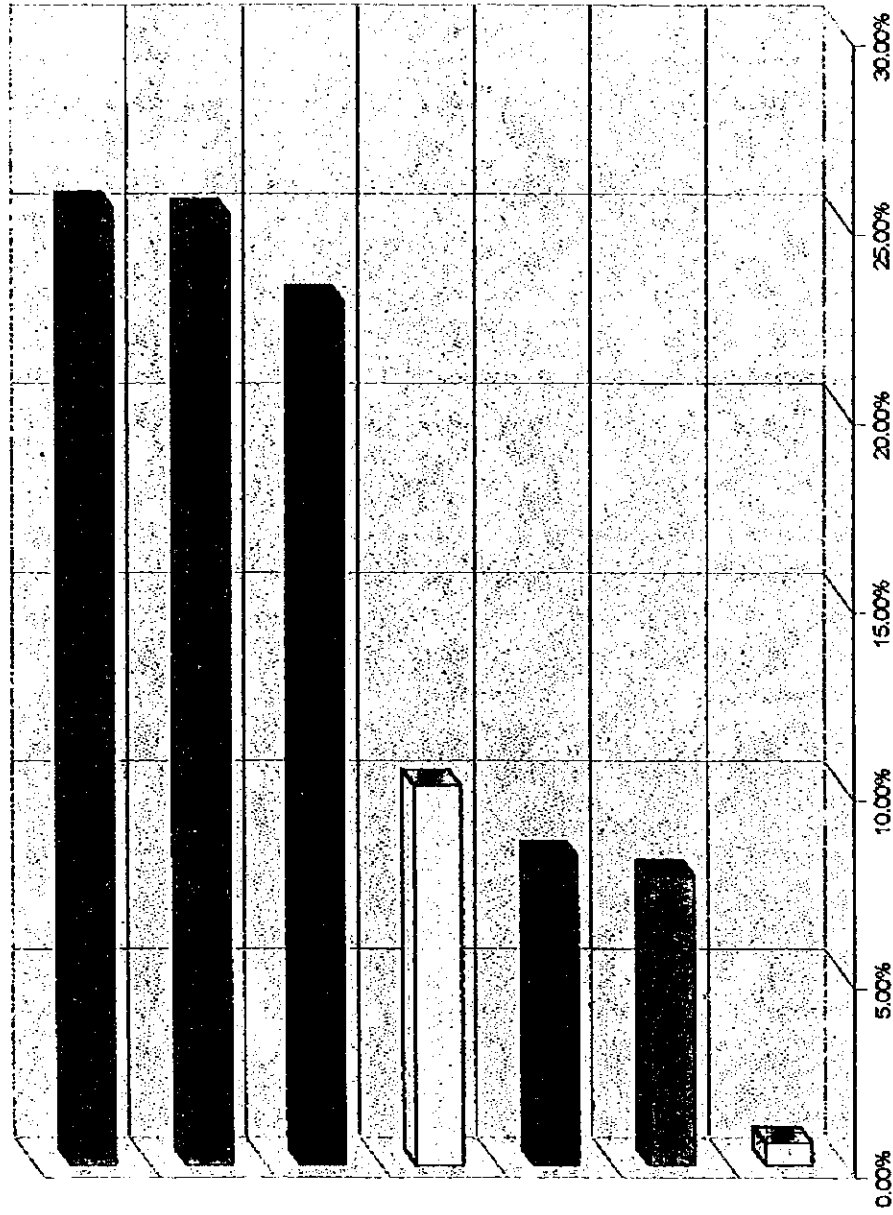
People that Participants keep in touch	%	%
Host families	21.9%	
Japanese participants	19.6%	
Programme staff	10.6%	
Other Japanese they met	08.5%	Japanese people 60.6%
Participants from own country	32.8%	Fellow countrymen 32.8%
Participants from other countries	06.4%	Rest of ASEAN 06.4%
None	04.9%	

12. In terms of their preference, majority of the participants (85.4%) felt that the programme should emphasise the promotion of international exchange and friendship building rather than using the programme as an “exchange of professional knowledge”.
13. As to whether the status quo should be maintained in terms of distributing the location of the programme, the participants were equally divided. 48.7% felt that the programme should maintain its balance of activities in Tokyo and local areas whereas 51% felt that more activities for the future programme should be held at the regional and local areas Tokyo.
14. In view that most of the participants felt that the programme is more of an opportunity for exchange of goodwill and friendship rather than technological information, it does matter where the programme activities are held, hence there is a equal split of preference.
15. About a third of the participants do not receive the biennial “Dear Friends”.
15. Only 21.3% of the past participants continue to partake in the alumni association’s activities in Singapore. Almost 8 in 10 do not.

16. The majority of those who do not participate cited their hectic work schedule as the reason for not participating in the alumni association's activities (52.7%).
17. Hence while the programme has been successful in providing an opportunity for establishing friendship and building an understanding between the two cultures, the lack of time prevents them from participating in any follow-up activities.
18. In terms of direction for the future, most participants felt that the alumni should build on the link established by the programme. This includes having a further exchange activities with Japan (23.8%), organise activities that promote networking amongst members (20.2%) and organising exchange with other alumni associations in ASEAN (16.4%).
19. Humanitarian activities seems to be less of a priority – world peace (7.4%), environmental issues (6.6%) and supporting people in need of help (8.1%). It would appear that participants derived the benefit of deepening their interest in international issues (Table 2), but not in the area of humanitarian. Perhaps being pragmatic, they are more concerned with economic, trade and political issues.

20. In short, participants of the Friendship Programme are very positive towards the programme. It is seen more of a friendship rather than professional programme. Hence the benefits expected and derived is more on development of friendship and self-improvement rather than professional competence.

# BENEFICIAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE YOUTH INVITATION PROGRAMME



Homestay - 25.4%

Observation tours enabling a better understanding of Japan - 25.2%

Seminars with Japanese youths - 22.9%

Lectures on Japan - 10.1%

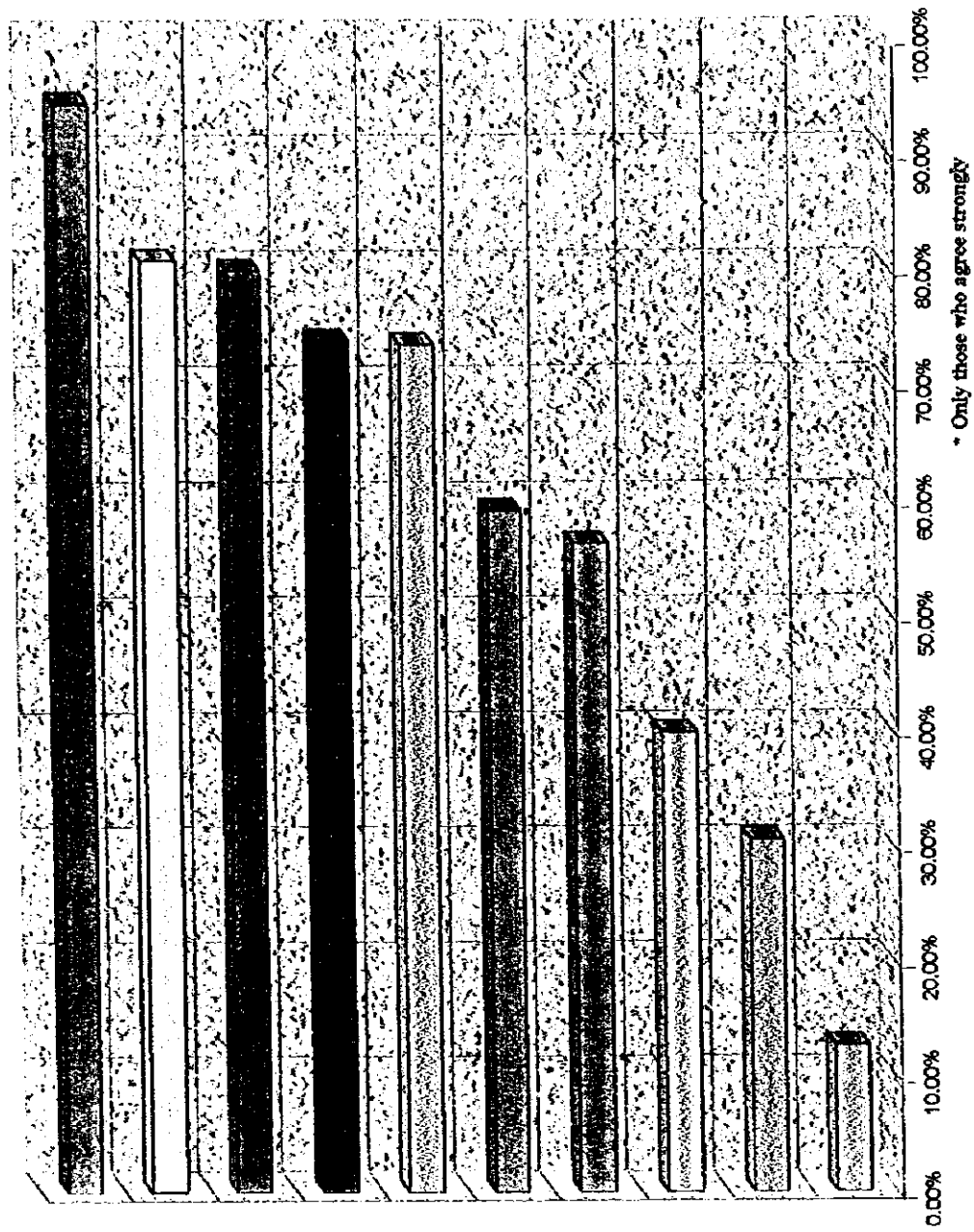
Visits relating to my profession - 8.2%

Use of Japanese language - 7.7%

Lectures on my profession - 0.6%



## BENEFITS ACHIEVED \*



Learn about Japanese society - 94.6%

Mutual understanding with Japanese - 81%

Understand importance of international exchange -

Communicate better with people of another culture - 74%

Interact better in a group - 73.6%

Derived pride in their country - 59.3%

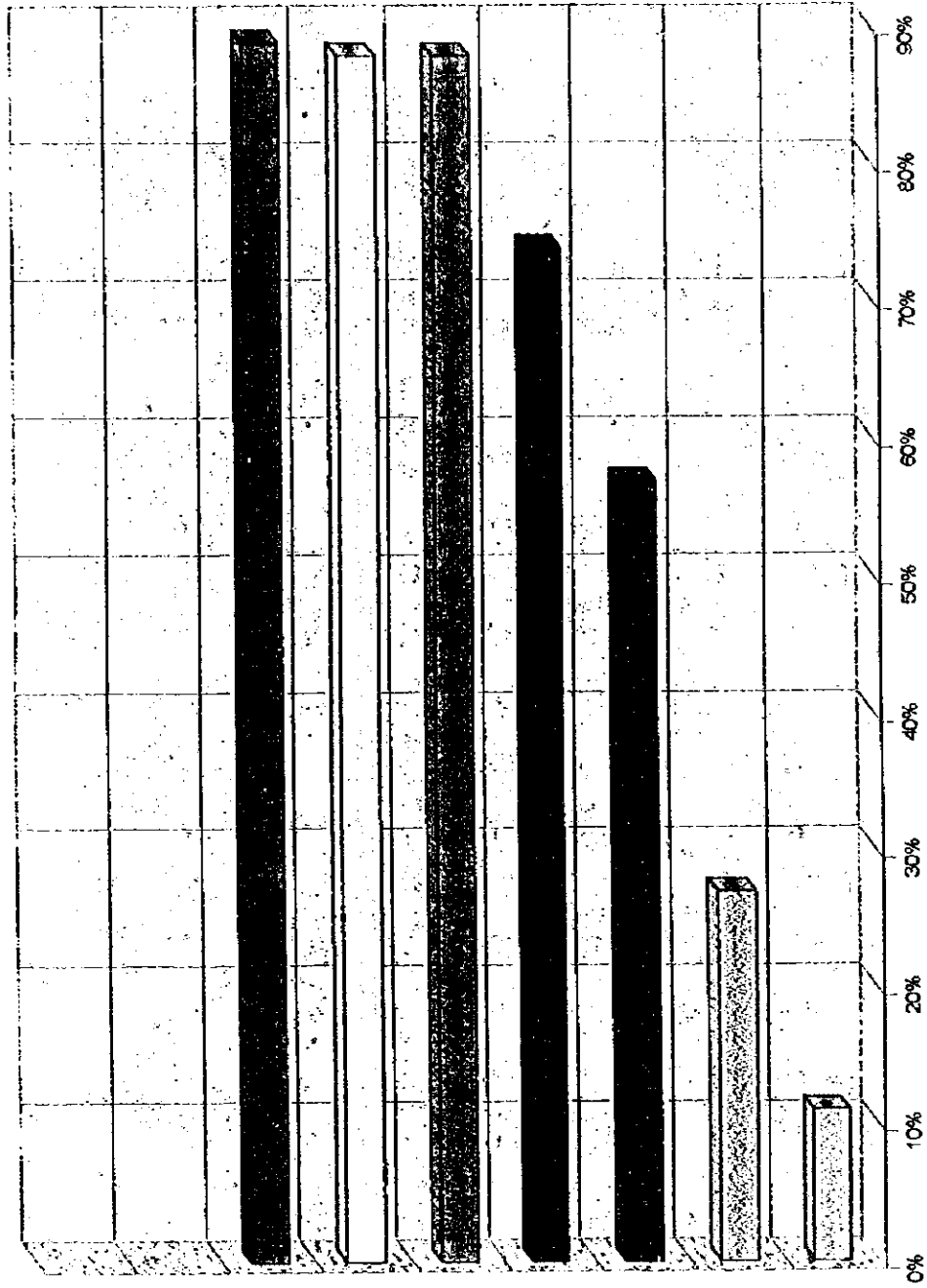
Deepen interest in international issues - 56.4%

Change their way of thinking - 40%

More professional knowledge - 30.6%

Better opportunity in career advancement - 12.7%

## PARTICIPANT'S OBJECTIVES\*



\* Only those who agree strongly

Interest in exchange programme - 89%

Make friends in Japan - 88%

Visit Japan - 88%

Make friends with fellow country-participants - 74%

Professional knowledge - 57%

Advise by my organisation - 27%

Winning honour - 11%



# EVALUATION TEAM



## EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Head	: Christopher Chan	- SAJAF A-21
Members	: Maureen Goh (Mrs)	- SAJAF A-21
	Ong Choon Peng	- SAJAF A-21
	Danny Sudebio	- University undergraduate (Leader)
	Tracy Ng	- University undergraduate
	Tony Wong	- University undergraduate
	Daniel Ho	- University undergraduate
	8 members	- University undergraduates



# DAILY ACTIVITIES REPORT





## DAILY ACTIVITIES REPORTS

The Evaluation Committee was formed on 2 January 1998; the relevant letters, questionnaires, envelopes and reply envelopes were printed by 6 January 1998. The committee started preparation over the weekend. The first batch of 400 questionnaire was mailed on 9 January and the last batch was mailed on 12 January 1998. The first reply was received on 16 January 1998 and the last reply was received on 12 March 1998.

Due to work commitments SAJFA-21 had to commission a group of University undergraduates to assist in collating, tabulating the data and preparing the reports. Work was temporary suspended from 24 to 2 February due to the Chinese New Year and Hari Raya holidays. The collation of data was completed by 10 February 1998 and the committee started preparing the documents as well as the reports. The committee met unofficially every day to monitor the progress and to make amendments as and when it was needed. Finally the first draft was presented to JICA at the AJAFA-21 Executive Council Meeting in Chiangmai, Thailand on Saturday, 7 March 1998.



**HISTORY, ORGANISATION AND  
ACTIVITIES OF SAJAJFA-21**



## **HISTORY OF ASEAN-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY, SINGAPORE (SAJAF A-21)**

### **Introduction**

Many an ex-participant of the Friendship Programme for the 21st Century reminisces the good old times they had in Japan. It took seven men and three ladies, all ex-participants of the Friendship Programme for the 21st Century to germinate the idea of forming a club for ex-participants. Together, they formed a protem committee to work out the details to lay the ground work for its formation.

### **Inauguration**

The inauguration of the Alumni Association of the ASEAN-Japan Friendship Programme for the 21st Century was held on 1 February 1986 at the Regional English Language Centre. The memorable occasion was attended by well over forty participants and officials. The first Executive Committee was presided by Mr Ng Ser Kwei from the Working Youth 1984 group. The following year, Mr Lui Seng Fatt from the Youth Leaders 1986 group was elected President.

### **The Birth of SAJAF A-21**

At the election of the 3rd Executive Committee in April 1988, a proposal to adopt a new name -- ASEAN-Japan Friendship Association for the 21st Century, Singapore (SAJAF A-21) was passed. The proposal to amend the term of office of the Executive Committee from one year to two years was also passed. Mr Christopher Chan from the Youth Leaders 1986 group was elected President of the 3rd Executive Committee. He was again re-elected in 1989, 1991, 1995 and 1997.

## THE ORGANISATION

### Executive Committee

The management and administration of the Association shall be in the hands of the Executive Committee consisting of the following members :

- (a) President
- (b) Vice-president
- (c) Honorary Secretary
- (d) Assistant Honorary Secretary
- (e) Honorary Treasurer
- (f) Assist Honorary Treasurer , and
- (g) Five (5) Committee Members

The term of office for the Executive Committee shall be two years from the date elected into office.

### Duties

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be as follows :

- (a) The president shall, unless it is expressly decided otherwise at a meeting, preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee and all general meetings of the Association and shall

be responsible for the proper and orderly conduct and recording of the business of such meetings in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution. He shall be the official spokesman of the Association and shall represent the Association in relation to any other organisation.

- (b) The Vice-president shall assist the President, and shall undertake such duties as may be assigned to him by the Executive Committee and in the absence of the President from any cause whatsoever, deputise for the President.
- (c) The Honorary Secretary shall be responsible for the general administration of the Association with the instructions of the Executive Committee. He shall report to the Executive Committee and infringement of this Constitution which may come to his notice. He shall attend all general meetings of the Executive Committee and shall record or cause to be recorded the minutes of all such meetings. He shall be responsible for the safekeeping of all documentary records of the Association other than those relating to the financial matters thereof. He shall enter or cause to be entered proper minutes of all proceedings of the association in the books provided for the purpose. He shall further ensure that all records in his possession including the membership register are properly maintained and kept up-to-date.
- (d) The Assistant Honorary Secretary shall assist the Honorary Secretary, and shall undertake such duties as may be assigned to him by the Executive Committee, and shall in the



absence of the Honorary Secretary from any cause whatsoever, deputise for the Honorary Secretary.

- (e) The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the Association and the proper and regular collection of moneys due to the Association in respect of which only his official receipt shall be a sufficient and valid discharge. He shall ensure that full and correct accounts are kept up-to-date and shall submit financial statements whenever required by the Executive Committee. He shall be responsible for the preparation of financial statements for presentation to the Annual General Meetings of members. He shall have power to retain in his hands for current expenses of the Association a sum of money not exceeding Singapore Dollars One Hundred (\$S100.00) at any one time. Any sum in excess of such amount shall be Executive Committee.

#### **Objectives**

The objectives of SAJAF A-21 are three-fold :

- (a) To provide a platform for social and other interaction amongst the Singapore participants of the ASEAN-Japan Friendship Programme for the 21st Century.
- (b) To maintain liaison with similar associations in other countries.
- (c) To foster ASEAN-Japan understanding through social, cultural and educational activities.

### **Election**

When the term of office of the Executive Committee expires, all Executive Members shall retire and shall be eligible for re-election. All Executive Committee members, except the Honorary Treasurer, may be re-elected to the same or related posts for more than one consecutive term. Every member shall be entitled to only one vote for each post in the Executive Committee.

The candidate who receives the most votes in respect of any post shall be declared elected, and in the case of two or more candidates receiving an equal number of votes a recount shall be taken and if the recount reveals the same result, the President of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

### **Meetings**

The Executive Committee shall meet at least once in three (3) months to examine the accounts and arrange the affairs of the Association. At least one-half (1/2) of the Committee members shall form a quorum. In the event of a tie in the voting the President of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote. Minutes shall be taken of all the proceedings of the Executive Committee, and shall be opened to the inspection of any member of the Association applying to the Honorary Secretary thereof.

### **Sub-committees**

The Executive Committee may also from time to time appoint among the members such other sub-committees as may be deemed or expedient, and depute or assign to them such powers and duties of the Executive as the Executive Committee may determine.

All sub-committees shall periodically report their proceedings to the Executive Committee and shall conduct their business in accordance with the direction of the Executive Committee.

### **General Meetings**

#### **Annual General Meetings**

The supreme authority of the Association is vested in a general meeting of members presided over by the President.

The Annual General Meetings of the Association shall be held not later than 30th April each year, upon a date and time to be fixed by the Executive Committee for the following purposes :

- (a) To receive from the Executive Committee an annual report, balance sheet and statement of accounts for the preceding financial year; and
- (b) If appropriate, to elect the Executive Committee and also to appoint two (2) auditors; and

(c) To pass any resolution which may be duly submitted to the meeting as hereinafter provided.

Any member desirous of moving any resolution at the Annual General Meeting shall give notice thereof in writing to the Honorary Secretary not later than seven (7) days before an Annual General Meeting.

At least fourteen (14) days before the Annual General Meeting, a notice of such meeting and of the business to be transacted there shall be sent to every member.

## ACTIVITIES

Since the inauguration of SAJAF A-21, many activities were carried out to keep intouch with ex-participants from Singapore as well as from the other ASEAN countries and Japan. SAJAF A-21 organised activities such as :

- (a) Japanese Film Show.
- (b) Organising of Pre-departure Orientation Programmes.
- (c) High Tea get-together.
- (d) Japanese Language Course.
- (e) Annual Dinner and Dance.
- (f) Visit to Boys' Home.
- (g) Hosting of Japanese Youth Group from Osaka, Hikone, Miyazaki, Numazu, Gifu, Taiyu-mura and many other Japanese Organisations.
- (h) Assisting in Charity Carnivals.
- (i) Bowling Competition
- (j) Welcome Back Cruise
- (k) Golf Tournament
- (p) Photography Competition
- (q) Tree Planting

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Singapore-Miyazaki Friendship Exchange Programme

Another significant achievement by SAJAFSA-21 is the close relationship it has built with the people of Miyazaki Prefecture. It goes way back to 1984 when Miyazaki Prefecture hosted the first batch of Singaporean participants of the Friendship Programme for the 21st Century. Since then, every year Miyazaki Prefecture will host a group of Singaporean participants of the Friendship Programme for the 21st Century. In 1987 Miyazaki Prefecture sent a delegation of 24 members to Singapore and since then the number of participants of the Singapore-Miyazaki Friendship Programme visiting Singapore increases to 150 (including students) today. Eleven members of SAJAFSA-21 Executive Committee headed by its president, Mr Christopher Chan, visited Miyazaki Prefecture from 29 March to 5 April 1990 to strengthen their bond of friendship. During their eight days stay in Miyazaki Prefecture the members of the delegation paid courtesy calls to the Vice Governor of Miyazaki Prefecture, the Mayors of Miyazaki City, Hyuga City and Nobeoka City. The other highlights of their visit were the Homestay Programme in Miyazaki City, Kushima City and Hyuga City, the visit to Miyazaki Flower Festa, Miyazaki Sports Park, Tea Ceremony and the Memorial Sakura Tree Planting Ceremony.

To reciprocate Miyazaki Prefecture's Warm hospitality, the Executive Committee invited youths from the Prefecture to participate in SAJAFSA-21 First Youth Camp which will be held in Singapore in September 1990. This Youth Camp would provide yet another platform for participants to strengthen the friendship between the people of Japan and Singapore. An invitation to the Youth Camp was also extended to all the other ASEAN countries.

In the hope that the Youth Camp will be an exciting showcase of the rich, unique and diverse cultures of the participating countries, it will adopt "Cultural Crossroad" as its theme. SAJAF A-21 believe that a precondition for better understanding between nations lies in an understanding of their respective cultures that underline their value systems and which pervade and permeate almost every aspect of their lives.

Briefly, the Youth Camp activities will include a keynote address, discussion sessions, an institutional visit. To add colour excitement and fun to the Camp, participants will also be required to put up cultural performances as well as to share some of their countries' traditional games.

### **SAJAF A-21 Regional Youth Camp**

It was camp with a difference for over 100 youths from Japan and the ASEAN countries. Indeed, the camp became a "melting ground" for cultures from the exotic East.

SAJAF A-21 (ASEAN-Japan Friendship Association for the 21st Century, Singapore) hosted the first ever regional youth camp for ex-participants of the Friendship Programme for the 21st Century. It was held at the NTUC Pasir Ris Resort from 7 - 11 September 1990. The camp provided ex-participants an extra avenue to meet and to renew old ties, exchange ideas and strengthens the bond of friendship.

The camp draw participants from Japan, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Japan sent the largest delegation with 23 participants from Miyazaki Prefecture and 25 from Tokyo.

The camp was an educational, social and sports event all rolled into one. The camp spread over five days with unforgettable events such as the seminar, the hilarious ice-breaker games, the colourful cultural exchange night and the fun-filled traditional games.

The keynote address on "Youth of Today: roles, challenges and aspirations" delivered by senior lecturer, Mr Tay Guan Thong, set the participants thinking about the subsequent related discussions. Each of the six groups was given a thought-provoking topic relating to youth issues, and the individual groups later gave a very impressive presentation on the key issues of their discussions. During the



seminar, the various country delegations also presented their country reports highlighting the various aspects of their cultures.

Two other highlights of the camp need special mention here. The opening ceremony saw great pomp and pageantry. Officially opened by the Adviser of SAJAFSA-21 Mr Lim Boon Heng, who was then Deputy Speaker of Parliament and Member of Parliament for Kebun Baru Constituency. (Mr Lim is now Minister without Portfolio) the opening night also saw a "roaring" welcome lion dance as well as a dragon dance. There was also song and dance performances to depict the rich heritage of Singapore. Other guests present at the opening ceremony were Mr K. Ueno, Minister-Councillor of the Embassy of Japan, Mr M. Ishizaki (out-going Residence Representative, JICA Singapore Office), Mr T. Hoshi (incoming Residence Representative, JICA Singapore Office), Mr Y. Nishikita from the Miyazaki Prefecture Government Office, Mr K. Horioe, Executive Director of DAY, Mr T. Oyama, President MISAFSA-21 (Miyazaki-Singapore Friendship Association for the 21st Century) and Mrs Helen Liang, Deputy Director, Social Development Unit.

There was no better occasion than the campfire to mark the closing of the camp. The campfire evoked much nostalgia for the wonderful time spent together and sadness of parting among the participants.

SAJAFSA-21 was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and spontaneity of the participants. The Association's effort in organising the camp more than paid off. It was a fulfilling experience for the organisers to see participants having so much fun during the camp. They look forward to meeting all again at the next regional camp.

### **Tachibana-dori Mural Project & Forum on Internationalisation of Tachibana-dori**

Nine SAJAF A-21 members made a trip back to Miyazaki Prefecture from 13 to 21 March 1991. The group led by its president, Mr Christopher Chan and comprised of SAJAF A-21 Executive Committee members. Accompanying the group were Mrs Susan Chan and renowned Singapore's potter Mr Iskandar Jalil.

The trip was like a "home-coming" considering the number of familiar faces, old friends and host families we met along the way. Our president, Mr Christopher Chan was especially at home since this is his fourth visit to the Prefecture.

Our visit was held in conjunction with the "Forum on Internationalisation of Tachibana-dori". Our president, Mr Christopher Chan was involved in the design of six murals and made of ceramic by Miyazaki's renowned artist Mr S. Tateyama. The murals, beautifully done in ceramic can be seen along the Tachibana-dori today. The mural designs were presented as a gift to the government and the people of Miyazaki Prefecture by our president, Mr Christopher Chan. Our president, Mr Christopher Chan was also given the honour to deliver the keynote address on Internationalisation in Miyazaki Prefecture. Another SAJAF A-21 Executive Committee member, Mr Ashvinkumar, an architect was the guest speaker at the forum.

To make the best of the 10 days stay in Miyazaki Prefecture, they were kept moving every day. They had no regrets though, since they managed to take in the breathtaking beauty and colour of Miyazaki

City, Takaoka Town, Nichinan City, Hyuga City and Takachiho Town. They also paid courtesy calls to the Governor of Miyazaki Prefecture and mayors of the different cities and towns.

Beside spreading goodwill and planting deep roots of friendship, SAJAFSA-21 also took the opportunity to invite the people of Miyazaki Prefecture to two of SAJAFSA-21's events : the Japan Fair in August 1992 and the Singapore-Miyazaki Students' Exchange Programme.

### Japan Festival

A two-week long Japan Fair organised by SAJAF A-21 was held at the NTUC Pasir Ris Resort from 14-28 August 1992. Singaporeans were able to catch glimpses of the rich cultures and traditions of Miyazaki Prefecture and Numazu City.

Miyazaki Prefecture and Numazu City were relatively unknown destinations to Singaporeans. These two destinations were not usually included in travel itineraries to Japan. The Fair featured special songs, dances and food items found in these destinations. They offered a unique Japanese experience to those who attended the Fair.

The Fair was divided into two segments. The first was Miyazaki Week. The cultural items like flower arrangements, tea ceremony, traditional Japanese drum display and a children's choir were presented. Singaporeans who visited the Fair were very fortunate to see the master pieces of renowned Miyazaki's artists specialising in ceramic, glass and wood craft. Especially important for Singaporean stomachs was the display of food particular to the Miyazaki Prefecture. The equally exciting Numazu Week followed after with performances and folk craft displays.

The opening ceremony of the Japan Fair was made significant by the presence of the Adviser to SAJAF A-21, Lim Boon Heng, who was then Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry (Mr Lim is now Minister without Portfolio). Mr Lim was joined by Mr Takehiro Togo, the Japanese Ambassador to Singapore and other special guests.

## MIYAZAKI-SINGAPORE STUDENTS' EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

In 1992 SAJFA-21 and MISFA-21 (Miyazaki-Singapore Friendship Association for the 21st Century) started the Miyazaki-Singapore Students' Exchange Programme. A first group of students arrived in Singapore from Miyazaki Prefecture in August 1992. In November 1992, SAJFA-21's president, Mr Christopher Chan led the first group of Singapore students and teachers to Miyazaki Prefecture. Twenty-three students and five officials (three were teachers) spent nine memorable days in Miyazaki Prefecture.

The officials and students were very warmly welcome on their arrival at Miyazaki airport. Throughout the nine-day stay, the kindness and hospitality of the Miyazaki officials and host families really touched the hearts of all the Singapore delegation members. Friendships were quickly developed between the students and their host families. The participants had a taste of the Japanese culture and way of life during their stay in Miyazaki Prefecture.

The homestay with Japanese families gave the students an enriching experience. Some of the students were taken to volcanic regions where they saw volcanoes for the first time.

At home with the host families, some of the students were taught flower arrangement while others picked up the finer point of the Japanese Tea Ceremony.

The delegation paid official visit to the Governor of Miyazaki Prefecture as well as mayors from various cities and towns.

The Singapore students and teachers were given the opportunity to visit three elementary schools. They gained valuable insights into the Japanese educational system. They made class visits and mingled with the teachers and students from the three elementary schools. At each school, there were cultural programmes presented by students of both countries.

The delegation had made many friends, enriched with valuable knowledge and understand Japanese culture better from this exchange programme. This programme proved to be very popular among the people of Miyazaki Prefecture and Singapore. After six years since the Miyazaki-Singapore Students' Exchange Programme was launched the number of students increased from a humble 23 to 80 and is still growing.

#### **CONCLUSION**

SAJAFSA-21 is proud of its modest achievements in promoting mutual understandings between Japan and ASEAN countries at the grassroots level, and will continue to play this vital role in fostering friendly ties.



# **PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATION OF PARTICIPANTS**





## PROCEDURES OF SELECTING PARTICIPANTS

The procedures of selecting participants are based on the followings :

1. Candidates are nominated by their respective ministries based on their performance and contributions to their organisation as well as the nation.
2. Some of the ministries conduct interview to short-list their candidates and the short-listed candidates are submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for approval. The Minister of Foreign Affairs will review before giving his approval.
3. The names of the successful candidates are submitted to JICA for the final approval before informing the candidates to attend a pre-departure orientation.



**PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION  
PROGRAMME**



## **PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION PROGRAMME**

After the birth of the Association in 1985, SAJAF A-21 started being involved in organising the pre-departure orientation programme for Singapore participants. We started from a humble beginning of a one-weekend pre-departure orientation but from the feedback received from participants the pre-departure orientation was subsequently increased to two weekends. The itinerary covers Japanese language lessons, talks on Singapore economy, talks on tourism developments in Singapore, singing, folk dancing, sharing of experiences by ex-participants and video shows. (Please refer to a detail itinerary attached)

The two-weekends orientation was reduced to a one-weekend orientation in 1997 due to shortage of budget.

# WELCOMING MESSAGE

First and foremost, I would like to welcome all of you to the Pre-departure Orientation Programme organised by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and ASEAN-Japan Friendship Association for the 21st Century, Singapore (SAJAF A-21).

I must also congratulate you for being selected as our ambassador with a mission to promote and foster long-lasting friendly relationship between Japan and Singapore.

With this special mission in mind, this Pre-departure Orientation Programme aims to prepare you for a wonderful stay in Japan.

May I wish you all a fruitful time in Japan.

**Christopher Chan**

President  
Executive Committee  
ASEAN-Japan Friendship Association  
for the 21st Century, Singapore  
(SAJAF A-21)

# SAJAF A-21

## FOREWORD

Our heartiest congratulations to you on your successful selection to represent Singapore in the Friendship Programme for the 21st Century hosted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under the auspices of the Japanese Government.

## INTRODUCTION

Prior to your departure to Japan, you will undergo a Pre-departure Orientation Programme organised by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and ASEAN-Japan Friendship Association for the 21st Century, Singapore (SAJAFSA-21). The singular and primary objective of this Pre-departure Orientation Programme is to help you prepare for the trip in order that you fully enjoy and benefit from the trip and have a wonderful time in Japan.

## ABOUT SAJAFSA-21

SAJAFSA-21 is a non-profit making organisation. SAJAFSA-21's activities are fully supported and funded by JICA. SAJAFSA-21 comprises of dedicated volunteer members who had previously participated in the Friendship Programme.

## THE PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

The Pre-departure Orientation Programme comprises of weekend activities at the Mandarin Singapore which are as follows :

- (a) Lecture on Singapore Economy
- (b) Japanese Pop Songs
- (c) Singapore Songs (Folk and Contemporary)
- (d) Japanese Language Classes
- (e) Japanese and Singapore dances

The objectives of the Pre-departure Orientation Programme is envisaged to be achieved through the following means:

- \* Familiarisation with one another in the group as you will be travelling together for about one month.
- \* Group preparation for songs, dances, exchange of gifts, etc.

The success of your trip will largely depend on a concerted group effort. As such, your participation in the Pre-departure Orientation Programme is compulsory and will be fully appreciated by one and all.

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We appreciate that you inform SAJAF A-21, in advance, should you not be able to participate in any activities of the Pre-departure Orientation Programme. As SAJAF A-21 is accountable to the Singapore JICA Office for the Pre-departure Orientation Programme, only valid medical certificates will be acceptable for non-attendance and/or any exemptions from the Pre-departure Orientation Programme. (We hope you will understand as we have to be fair to all concerned).

During the Pre-departure Orientation Programme, we appreciate your full co-operation in being punctual at all times. (You will learn to appreciate this virtue whilst in Japan.)

#### ATTIRE

While in Japan, you will be seen by your Japanese counterparts and public as "Singapore's Ambassadors to Japan". For easy identification and sense of decorum, your group will have to be attired in a formal suit (you will be reimbursed in Japan). The texture, colour and pattern of the suit material will be a group decision.

Hence, when you leave for Japan, it will be much easier for your Japanese Co-ordinator to identify the group when you arrive in Japan if all are uniformly attired.

#### IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES

We appreciate that you forward all your queries to SAJAF A-21 members on duty. SAJAF A-21 will try to answer all your queries prior to your departure to Japan. However, we may not have all the answers at hand immediately. Please bear with us should we come back to you with the answers later on.

We hope for you to enjoy and benefit from the activities of the Pre-departure Orientation Programme in order that you will have a wonderful time in Japan.

Thank you and warm regards.

SAJAF A-21  
PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION  
PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Jointly organised by **JICA & SAJAF A-21**

# ASEAN-Japan Friendship Association for the 21st Century, Singapore (SAJAF A-21)



The logo of SAJAF A-21 comprises the lion symbol and the symbol of the Friendship Programme for the 21st Century.

The lion symbolises courage, strength and excellence. It is depicted in solid red against a white background : the colours of the Singapore flag. The mane divides into five segments which represents the nation's five ideals as embodied in the five stars of the flag : democracy, peace, progress, justice and equality. The lion's face is fixed unswervingly on the tasks at hand and beyond to the future. That in itself is symbolic of our nation's single-minded resolve to face any foe and overcome any obstacle.

## OBJECTIVES OF SAJAF A-21

The objectives of SAJAF A-21 are three-fold :

1. To provide a platform for social and other interaction amongst the Singapore participants of the Friendship Programme for the 21st Century.
2. To maintain liaison with similar associations in other countries.
3. To foster ASEAN-Japan understanding through social, cultural

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# SAJAF A-21 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (1997/1999)

## President

Christopher Chan

## Vice President

Wong Peng Kuan

## Honorary Secretary

Maureen Goh (Mrs)

## Asst. Honorary Secretary

Jessie Tan (Miss)

## Honorary Treasurer

Ong Choon Peng

## Asst Honorary Treasurer

Yeo Tiong Yeow

## Committee Members

Manjit Singh

Chow Yew Cheong

Tan Hong Eng (Miss)

Anbu Ganesh

Sant Kaur (Ms)

## Hon Auditors

Goh Lam Kiong

William Tan

## Associate Committee Members

Doris Tan (Miss)

Tina Wong (Miss)

Ng Swee Mun (Miss)

T. Pannir Selvam

Tang Mei Sin (Miss)

Ng Swee Lin (Miss)

Ivan Soh

Woo Sui Kee

## PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1997

- \* Visit by JICA Aftercare Team
- \* AJAFA-21 10th Annual Executive Council Meeting in Singapore
- \* Annual General Meeting
- \* Pre-departure Orientation Programme for Social Development, Education and Economy B.
- \* Pre-departure Orientation Programme for Economy A1 and A2.
- \* Pre-departure Orientation Programme for ASEAN Component Groups - Social Welfare, Health and Medical Service, Public Administration B, Environmental Protection, Education 1 & 2, Economy 1,2 & 3
- \* Miyazaki-Singapore Students' Exchange Programme (from Miyazaki).
- \* Miyazaki-Singapore Friendship Exchange Programme (from Miyazaki)
- \* MISA & SAJAF A Annual Golf Classic
- \* Bowling Competition.
- \* Visit by Miyazaki Youth Leaders.
- \* Miyazaki-Singapore Students' Exchange Programme (from Singapore).
- \* Miyazaki-Singapore Friendship Exchange Programme (from Singapore).
- \* SAJAF A-21 Annual Dinner and Dance

**INFORMATION ON THE FRIENDSHIP PROGRAMME  
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY  
FOR THE SINGAPORE PARTICIPANTS  
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN**

**INTRODUCTION**

"The Friendship Programme for the 21st Century" for the Singapore participants will be conducted by the Government of Japan under the technical cooperation scheme for the Republic of Singapore with a view of promoting youth exchange, and thus further fostering friendly relations between the Republic of Singapore and Japan.

Arrangements for conducting the programme are administered by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as JICA), commissioned by the Government of Japan in collaboration with related organisations.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this programme is to invite to Japan ASEAN countries' young people who will shoulder the task of future nation-building, so that these youth can have the opportunity to discuss with their Japanese counterparts the future relations between Japan and ASEAN countries. It is anticipated that from such close personal contacts long lasting relationship of shared peace and prosperity that is based upon mutual understanding and true friendship will be fostered between Japan and ASEAN countries.

**PROGRAMME**

A model of the invitation programme is given in Appendix I

**Jointly organised by JICA & SAJAFPA-21**

## A MODEL OF THE PROGRAMME

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <p>1. Pre-departure programme (in Singapore)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Lectures</li> <li>b. Japanese Language lessons</li> <li>c. Dance and Songs lessons</li> <li>d. Guidance on departure, etc</li> </ul>  | 5 days        |
| <p>2. General orientation (Tokyo)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Lectures on Japan : Society, History, Culture, etc</li> <li>b. Observation tour</li> <li>c. Introduction of Japanese culture</li> <li>d. Japanese Language lessons, etc</li> </ul>   | 7 days        |
| <p>3. Specialized programme for each group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. In and around Tokyo               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Lectures and observation of facilities related to the field of each group</li> <li>* In-house seminar : interaction with Japanese counterparts through recreation and exchange of views.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. In local prefecture               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Observation of facilities related to the field of each group</li> <li>* Interaction with Japanese local youth through recreation and exchange of views</li> <li>* Courtesy call on the prefectural government</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | 14 or 15 days |
| <p>4. Homestay Programme</p>   | 2 or 3 days   |
| <p>5. Field trip to historical cities</p>  | 4 days        |
| <p>6. Evaluation</p>   | 1 day         |

## A GUIDE TO YOUR STAY IN JAPAN

### I HOW TO GET AROUND IN TOKYO

#### 1. The Yamanote Loop Line

(Japanese National Railways - JNR)

Circling the whole of Central Tokyo and inter-connecting with many railway and subway stations, this is an extremely useful line. Running much of the time on elevated tracks, it is a good way to see the city. Among the main stations, there are SHINJUKU, SHIBUYA, Ikebukuro, (for sub-centres of Tokyo) UENO (for Ueno Park) and HARAJUKU (for Yoyogi Park). Yurakucho station provides access to the GINZA district. Yamanote Line trains are in light green for easy recognition but if in any doubt, ask for "Yamanote sen".

#### 2. Subways

Tokyo has a extensive subway system connecting most inner districts. It is fast, clean and safe and possibly the most convenient and economical way of getting around Tokyo (but avoid the crowded morning and evening rush hours).

#### 3. Tickets

Tickets are obtained from vending machines. These are punched on entering the station and collected at the other end. Except at some major stations, fares are shown on the machine (120 yen for JNR, 120 yen or 140 yen for subways) and pay the difference (fare adjustment) at your destination.

### II HOW TO SHOP AROUND

#### 1. Major Stations (JNR and subways) for shopping around in Tokyo

- a. SHINJUKU, SHIBUYA, Ikebukuro, GINZA - major departments for general commodities.
- b. AKIHABARA - discount shops for electrical appliances.
- c. SHINJUKU - discount shops for cameras, watches and books.

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2. When shopping in Tokyo or elsewhere in Japan, you will find that prices are clearly marked and are not negotiable although there may be some leeway on marked prices in discount districts like AKIHABARA and SHINJUKU.
3. **Department Stores**  
They are the best for general shopping and seeing things closely associated with Japanese life. Japan's department stores are famous for their huge range of merchandise and the service by their kind and courteous assistants. They are open on weekends but are closed for one day in midweek. Normal opening hours are 10.00 am to 6.00 pm but sometimes close later in mid-summer.

#### NOTE

When buying electrical appliances, cameras and watches, make sure the following :

- a. Difference in voltage, frequency and radio's reception range, etc
  - b. Availability of spare parts (for repair) in our country.
4. If you intend to buy duty-free items, be ready with your passport. You might be asked to show duty-free items at the customs office at Narita Airport.

#### III LUGGAGE

1. Shopping is fun but if you buy too many things you might have trouble bringing them back home.
2. You are advised not to buy too many bulky items during your first week in Tokyo as you will have to move around the following weeks and the hotel doesn't keep the luggage that you leave behind.



#### IV OTHERS

1. Mail

If you are to receive mail from your family and friends, let them know that the letters must be addressed in English as below :

(An example - the case of Singapore Economy A1 Group)

Mr Tan Kheng Bock  
2nd Batch, Singapore Economy A1 Group  
JICE, International Exchanges Department  
Shinjuku Mitsui Bldg. 9th Floor  
P.O.Box 300, 2-1-1 Nishi-Shinjuku  
Shinjuku-ku  
Tokyo, Japan 163-04

2. How to do your Laundry

Ask your co-ordinator

3. How to Stay Well

In previous years, there were some participants who fell ill and rested in a hotel or in a hospital. If you feel sick, please get in touch with your coordinator.

# FACTS ON JAPAN

## GEOGRAPHY

Japan lies in eastern Asia and consists of a chain of more than 3,000 islands, Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu, account for about 98 percent of the land area.

The northern most island, Hokkaido, lies to the south of Sakhalin, a Soviet island, while southern Japan is about 150 km east of the Korean peninsula.

## CLIMATE

Summer are temperate and typhoons and heavy rains are common. But the climate in winter varies sharply. It is cold in the north, mild in the south. Temperature in Tokyo are between -6 degrees and 30 degrees Celsius.

## POPULATION

A total of 117 million people live in Japan. The national language is Japanese; the major religions - Shintoism and Buddhism. Christians are minority.

## GOVERNMENT

Under the 1964 constitution, the Emperor is head of state but has no governing power. Legislative power is vested in the bicameral Diet, consisting of the House of Representatives or Lower House, whose members are elected for a four-year term, and the House of Councillors or Upper House, members of which are elected for six years, one-half being elected every three years. Executive power is vested in the cabinet. The Prime Minister is appointed by the Emperor. Japan has 47 prefectures, each administered by an elected governor.

## HISTORY

Following Japan's defeat in World War II in 1945, a new democratic constitution which renounced war and abandoned the doctrine of the Emperor's divinity was promulgated in 1946 and took effect in 1947. Rival conservative political groups merged in November 1955 to form the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has held power ever since.

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## **ECONOMY**

Japan is not well-endowed with natural resources. More than 67 per cent of its total land area is forested. Mineral resources are meagre, except for limestone and sulphur. Japanese industry is heavily dependent on imported raw materials and fuels. Japan achieved and maintained a very high rate of economic growth after 1945 with the promotion of manufacturing industries for the export market. It ranks second in the world- after the United States - in industrial production.

# THE FRIENDSHIP PROGRAMME FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION  
JOINTLY ORGANISED BY JICA AND SAJAF A-21

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP - 25 PARTICIPANTS  
EDUCATION GROUP - 22 PARTICIPANTS

## DAY ONE

DATE : Monday, 8 May 1995

VANUE

: Room 831, 8th Floor, South Wing  
Mandarin Singapore  
333 Orchard Road  
Singapore 0923

TIME

: 19:30 hrs sharp

PROGRAMME

: Briefing on Pre-departure Orientation

## DAY TWO

DATE

: Saturday, 13 May 1995

VENUE

: Mandarin Singapore  
333 Orchard Road  
Singapore 0923

PROGRAMME

: Registration

: All participants to be seated

08:30 hrs

: Video Show "JICA 24 Hours" &  
"The Friendship Programme"  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)

08:45 hrs

09:00 hrs

Jointly organised by **JICA & SAJAF A-21**

- 10:00 hrs : Morning Tea  
(Room 833, 8th Floor, South Wing)
- 10:30 hrs : Japanese Language  
Social Development Group  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)
- 12:50 hrs : Lunch  
(Room 833 & 834, 8th Floor,  
South Wing)
- 13:30 hrs : Check-in
- 14:00 hrs : Folk Dance  
Social Development Group  
(Room 837, 8th Floor, South Wing)
- 16:00 hrs : Preparation for performances  
Education Group  
(Room 834, 8th Floor, South Wing)
- 16:30 hrs : Afternoon Tea  
(Room 833, 8th Floor, South Wing)
- 18:30 hrs : Dinner  
(Room 833 & 834, 8th Floor, South Wing)
- 20:00 hrs : Singapore Songs  
Social Development Group  
(Room 837, 8th Floor, South Wing)
- 21:00 hrs : Shopping for Souvenirs  
Education Group  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)
- 21:00 hrs : Singapore Songs  
Education Group  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)
- 22:00 hrs : Shopping for Souvenirs  
Social Development Group  
(Room 837, 8th Floor, South Wing)
- 22:00 hrs : Goodnight

## DAY THREE

**DATE** : Sunday, 14 May 1995  
**VENUE** : Mandarin Singapore  
333 Orchard Road  
Singapore 0923

### PROGRAMME

07:30 hrs : **Breakfast**  
(Chatterbox, Ground Floor, South Wing)

08:45 hrs : **All participants to be seated**

09:00 hrs : **Japanese Language**  
**Social Development Group**  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)

**Education Group**  
(Room 837, 8th Floor, South Wing)

10:30 hrs : **Morning Tea**  
(Rooms 833, 8th Floor, South Wing)

11:00 hrs : **Sharing of experiences with**  
**ex-participants**  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)

12:30 hrs : **Check-out & Lunch**  
(Room 833 & 834, 8th Floor, South Wing)

14:00 hrs : **Japanese Songs**  
**Social Development Group**  
(Room 837, 8th Floor, South Wing)

**Folk Dance**  
**Education Group**  
(Room 834, 8th Floor, South Wing)

15:00 hrs : **Japanese Songs**  
**Education Group**  
(Room 837, 8th Floor, South Wing)

**Folk Dance**  
**Social Development Group**  
(Room 834, 8th Floor, South Wing)

16:00 hrs : **Afternoon Tea**  
(Rooms 833, 8th Floor, South Wing)

16:30 hrs : **Shopping for Souvenirs**  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)

17:00 hrs : **Video Show - "How to Survive in Tokyo"**  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)

18:00 hrs : **See you again next week**

Jointly organised by **JICA & SAJAJFA-21**

## DAY FOUR

**DATE** : Saturday, 20 May 1994

**VENUE** : Mandarin Singapore  
333 Orchard Road  
Singapore 0923

### Programme

08:30 hrs : Registration

08:45 hrs : All participants to be seated

09:00 hrs : Japanese Language  
Social Development Group  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)

Briefing by JICA Coordinator  
Education Group  
(Room 837, 8th Floor South Wing)

10:00 hrs : Morning Tea  
(Rooms 833, 8th Floor, South Wing)

10:30 hrs : Japanese Language  
Education Group  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)

Briefing by JICA Coordinator  
Social Development Group  
(Room 837, 8th Floor, South Wing)

11:30 hrs : "Ambassadors to Japan" by STPB  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)

12:30 hrs : Lunch  
(Rooms 833 & 834, 8th Floor, South Wing)

13:30 hrs : Check-in

14:00 hrs : Talk on "Singapore Economy"  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)

15:30 hrs : Group Discussion  
Social Development Group  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)

Education Group  
(Room 837, 8th Floor, South Wing)

16:30 hrs : Afternoon Tea  
(Rooms 833, 8th Floor, South Wing)

17:00 hrs : Japanese Language  
Social Development  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)

Education Group  
(Room 837, 8th Floor, South Wing)

18:30 hrs : Dinner  
(Rooms 833 & 834, 8th Floor, South Wing)

20:00 hrs : Japanese Language  
Social Development Group  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)

Education Group  
(Room 837, 8th Floor, South Wing)

21:00 hrs : Preparation for performances  
Social Development Group  
(Room 837, 8th Floor, South Wing)

Education Group  
(Room 834, 8th Floor, South Wing)

22:00 hrs : Goodnight

## DAY FIVE

DATE : Sunday, 21 May 1994

VENUE : Mandarin Singapore  
333 Orchard Road  
Singapore 0923

### PROGRAMME

07:30 hrs : Breakfast  
(Chatterbox, Ground Floor, South Wing)

08:45 hrs : All participants to be seated

09:00 hrs : Briefing by JICA Coordinator  
Social Development Group  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)

Preparation for performances  
Education Group  
(Room 835, 8th Floor, South Wing)

10:00 hrs : Morning Tea  
(Rooms 834, 8th Floor, South Wing)

10:30 hrs : Briefing by JICA Coordinator  
Education Group  
(Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)



- Preparation for performances  
 Social Development Group  
 (Room 835, 8th Floor, South Wing)
- 11:30 hrs : Feedback on Pre-departure Orientation Programme  
 (Room 836, 8th Floor, South Wing)
- 13:00 hrs : Check-out
- 13:30 hrs : Lunch hosted by JICA and SAJAF A-21  
 (Mandarin Court 'D', 4th Floor, Main Wing)
- 16:00 hrs : Briefing by Travel Agent  
 (Room 835, 8th Floor, South Wing)
- 17:00 hrs : Bon Voyage

Monthly temperature (degree C)

Month	Sapporo	Sendai	Niigata	Tsukuba	Tokyo	Nagoya	Osaka	Hiroshima	Takamatsu	Fukuoka	Naha (Okinawa)
Jan	-4.6	1.0	2.1	1.9	5.2	3.7	5.5	4.0	4.8	5.8	16.0
Feb	-4.0	1.3	2.2	2.9	5.6	4.3	5.8	4.5	5.0	6.4	16.3
Mar	-0.1	4.2	5.0	6.1	8.5	7.6	8.6	7.7	7.9	9.5	18.1
Apr	6.4	10.0	10.9	12.0	14.1	13.8	14.6	13.4	13.5	14.6	21.1
May	12.0	14.9	16.1	16.6	18.6	18.4	19.2	17.8	18.1	18.8	23.8
Jun	16.1	18.3	20.2	19.9	21.7	22.0	23.0	21.4	22.1	22.3	26.2
Jul	20.2	22.0	24.3	23.5	25.2	25.8	27.0	25.7	26.3	26.9	28.3
Aug	21.7	24.1	26.2	25.2	27.1	27.1	28.2	26.9	27.1	27.6	28.1
Sep	17.2	20.1	21.6	21.3	23.2	23.1	24.2	22.8	23.1	23.7	27.2
Oct	10.8	14.4	15.5	15.2	17.6	17.0	18.3	17.4	17.2	18.2	24.5
Nov	4.3	8.9	9.9	9.6	12.9	11.5	12.9	11.4	12.0	13.0	21.4
Dec	-1.4	4.0	4.9	4.1	8.0	6.2	7.9	6.5	7.1	8.2	18.0



# **SURVEY**



The number of questionnaires sent out was 2,061 copies. Ex-participants were requested to reply by 21 January 1998. The date for their returns was further extended to 27 January 1998. By this date we received a total of 410 returns (19.9%). Another 83 returns (4.00%) were received after 27 January 1998 and 96 questionnaires (4.7%) were returned by the post office because the ex-participants have moved.

Next page is the breakdown of the returns received:

	Received before 27 January 1998	Received after 27 January 1998
1984	11	1
1985	24	2
1986	26	8
1987	18	3
1988	23	4
1989	18	5
1990	14	8
1991	39	4
1992	30	6
1993	27	7
1994	35	6
1995	37	6
1996	67	6
1997	63	13
Year not indicated	12	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>83</b>

**SIMPLE STATISTICS AND ANALYSIS  
OF ALL THE QUESTIONS**



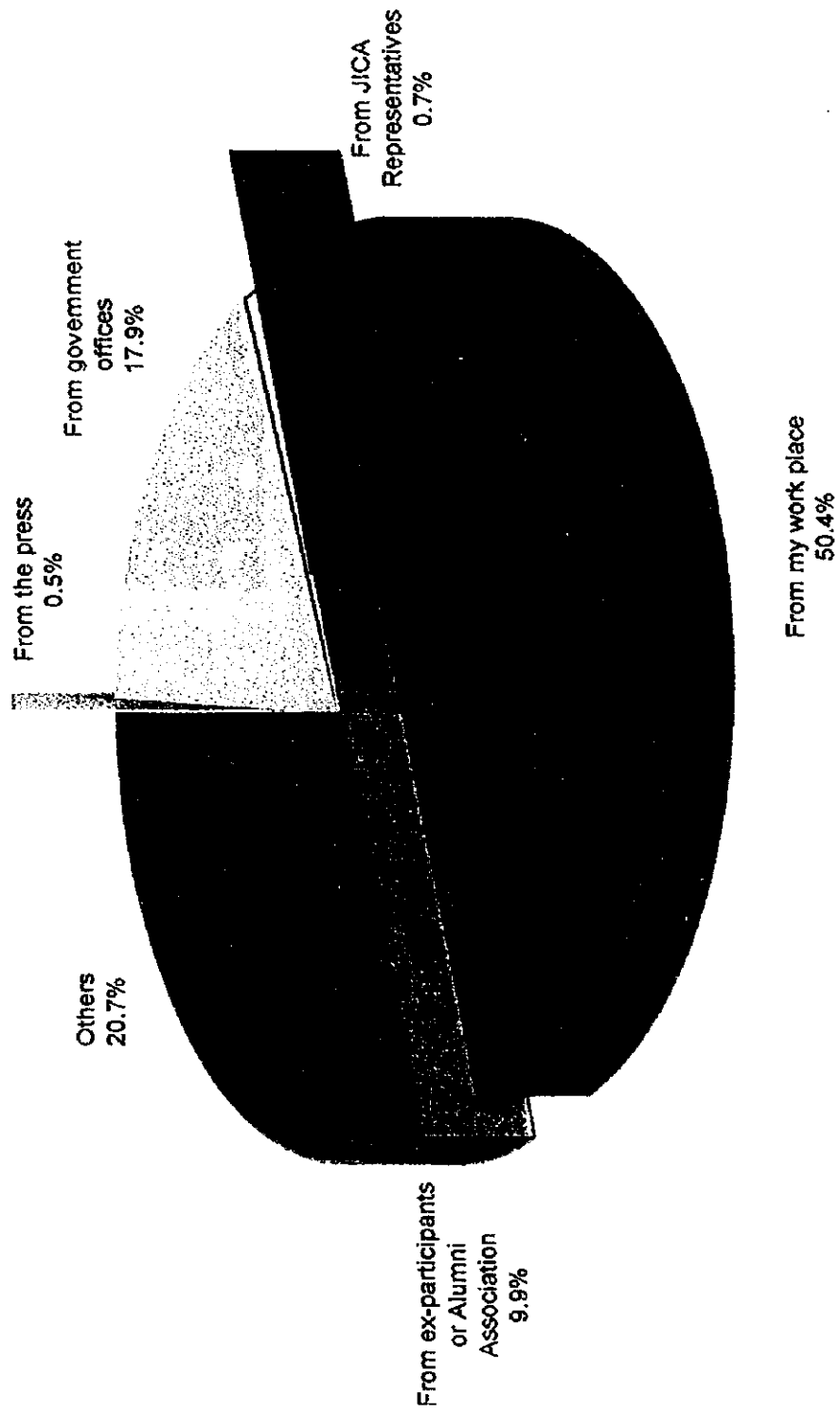


## QUESTION 1

How did you learn of the programme?

	Raw Data	Corrected Data	Percentage
From the press	2	1.66	0.5
From government offices	76	63.12	17.9
From JICA representatives	3	2.49	0.7
From my work place	214	177.75	50.4
From ex-participants or Alumni Association	42	34.88	9.9
Others	88	73.09	20.7
Total	425	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 1 How did you learn of the Programme?**



### Question 1

#### How did you learn of the programme?

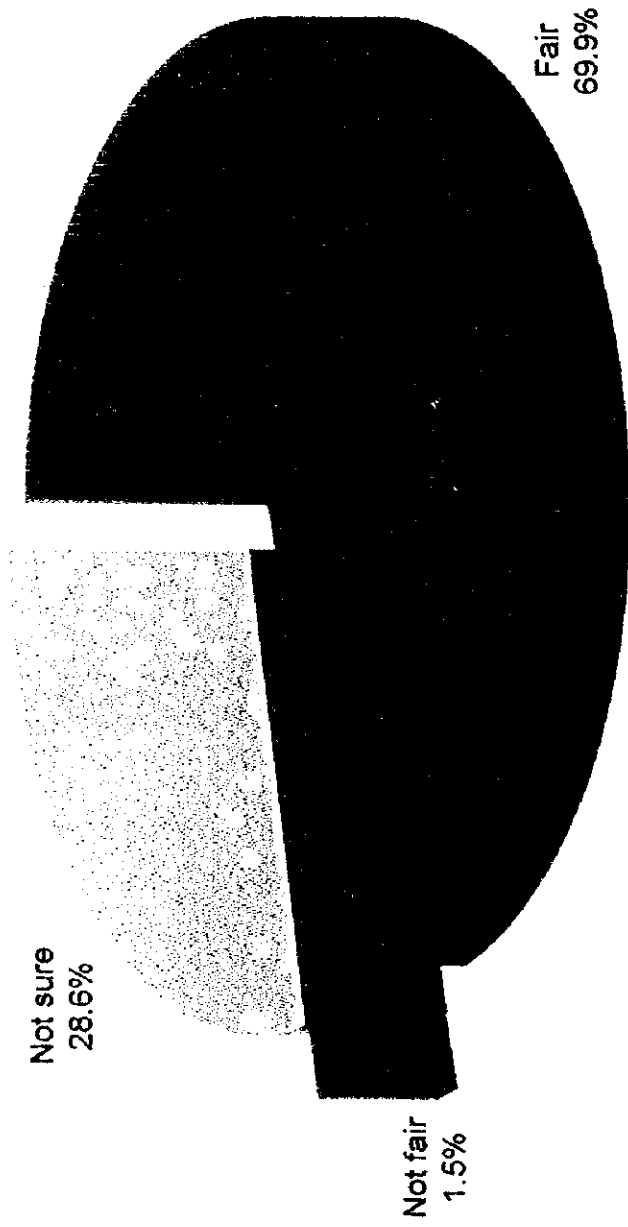
From the survey it shows 50.4% of the respondents, learn of the programme from their working place. 20.7% of the respondents heard of the programme from Singapore's universities, polytechnics and also ASEAN components' group. 17.9 % of the respondents heard of the programme from government offices. 9.9% of the respondents heard of the programme from alumni committee members or ex-participants, 0.7% from JICA representative and 0.5% heard of the programme from the press.

## QUESTION 2

What do you think about the selection process of the participants?

	Raw Data	Corrected Data	Percentage
Fair	281	246.75	69.9
Not fair	6	5.27	1.5
Not sure	115	100.98	28.6
Total	402	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 2** What do you think about the selection process of the participants?



## **Question 2**

**What do you think about the selection process of the participants?**

From the returns it shows quite clearly that 69.9% of the respondents felt that the selection process is fair, while 1.5 % felt that it is not fair. However 28.6% were not sure of the fairness in the selection process, as they are not aware that participants have to go through a selection process.

### QUESTION 3

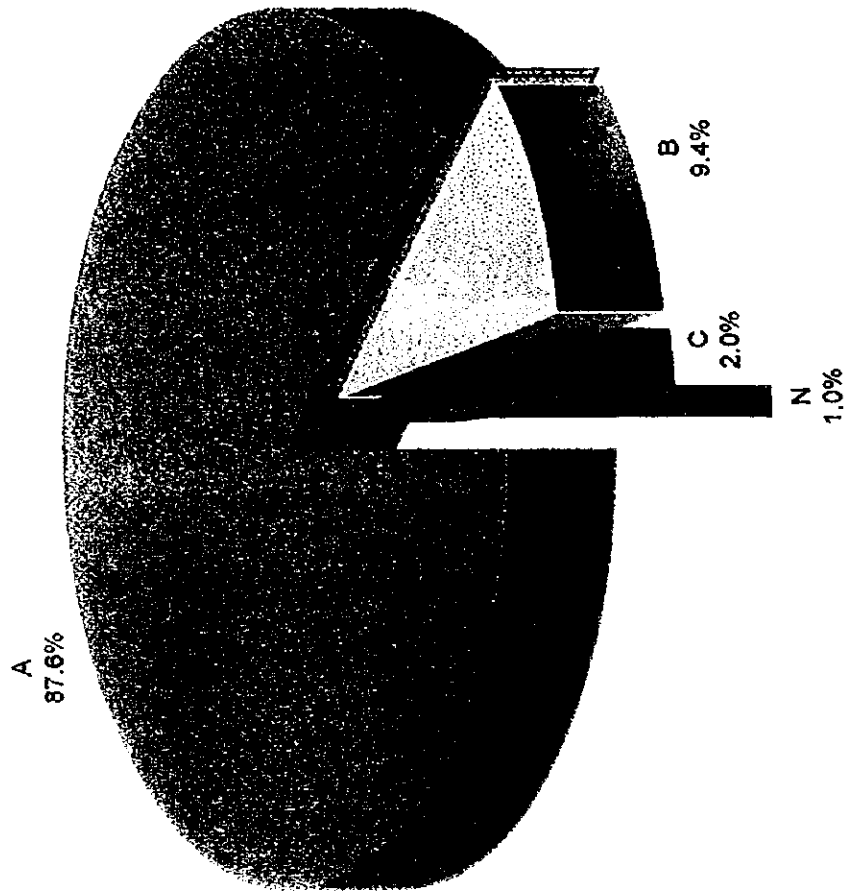
What is your objectives in participating in this programme?

Q3 - 1. To visit Japan

	Raw Data	Corrected Data	Percentage
A	354	309.31	87.6
B	38	33.20	9.4
C	8	6.99	2.0
N	4	3.50	1.0
Total	404	353.00	100.0



**QUESTION 3.1 To visit Japan?**



### **Question 3.1**

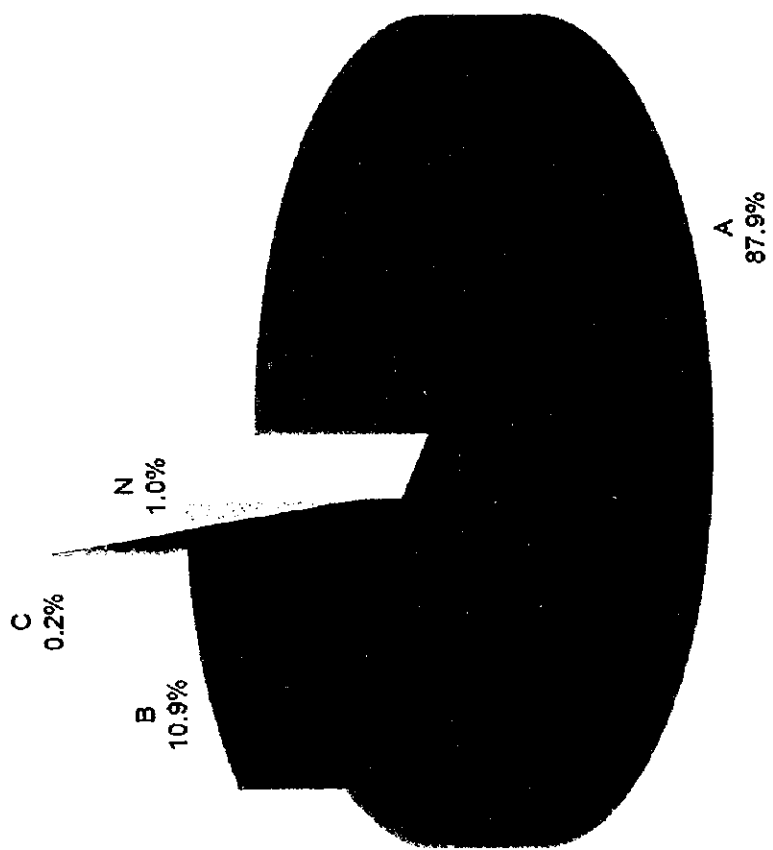
**What are your objectives in participating in this programme?  
To visit Japan?**

From the survey 87.6% of the respondents agreed that one of their objectives of participating in the programme is to visit Japan. Another 9.4% somewhat agreed, while 2.0% disagreed and 1.0% of them were not sure.

Q3 - 2. To make friends in Japan

	Raw Data	Corrected Data	Percentage
A	356	310.29	87.9
B	44	38.35	10.9
C	1	0.87	0.2
N	4	3.49	1.0
Total	405	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 3.2 To make friends in Japan?**



### **Question 3.2**

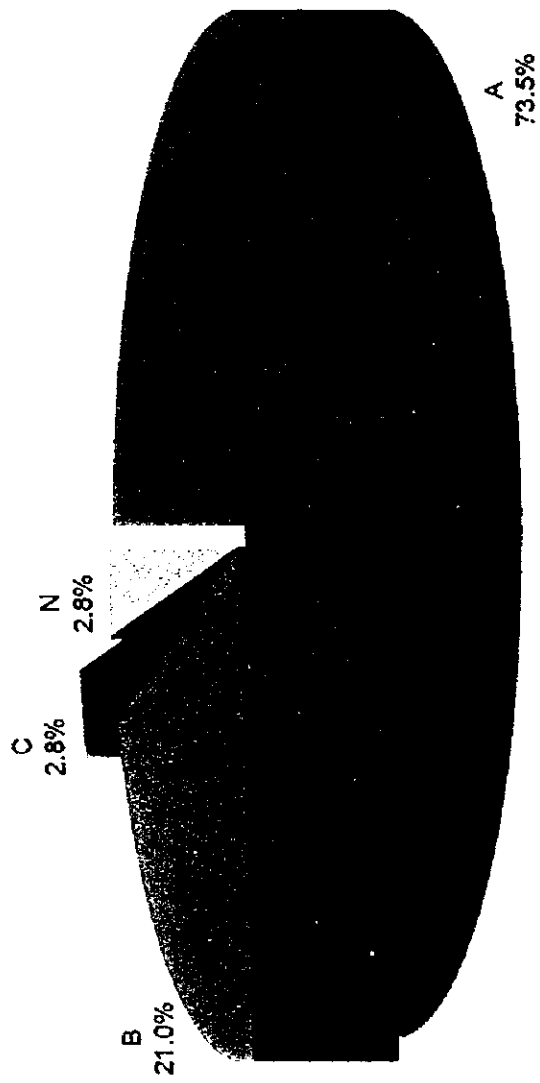
#### **To make friends in Japan?**

87.9% of the respondents of the survey agreed while 10.9% of them somewhat agreed that one of their objectives of participating in the programme was to make friends in Japan. 0.2 % disagreed and 1.0% were not sure.

**Q3 - 3. To make friends with participants  
from my country and the region**

	<b>Raw Data</b>	<b>Corrected Data</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A</b>	294	259.46	73.5
<b>B</b>	84	74.13	21.0
<b>C</b>	11	9.71	2.8
<b>N</b>	11	9.71	2.8
<b>Total</b>	400	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 3.3** To make friends with participants from my country?



### **Question 3.3**

**To make friends with participants from my country and the region?**

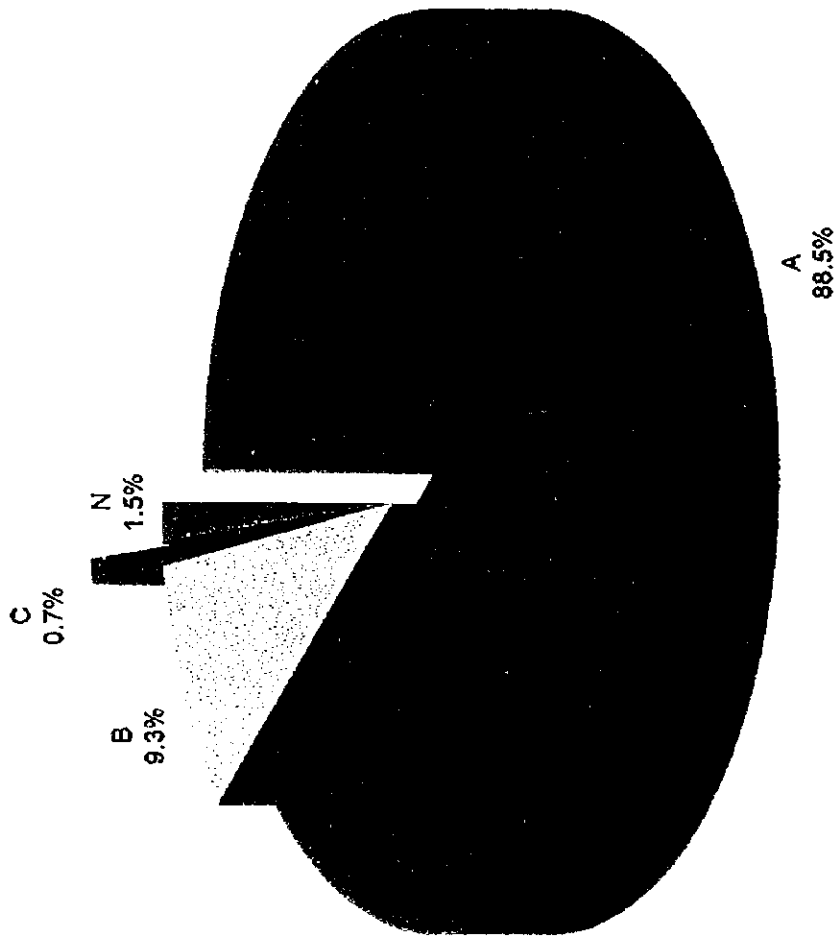
73.5% agreed that making friends with the participant from their own country and other region was one of their objectives, while 21.0% of the respondents somewhat agreed. 2.8% of the respondents disagreed and 2.8% of the respondents were not sure.



**Q3 - 4. Interested in the international exchange programmes**

	Raw Data	Corrected Data	Percentage
A	363	312.53	88.5
B	38	32.72	9.3
C	3	2.58	0.7
N	6	5.17	1.5
Total	410	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 3.4 Interested in International Exchange Programme**



#### **Question 3.4**

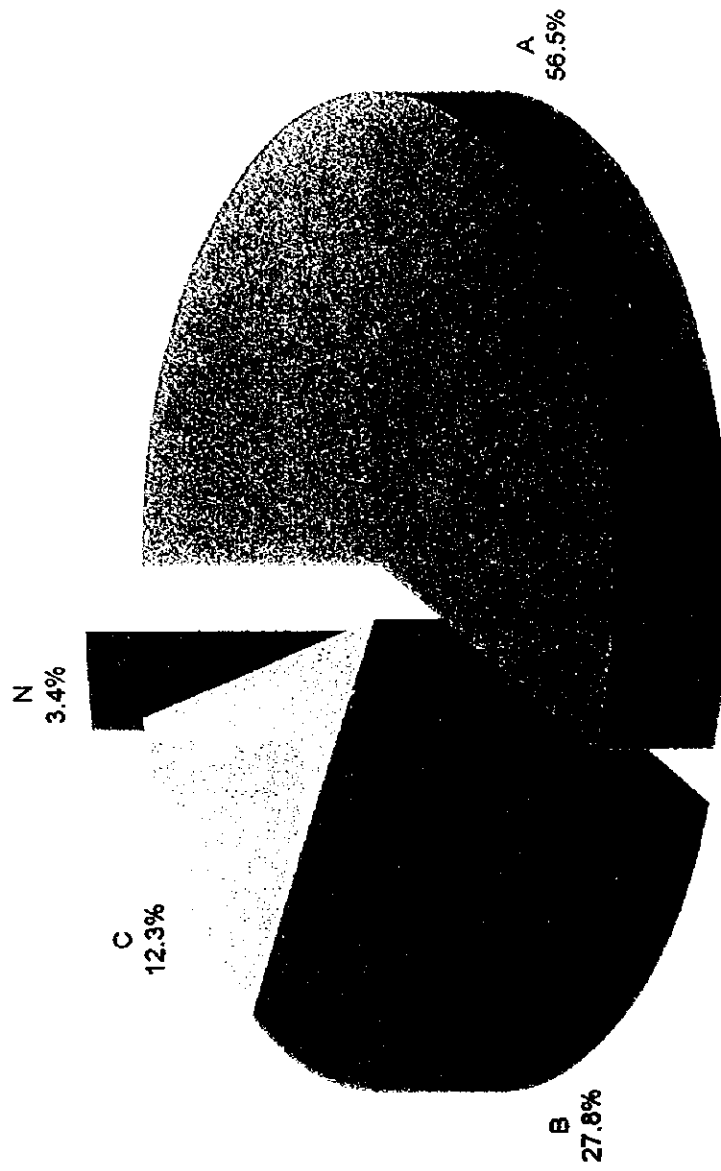
##### **Interested in the International exchange programmes.**

88.5% of the respondents agreed and another 9.3% somewhat agreed that their interest in international exchange programmes was one of their reasons in joining the programme. 0.7% of the participants disagreed while 1.5% of the respondents were not sure.

**Q3 - 5. To improve my professional knowledge**

	<b>Raw Data</b>	<b>Corrected Data</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A</b>	234	199.52	56.5
<b>B</b>	115	98.06	27.8
<b>C</b>	51	43.49	12.3
<b>N</b>	14	11.94	3.4
<b>Total</b>	414	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 3.5 To improve my professional knowledge**



### **Question 3.5**

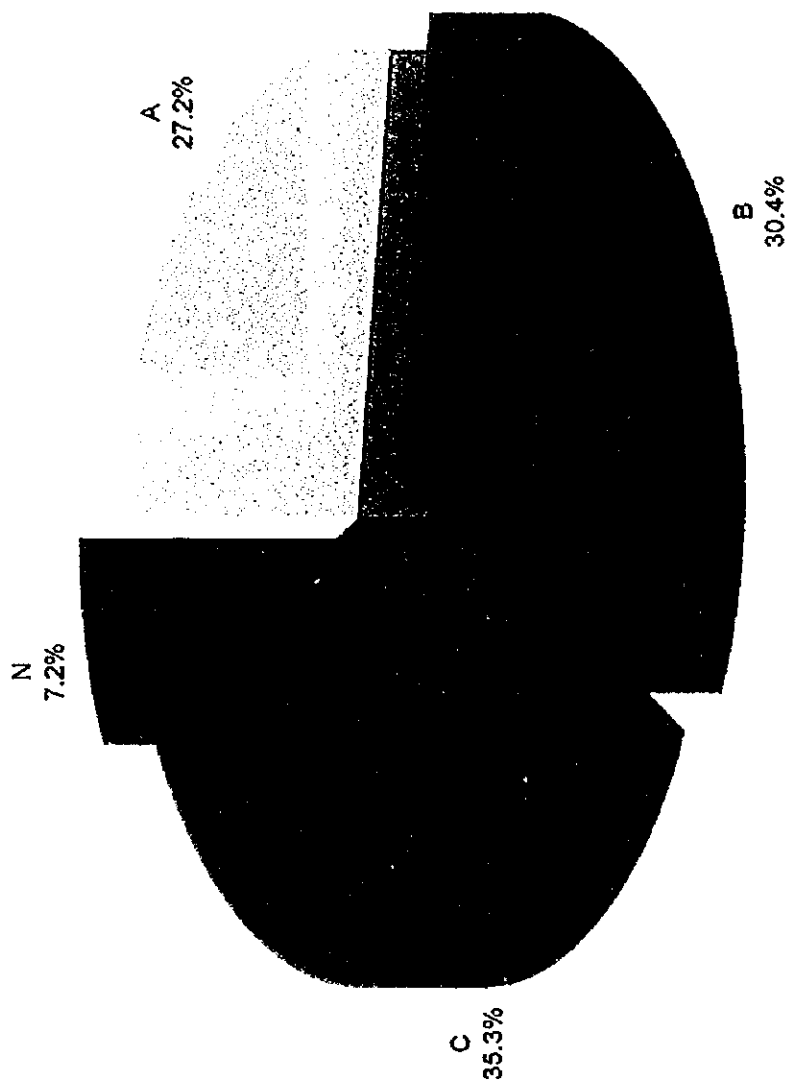
**To improve my professional knowledge.**

From the questionnaire returns 56.5% of the respondents agreed that by participating in the programme it will help them improve their professional knowledge. While 27.8% somewhat agreed, 12.3% disagreed and 3.4% were not sure.

**Q3 - 6. Advised by my organisation**

	<b>Raw Data</b>	<b>Corrected Data</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A</b>	110	95.88	27.2
<b>B</b>	123	107.21	30.4
<b>C</b>	143	124.64	35.3
<b>N</b>	29	25.28	7.2
<b>Total</b>	405	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 3.6** Advised by my organisation





### **Question 3.6**

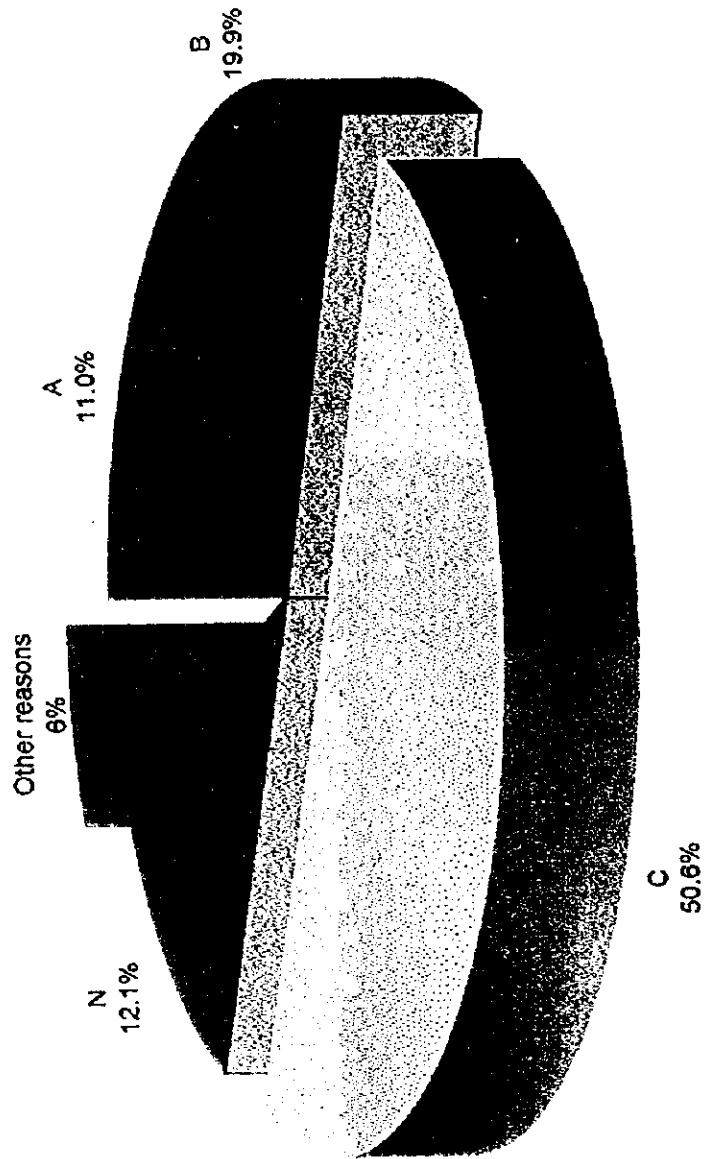
#### **Advised by my organisation.**

From the result of the survey 27.2% of the respondents agreed that they were advised by their organisations to participate in the programme. 30.4% somewhat agreed however 35.3% disagreed and 7.2% of the respondents were not sure.

**Q3 - 7. To win honor**

	<b>Raw Data</b>	<b>Corrected Data</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A</b>	49	38.70	11.0
<b>B</b>	89	70.28	19.9
<b>C</b>	226	178.47	50.6
<b>N</b>	54	42.64	12.1
<b>Q3 - 8. Any other reasons</b>	29	22.90	6.5
<b>Total</b>	447	353.00	100.0

QUESTION 3.7 & 3.8 To win honour?



### **Question 3.7**

#### **To win honour?**

From the questionnaire returns 11.0% of the respondents agreed that they will win honour by participating in the programme and another 19.9% somewhat agreed. However 50.6% of the respondents disagreed with the statement while 12.1% was not sure.

### Question 3.8

#### Any other reason?

From the questionnaire returns it shows 6.5% of the respondents stated other reasons as their objectives of joining the programme.

Some of the more common reasons stated by the ex-participants were, to broaden their knowledge and to understand Japanese culture and value, etc.

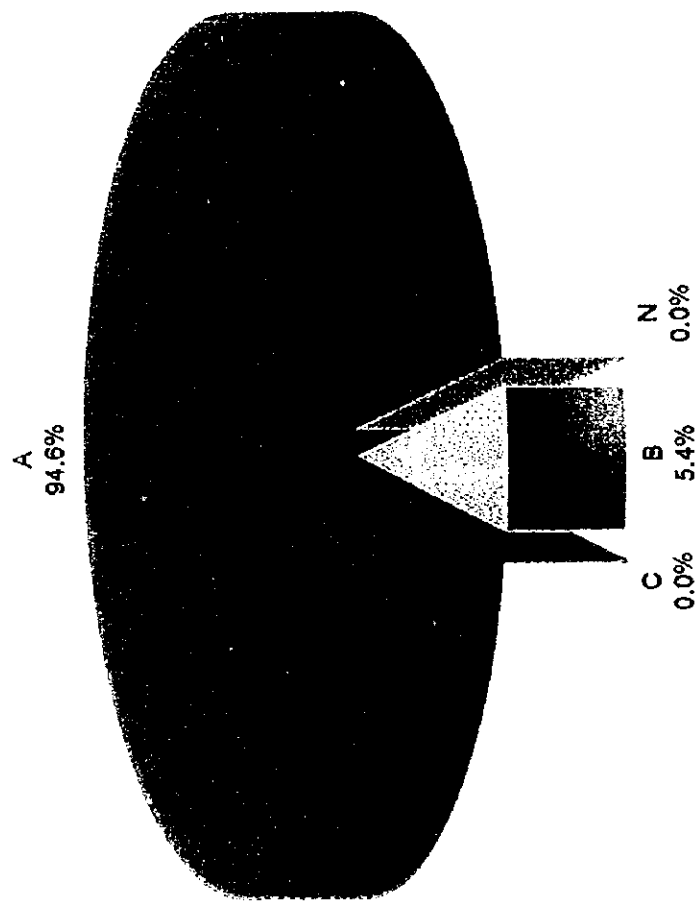
#### QUESTION 4

How have you benefited from the programme?

Q4 - 1. Able to learn about the society in Japan

	Raw Data	Corrected Data	Percentage
A	385	333.92	94.6
B	22	19.08	5.4
C	0	0.00	
N	0	0.00	
Total	407	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 4.1** Able to learn about the society in Japan



#### **Question 4.1**

**How have you benefited from the programme?**

**Able to learn about the society in Japan?**

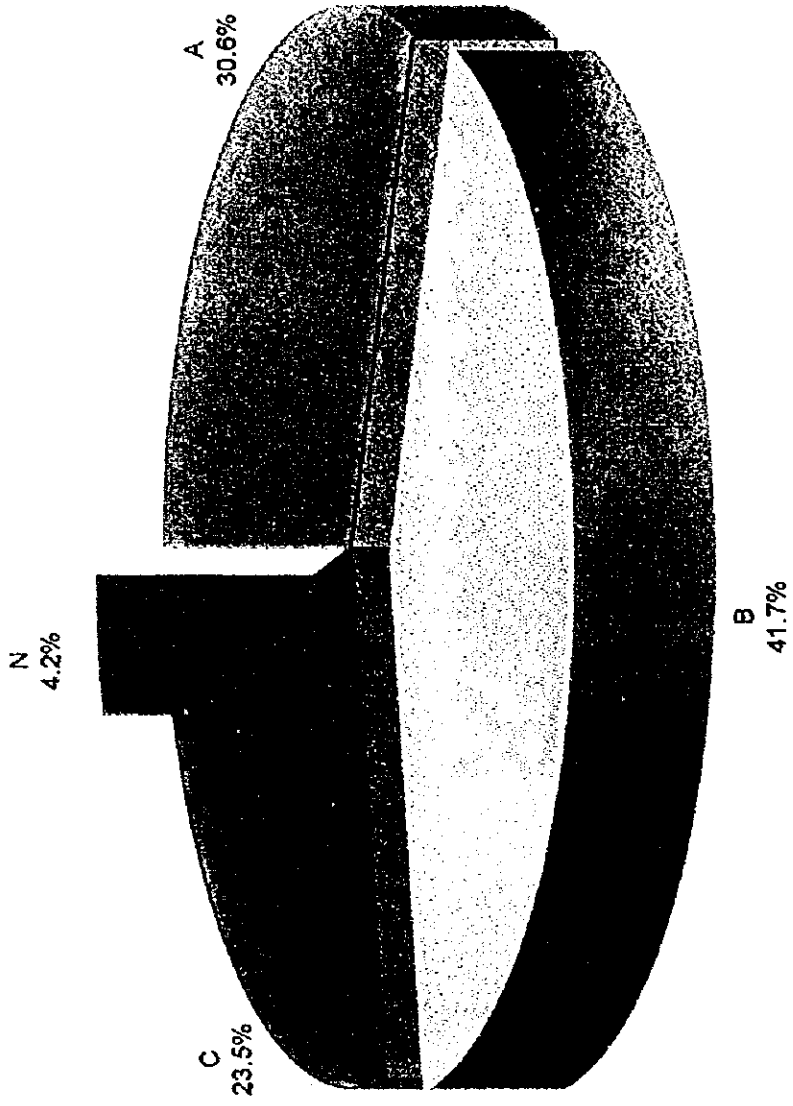
From the survey result 94.6% of the respondents agreed and another 5.4% somewhat agreed that they had benefited through the programme and were able to learn about the society in Japan. None of the respondents disagreed as well as unsure.



**Q4 - 2. Able to gather more knowledge in my field of profession**

	<b>Raw Data</b>	<b>Corrected Data</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A</b>	125	108.15	30.6
<b>B</b>	170	147.08	41.7
<b>C</b>	96	83.06	23.5
<b>N</b>	17	14.71	4.2
<b>Total</b>	408	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 4.2** Able to gather more knowledge in my field of profession



#### Question 4.2

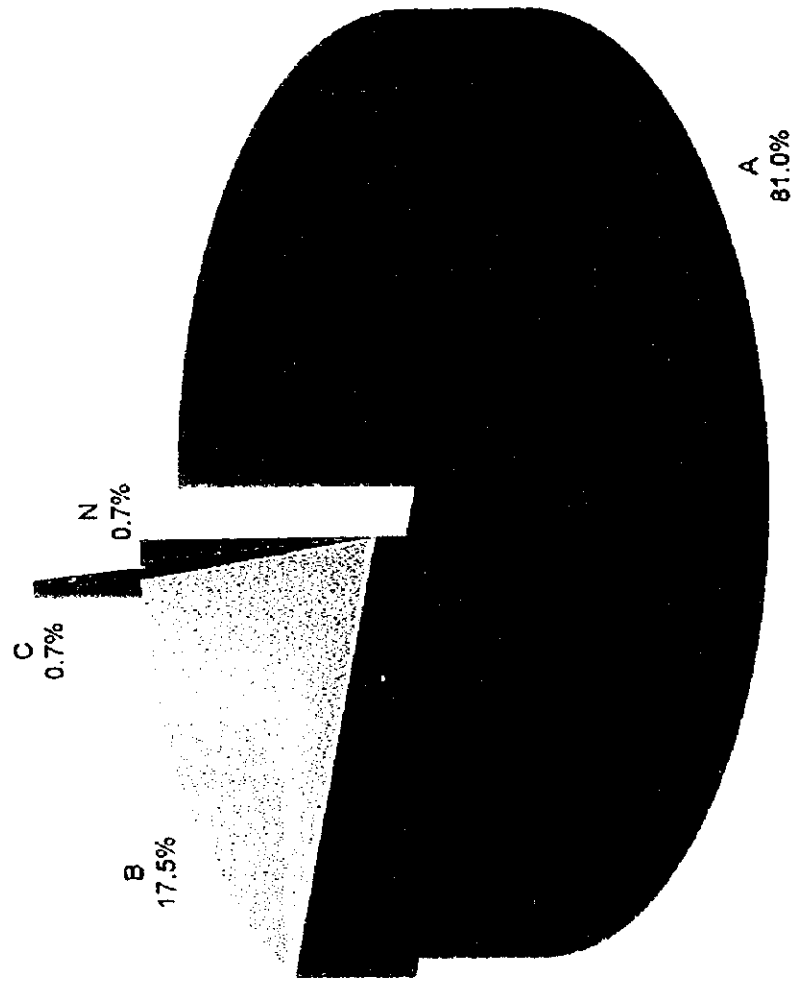
**Able to gather more knowledge in my field of profession.**

The questionnaire returns show 30.6% of the respondents agreed, while 41.7 % somewhat agreed that joining the programme have enabled them to gather more knowledge in their field of profession. 23.5% of the respondents disagreed and 4.2% were not sure.

**Q4 - 3. Able to promote mutual understanding  
with Japanese**

	Raw Data	Corrected Data	Percentage
A	333	286.01	81.0
B	72	61.84	17.5
C	3	2.58	0.7
N	3	2.58	0.7
Total	411	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 4.3** Able to promote mutual understanding with Japanese



### **Question 4.3**

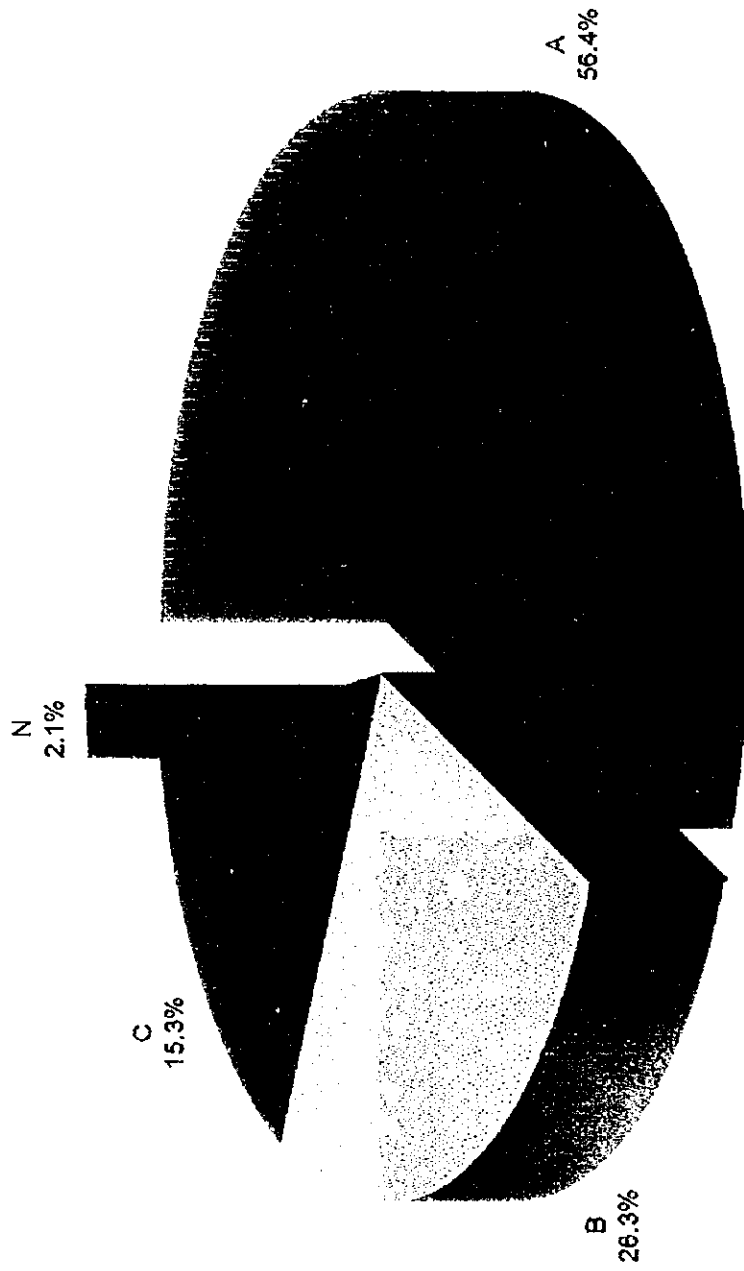
**Able to promote mutual understanding with Japanese.**

The result of the survey shows 81% of the respondents agreed that by participating in the exchange programme it helps promote mutual understanding with the Japanese people. 17.5% somewhat agreed while 0.7% disagreed, and 0.7% were not sure.

**Q4 - 4. Able to deepen my interest in international issues**

	<b>Raw Data</b>	<b>Corrected Data</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A</b>	266	198.94	56.4
<b>B</b>	124	92.74	26.3
<b>C</b>	72	53.85	15.3
<b>N</b>	10	7.48	2.1
<b>Total</b>	472	353.00	100.0

QUESTION 4.4 Able to deepen my interest in international issues





#### Question 4.4

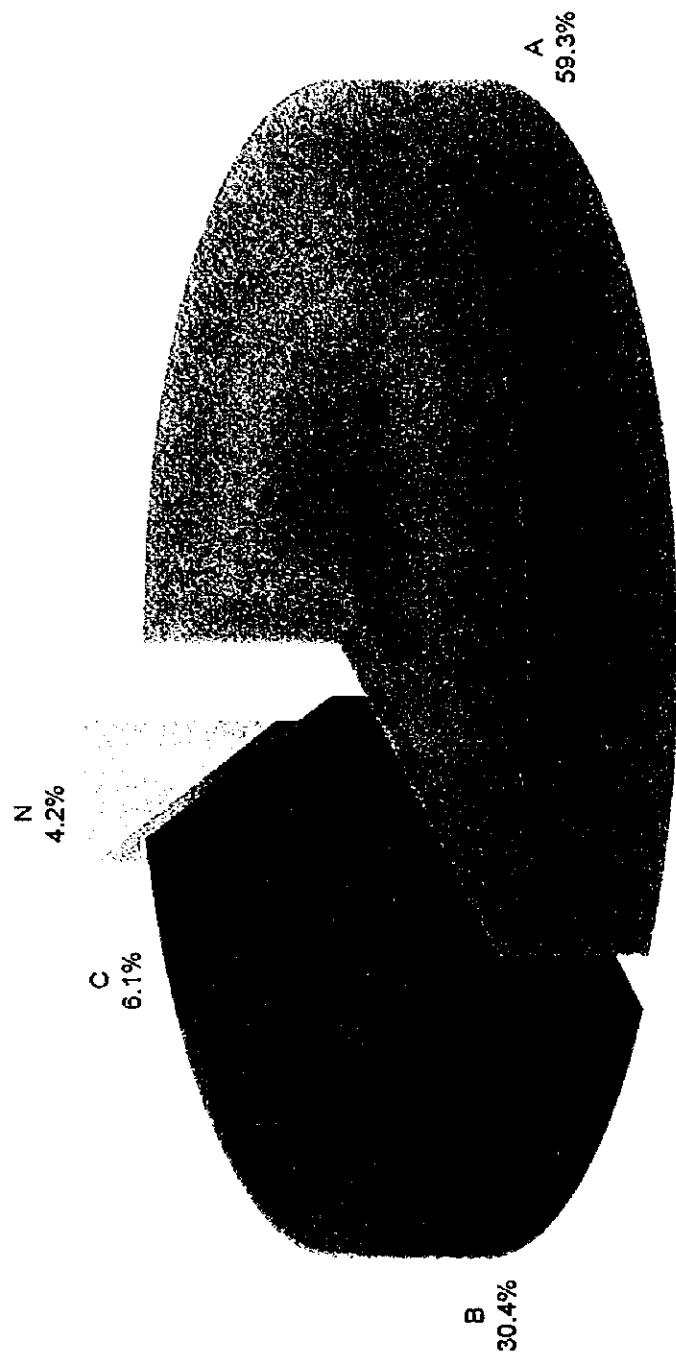
**Able to deepen my interest in international issues.**

The questionnaire returns show 56.4% of the respondents agreed and 26.3% somewhat agreed that the programme had deepened their interest in international issues. 15.3% disagreed and 2.1% of the respondents were not sure.

**Q4 - 5. Could be proud of my country**

	<b>Raw Data</b>	<b>Corrected Data</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>209.38</b>	<b>59.3</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>107.28</b>	<b>30.4</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21.63</b>	<b>6.1</b>
<b>N</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14.71</b>	<b>4.2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>353.00</b>	<b>100.0</b>

QUESTION 4.5 Could be proud of my country



**Question 4.5**

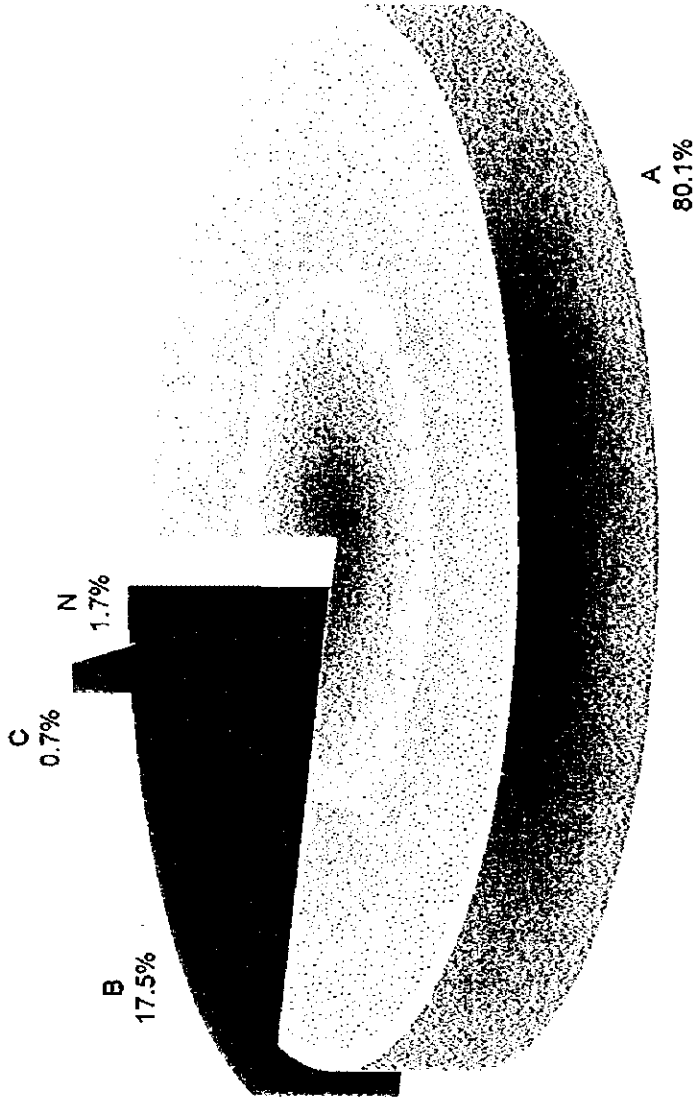
**Could be proud of my country.**

59.3% of the respondents agreed that by participating in the programme they could bring honour to their country and 30.4% somewhat agreed. 6.1% of the respondents disagreed and 4.2% were not sure

**Q4 - 6. Able to understand the importance  
of international exchange**

	<b>Raw Data</b>	<b>Corrected Data</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A</b>	330	282.74	80.1
<b>B</b>	72	61.69	17.5
<b>C</b>	3	2.57	0.7
<b>N</b>	7	6.00	1.7
<b>Total</b>	412	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 4.6** Able to understand the importance of International Exchange



#### **Question 4.6**

**Able to understand the importance of international exchange.**

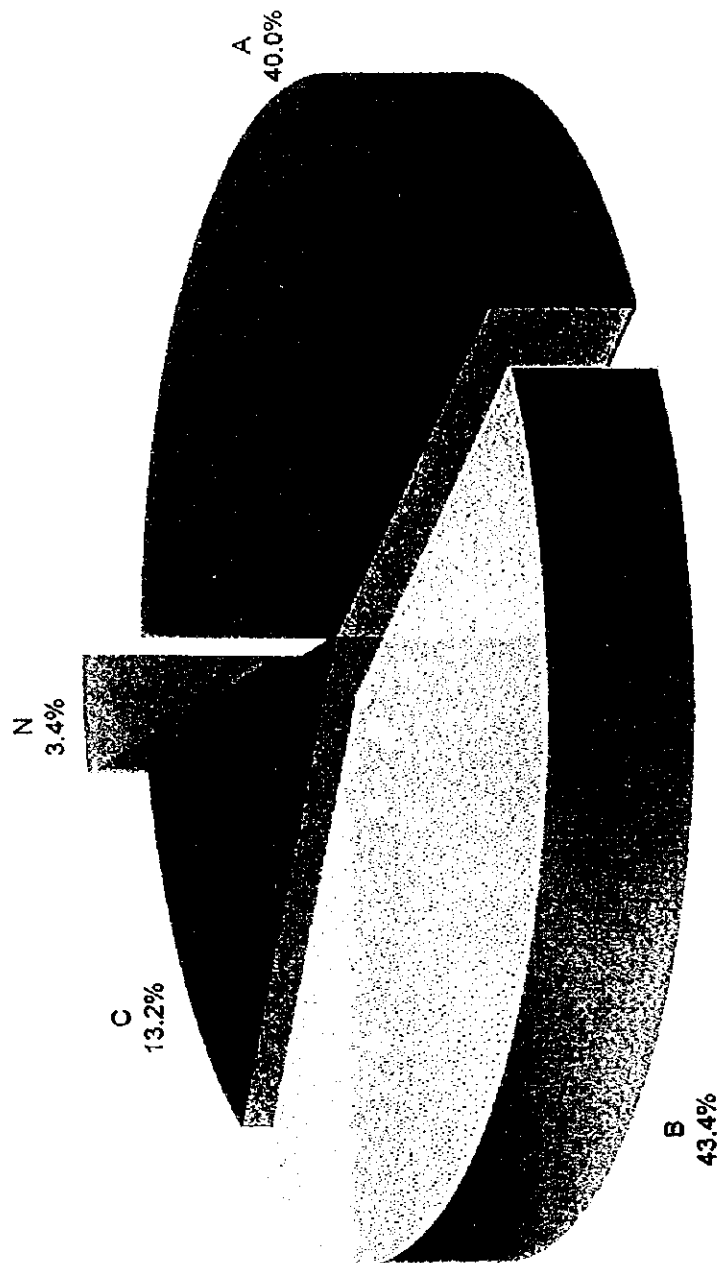
80.1% of the respondents agreed and 17.5% somewhat agreed that by participating in the programme it has enabled them to understand the importance of international exchange. 0.7% of the respondents disagreed with the statement while 1.7% were not sure.

**Q4 - 7. It has changed my way of thinking**

	<b>Raw Data</b>	<b>Corrected Data</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>141.03</b>	<b>40.0</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>153.14</b>	<b>43.4</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>46.72</b>	<b>13.2</b>
<b>N</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12.11</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>353.00</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**QUESTION 4.7** It has change my way of thinking



**Question 4.7**

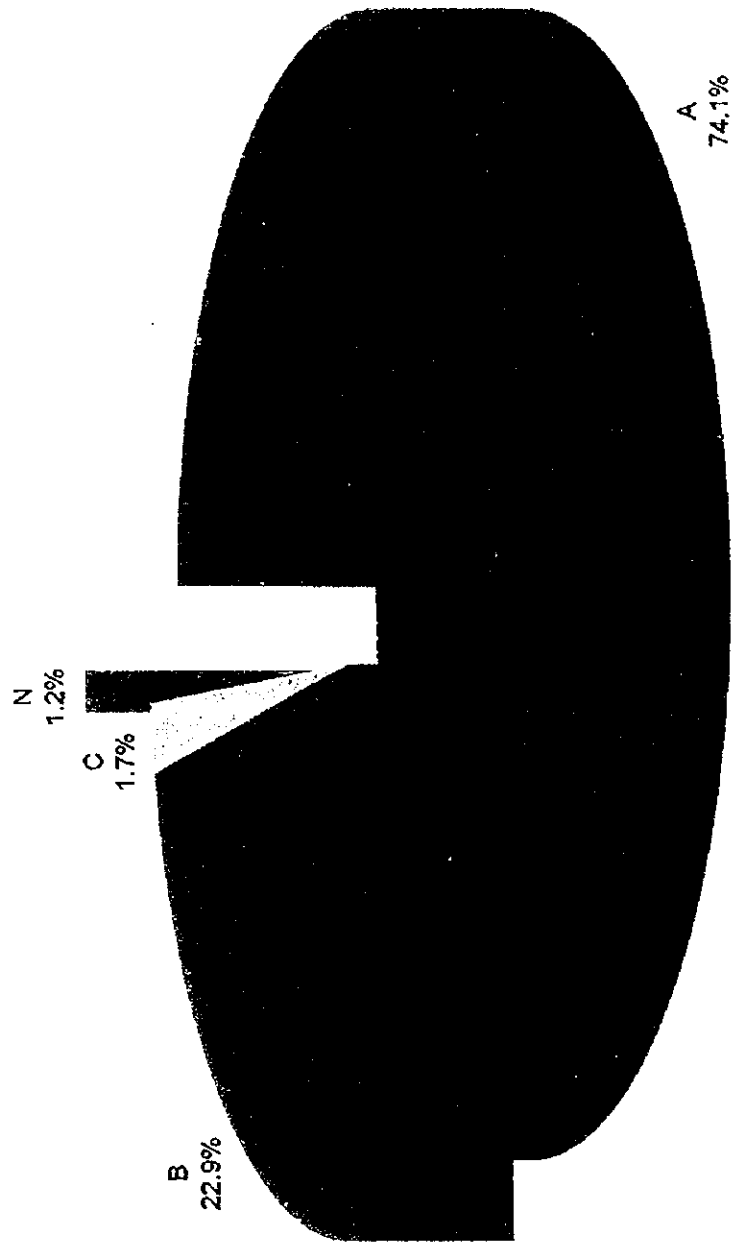
**It has changed my way of thinking.**

40.0% of the respondents agreed and 43.4% somewhat agreed that the programme had changed their way of thinking. 13.2% of the respondents disagreed and 3.4% were not sure.

**Q4 - 8. Able to communicate better with  
people from different culture**

	<b>Raw Data</b>	<b>Corrected Data</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>261.68</b>	<b>74.1</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>80.79</b>	<b>22.9</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6.15</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>N</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4.39</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>353.00</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**QUESTION 4.8 Able to communicate better with people  
from different culture**



**Question 4.8**

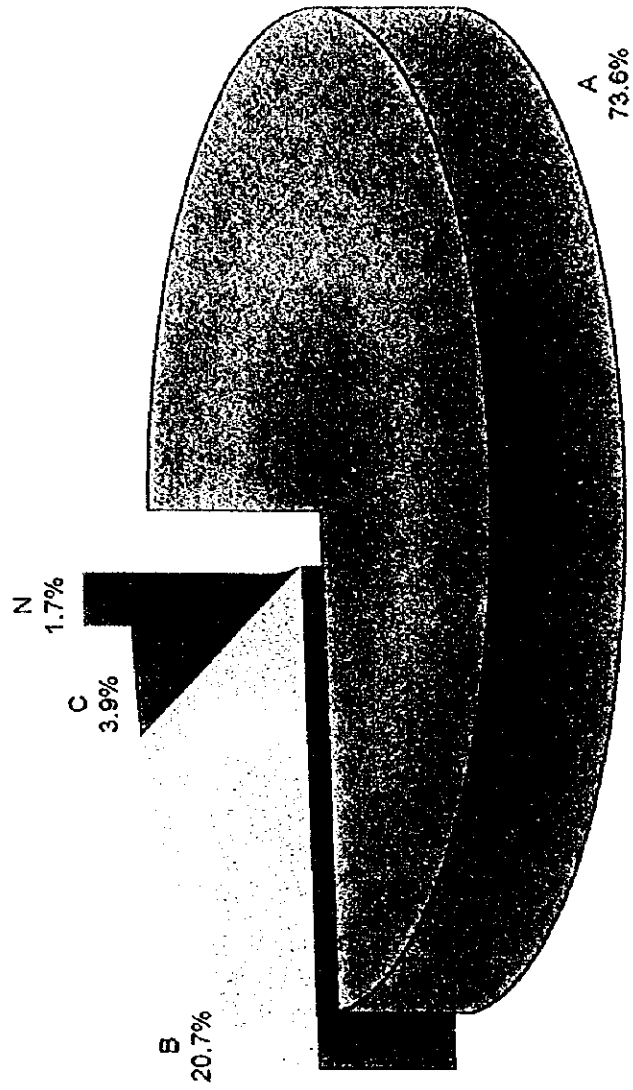
**Able to communicate better with people from different culture.**

From the result of the return 74.1% of the respondents agreed and 22.9% of the participants somewhat agreed that they were able to communicate better with people from different culture after participating in the programme. Another 1.7% of the respondents disagreed and 1.2% were not sure.

**Q4 - 9. Able to learn how to act in good order  
as a group member**

	Raw Data	Corrected Data	Percentage
A	299	259.97	73.6
B	84	73.03	20.7
C	16	13.91	3.9
N	7	6.09	1.7
Total	406	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 4.9** Able to learn how to act in good order as a group member



#### Question 4.9

Able to learn how to act in good order as a group member.

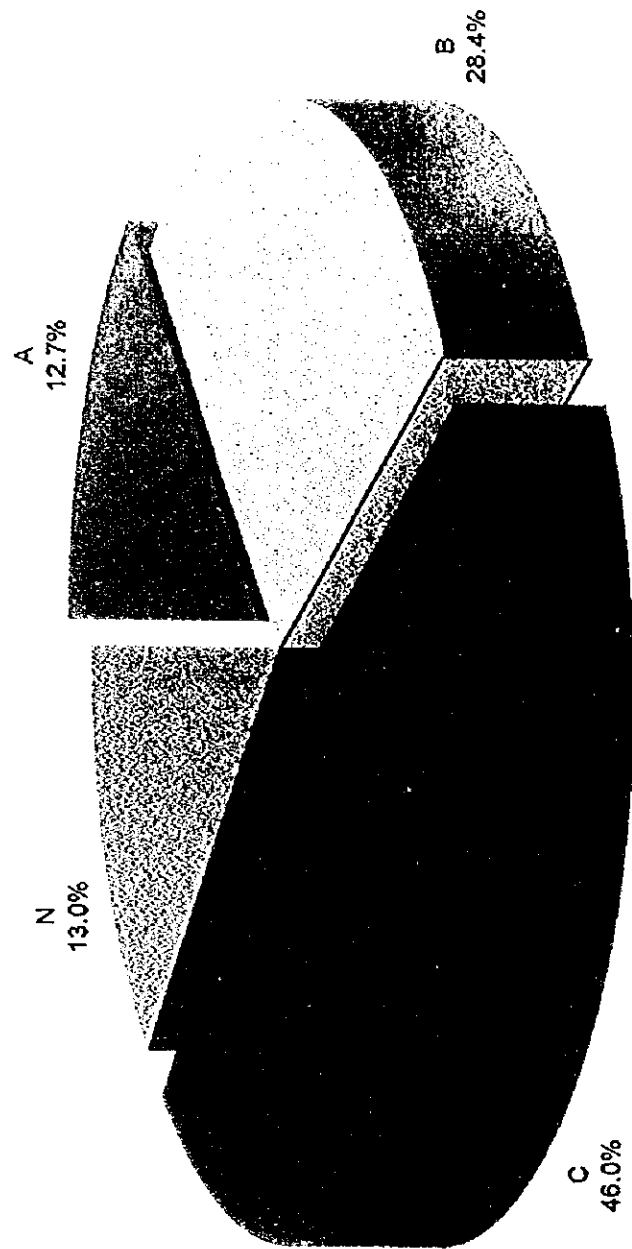
73.6% of the respondents agreed and 20.7% somewhat agreed that the programme had taught them how to act in good order as a group member. 3.9% of the respondents disagreed and 1.7% were not sure.



**Q4 - 10. Better opportunity in my career  
advancement**

	<b>Raw Data</b>	<b>Corrected Data</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>44.88</b>	<b>12.7</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100.12</b>	<b>28.4</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>162.26</b>	<b>46.0</b>
<b>N</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>45.74</b>	<b>13.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>353.00</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**QUESTION 4.10 Better opportunity in my career advancement**



#### **Question 4.10**

##### **Better opportunity in my career advancement.**

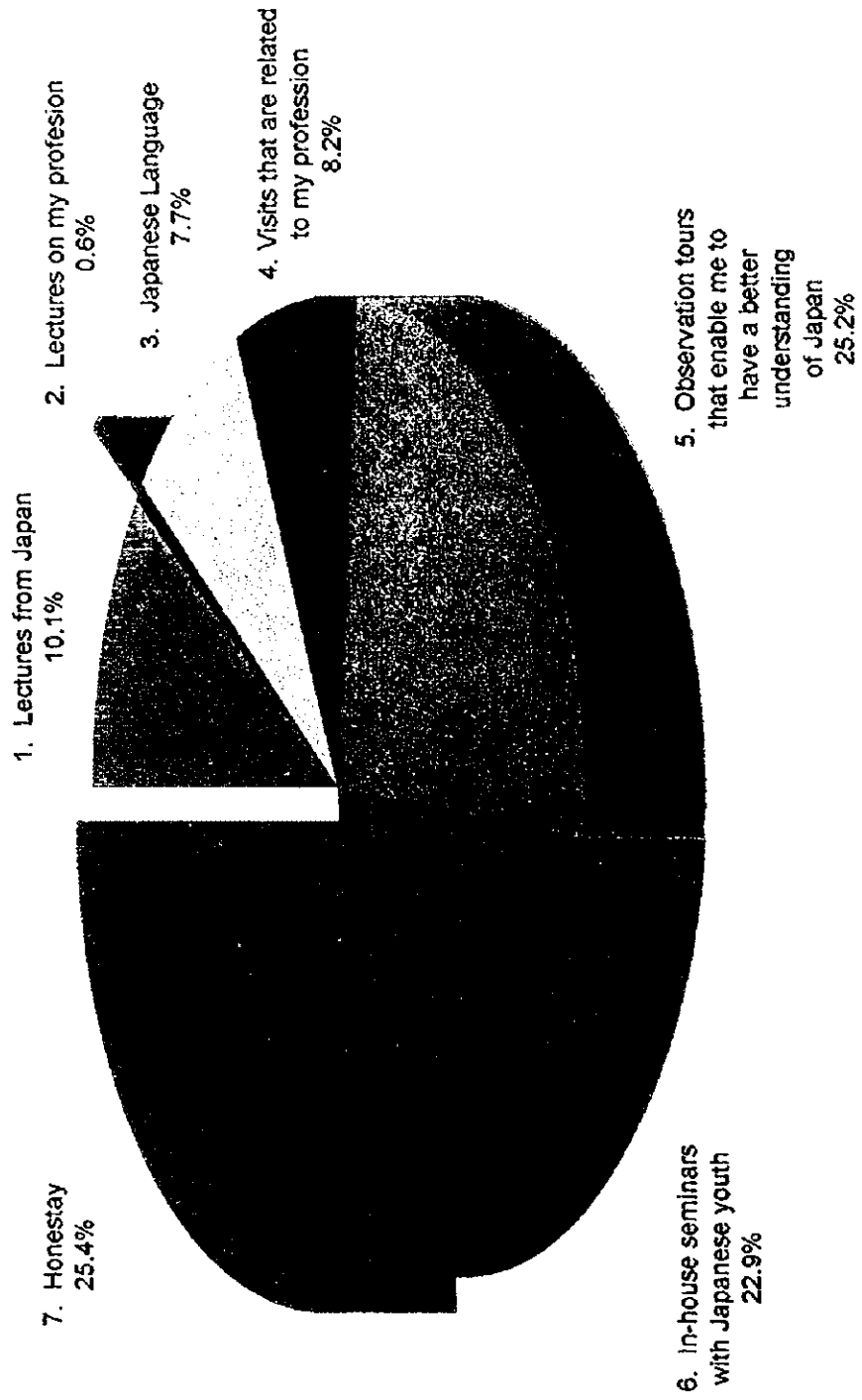
Result of the survey on this question shows 12.7% of the respondents agreed and 28.4% somewhat agreed that after participating in this programme they will have better opportunity for career advancement. 46% disagreed and 13.5% of the respondents were not sure.

## QUESTION 5

Which activities in the programme did you find most beneficial?

	Raw Data	Corrected Data	Percentage
1. Lectures from Japan	120	35.66	10.1
2. Lectures on my profession	7	2.08	0.6
3. Japanese Language	91	27.04	7.7
4. Visits that are related to my profession	97	28.82	8.2
5. Observation tour that enable me to have a better understanding of Japan	299	88.84	25.2
6. In-house seminars with Japanese youth	272	80.82	22.9
7. Homestay	302	89.74	25.4
Total	1188	353.00	100.0

**Question 5 WHICH ACTIVITIES IN THE PROGRAMME DID YOU FIND MOST BENEFICIAL?**



## Question 5

**Which activities in the programme did you find most beneficial?**

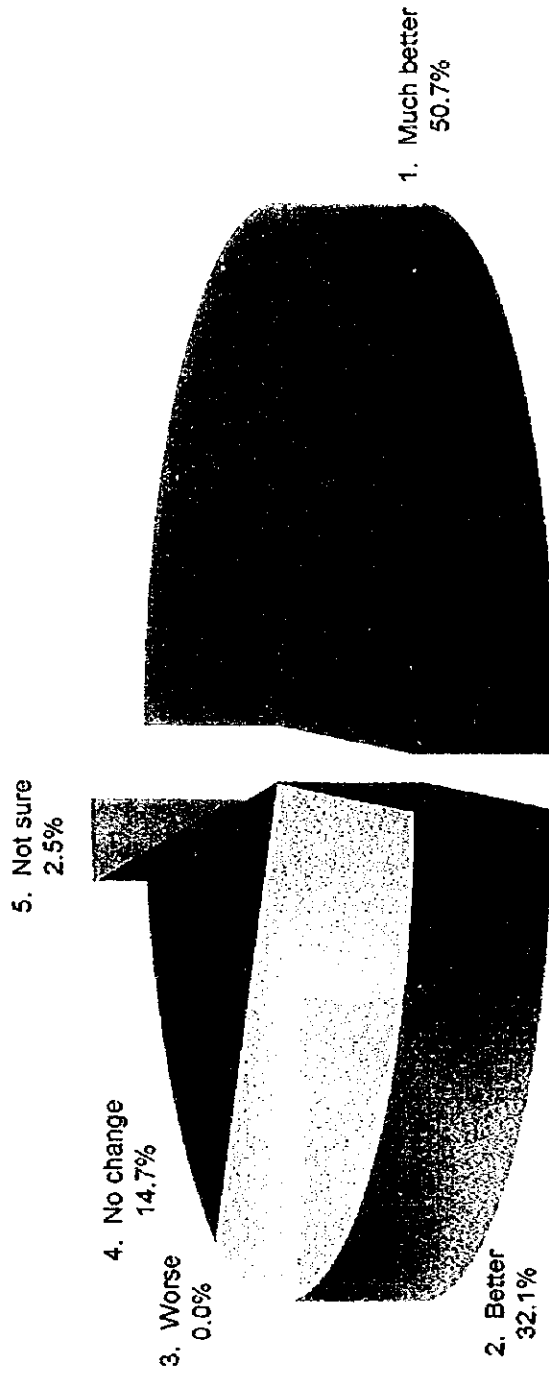
There was quite a diverse response for this question. 25.4% of the respondents felt that homestay was top on their list while 25.2% felt that the observation tours were the most beneficial. 22.9% view the in-house seminars with Japanese youths as the most beneficial while 10.1% of the respondents felt that the lectures on Japan were most beneficial. 7.7% felt that Japanese language lessons were most beneficial while 8.2% views the visits to places related to the respondents' profession as the most beneficial. Only 0.6% of respondents view lectures on their profession as most beneficial.

## QUESTION 6

What is your impression of Japan as compared to your impression before this programme?

	Raw Data	Corrected Data	Percentage
1. Much better	207	179.10	50.7
2. Better	131	113.34	32.1
3. Worse	0	0.00	0.0
4. No change	60	51.91	14.7
5. Not sure	10	8.65	2.5
Total	408	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 6** What is your impression of Japan as compared to your impression before the programme?





## Question 6

**What is your impression of Japan as compare to your impression before this programme?**

50.7% of the respondents felt that they had a much better impression of Japan as compared to their impression before the programme. Another 32.15% felt that they have a better impression. None of the respondents felt that their view has worsened after the programme. 14.7% of the respondents indicated that their impressions of Japan have not changed. Some of the respondents already have a very good impression of Japan even before the programme. 2.5% were not sure about their impression after the programme.

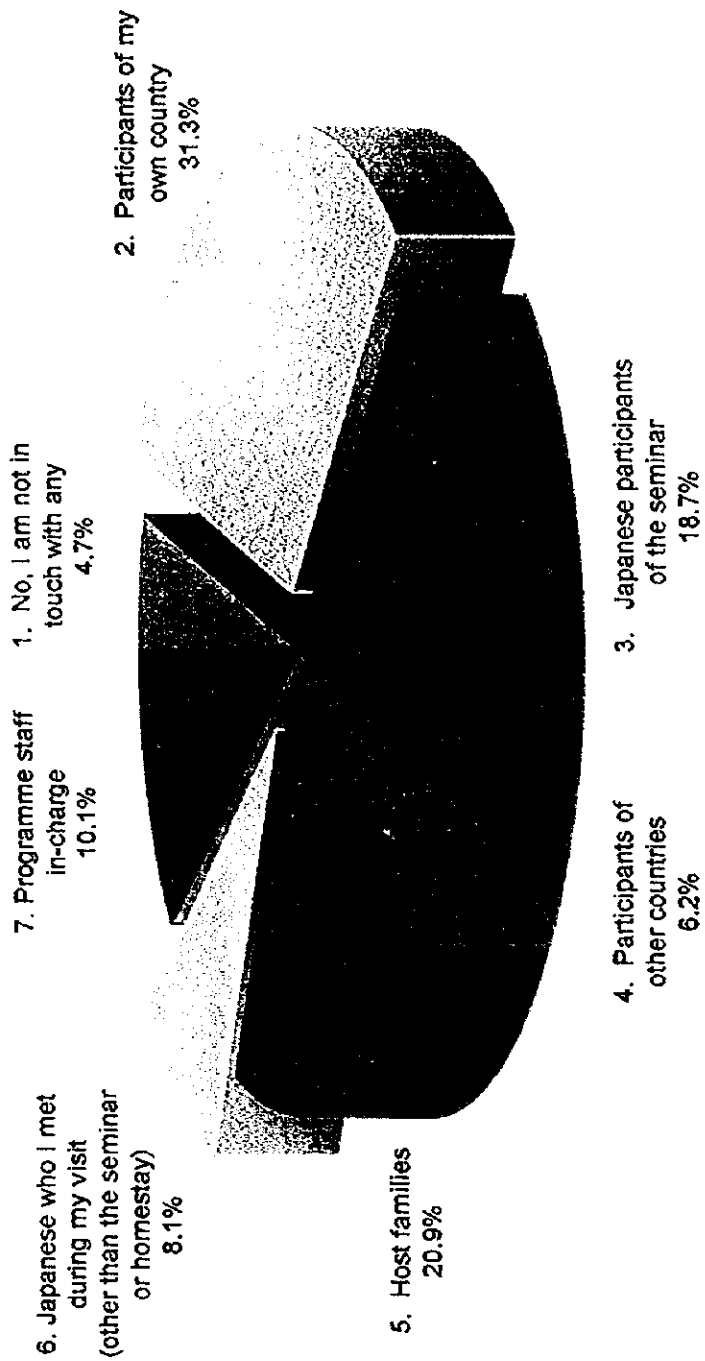
## QUESTION 7

Are you still in touch with the people you met in the programme?

If so, with whom do you still keep in touch?

	Raw Data	Corrected Data	Percentage
1. No, I am not in touch with any	47	16.44	4.7
2. Participants from my own country	316	110.55	31.3
3. Japanese participants of the seminar	189	66.12	18.7
4. Participants from other countries	62	21.69	6.2
5. Host families	211	73.82	20.9
6. Japanese who I met during my visit (other than the seminar or homestay)	82	28.69	8.1
7. Programme staff in-charge	102	35.68	10.1
Total	1009	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 7 Are you still in touch with the people you met in the programme? If so, with whom do you keep in touch?**



### Question 7

**Are you still in touch with the people you met in the programme?**

**If so, with who do you still keep in touch?**

The result of the returns shows 21.9% of the respondents are still in contact with their host family while 19.6% of the respondents are still in touch with Japanese participants of the seminar. 10.6% of the respondents are still in contact with the programme staff in-charge and 8.5% are still in contact with other Japanese whom they have met during the programme (other than the seminar or homestay). The return also shows 32.8% of the respondents are still in touch with their own country participants and 6.4% are still in contact with participants from other ASEAN countries. 4.9% of the ex-participants are no longer in touch with anyone.

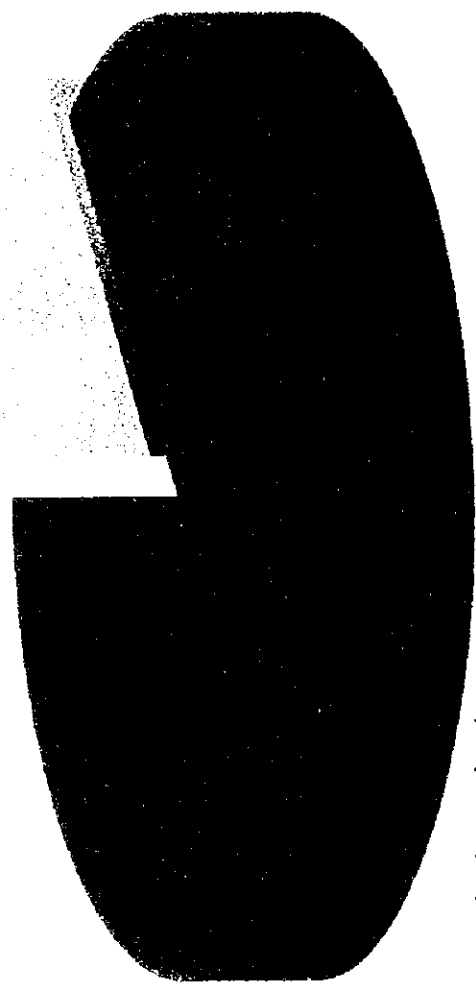
## QUESTION 8

Which of the below in your view will be more important or better for the programme?

	Raw Data	Corrected Data	Percentage
1.a Providing professional knowledge in the participants' field	57	51.46	14.6
Vs			
b Promoting international exchange	334	301.54	85.4
Total	391	353.00	100.0
2.a Maintaining the current balance of the program in Tokyo and local areas in Japan	189	171.95	48.7
Vs			
b Increasing the programmes in local areas and regional cities in Japan	199	181.05	51.3
Total	388	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 8.1**

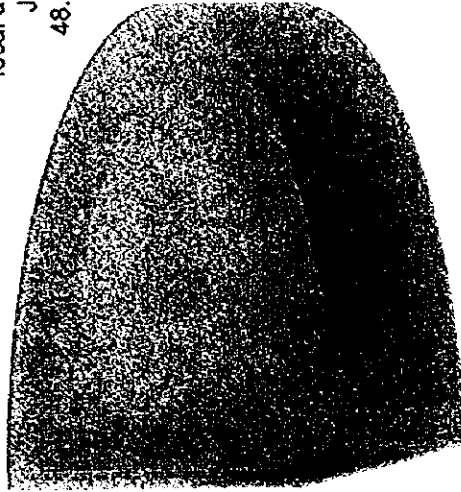
a. Providing professional  
knowledge  
in the participants' field  
14.6%



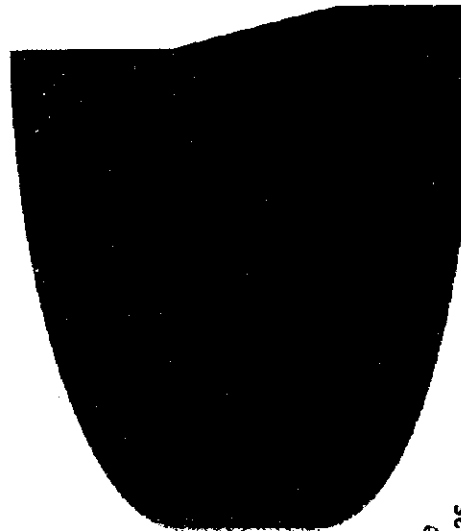
b. Promoting international  
exchange  
85.4%

**QUESTION 8.2**

a Maintaining the current balance of the programme in Tokyo and local areas in Japan  
48.7%



b. Increasing the programs in local areas and regional cities in Japan  
51.3%



## Question 8

**Which of the below in your view will be more important or better for the programme?**

Result of the survey for question 8.1a shows 14.6% of the respondents felt that providing professional knowledge in the participants' field is not as important as compared to promoting international exchange. 85.4% of the respondents felt that promoting international exchange is more important.

For question 8.1b, 51.3 % of the respondents felt that by increasing the programmes in local areas and regional cities in Japan will be better than maintaining the current balances of the programmes in Tokyo and local areas in Japan. 48.7% of the respondents felt that it would be better to maintain the current balances of the programme in Tokyo and local areas in Japan.

We can see that almost 50% of the ex-participants felt that maintaining the current balance of the programmes in Tokyo and the local areas in Japan is more important, while another 50% felt that increasing the programmes in the local areas and regional cities in Japan is more important.



**QUESTION 9**

Do you receive "Dear Friends"

twice a year?

1. Yes

2. No

Total

	Raw Data	Corrected Data	Percentage
1. Yes	270	234.75	66.5
2. No	136	118.25	33.5
Total	406	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 9 Do you receive "Dear Friends" twice a year?**



### Question 9

**Do you receive "Dear Friends" twice a year?**

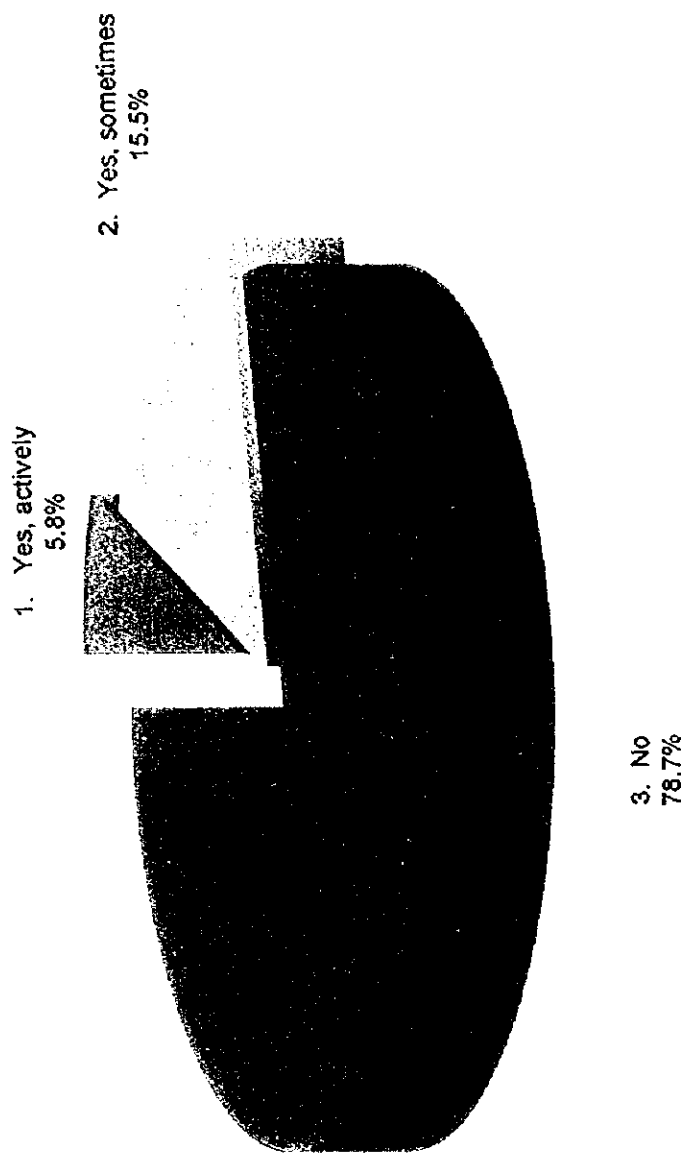
The return shows 66.5% of the respondents have received "Dear Friends" twice a year. Another 33.5% has not. However, some of the 33.5% of the respondents who have not received "Dear Friends" are mostly 1997 participants and they may receive the newsletter sometime this year.

## QUESTION 10

10.1 Are you participating in the alumni association's activities in your country

	Raw data	Corrected Data	Percentage
1. Yes, actively	24	20.46	5.8
2. Yes, sometimes	64	54.57	15.5
3. No	326	277.97	78.7
Total	414	353.00	100.0

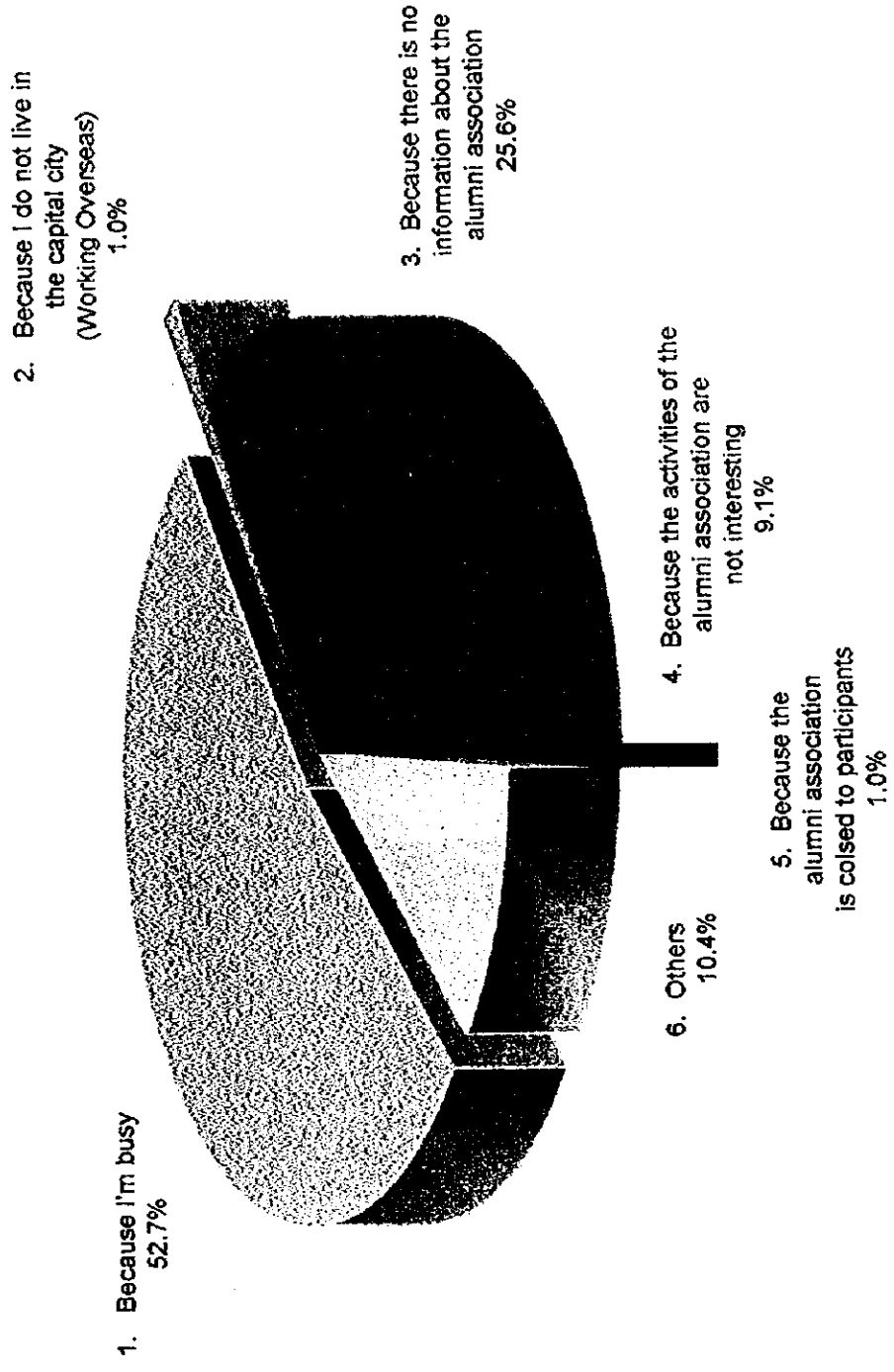
**QUESTION 10.1 Are you participating in the Alumni Association?**



## 10.2 If No, Why ?

1. Because I'm busy	202	186.18	52.7
2. Because I do not live in the capital city (working overseas)	4	3.69	1.0
3. Because there is no information about the alumni Association	98	90.32	25.6
4. Because the activities of the alumni association are not interesting	35	32.26	9.1
5. Because the alumni association is closed to participants	4	3.69	1.0
6. Others	40	36.87	10.4
Total	383	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 10.2 If no, why?**



### Question 10

**Are you participating in the alumni association's activities in your country?**

Only 5.8% of the ex-participants are participating actively in the alumni association's activities. 15.5% of the ex-participants are participating sometimes and the rest of the ex-participant 78.7% of them is not participating at all.

**If no, Why?**

From the returns, 52.7% of the respondents indicated that they were too busy to attend. 25.6% indicated lack of information about the alumni association as their reason for not attending while 9.1% felt that the activities of the alumni were not interesting. 1.0% of the respondents are at present working overseas and 1.0% did not participate because the respondent claims that the association is closed to members and 10.4% of the ex-participants stated other reasons.

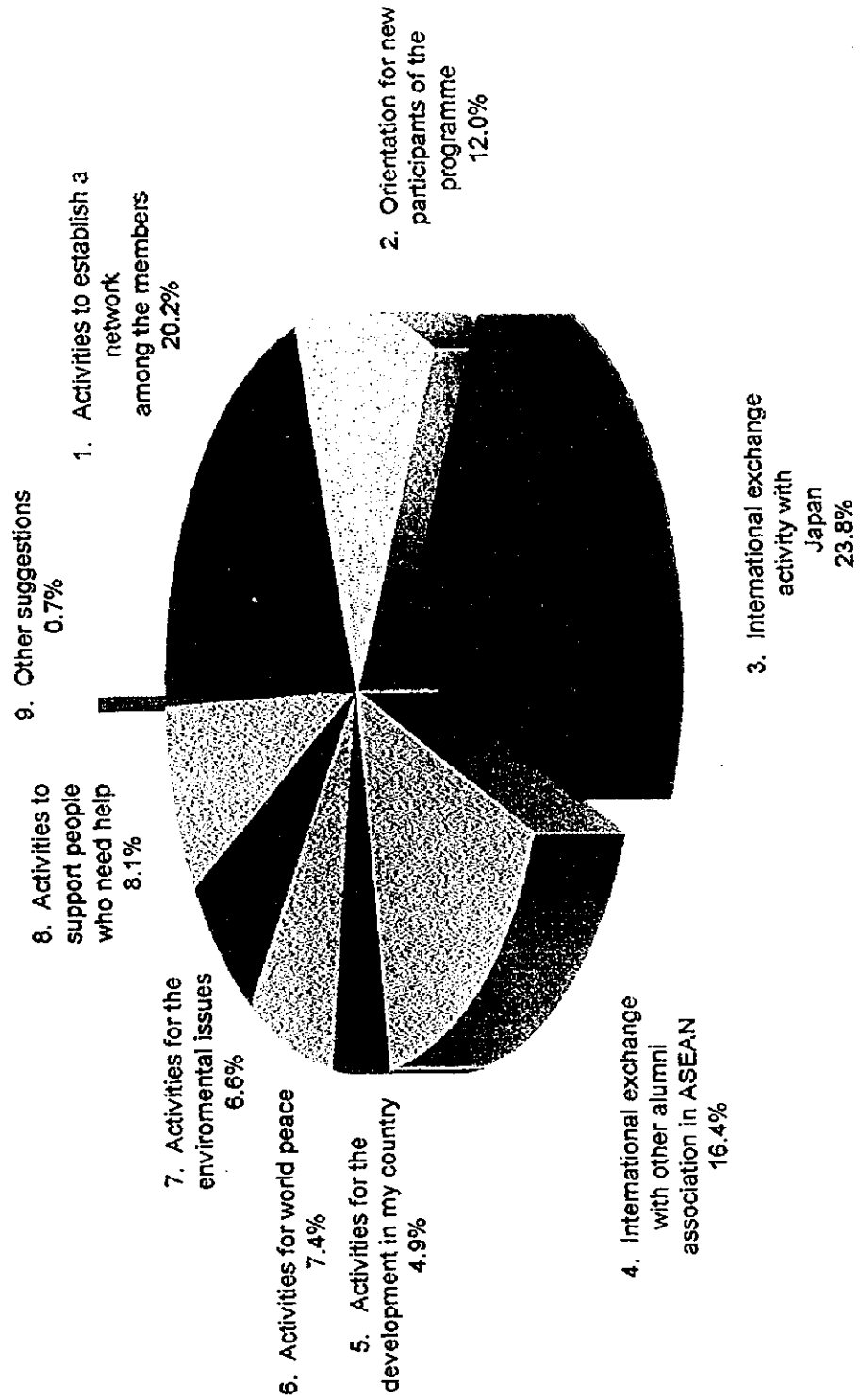


### Question 11

What kind of activities do you think the alumni Association should have in the future?

	Raw Data	Corrected Data	Percentage
1. Activities to establish a network among the members	248	71.23	20.2
2. Orientation for new participants of the programme	147	42.22	12.0
3. International exchange activity with Japan	293	84.16	23.8
4. International exchange with other alumni Association in ASEAN	202	58.02	16.4
5. Activities for the development in my country	60	17.23	4.9
6. Activities for the world peace	91	26.14	7.4
7. Activities for the environmental issues	81	23.27	6.6
8. Activities to support people who need help	99	28.44	8.1
9. Any other suggestions	8	2.30	0.7
Total	1229	353.00	100.0

**QUESTION 11 What kind of activities do you think the alumni association should have in the future?**



### Question 11

**What kind of activities do you think the alumni Association should have in the future?**

20.2% of the respondents would like the alumni association to establish a network among the members. While another 12.0% would like the Alumni Association to continue organising the pre-departure orientation for future participants of the programme. Another 23.8% would like the alumni association to arrange international exchange programmes with Japan while 16.4% would like the alumni association to have international exchange programmes with other alumni associations in ASEAN countries.

4.9% would like activities that help in the development of their own countries, 7.4% of the respondents would like activities for world peace while 6.6% would like activities on environmental issues. 8.1% would like the association to give support to people who need help and 0.7% of the respondents have other suggestions.

## QUESTION 12

### What do you expect from JICA in supporting the Alumni Association?

From the 410 questionnaire returns, 47.6% of the respondents gave their opinions; the other 52.4% of the respondents had no comments.

The followings are some of the suggestions by the respondents:

#### 1984

- One respondent suggested that JICA and the alumni association could help in arranging homestay for Japanese students visiting Singapore to promote international exchange and understanding.
- Another respondents suggested that JICA could assist the alumni association to organise exchange programme with other ASEAN alumni associations.
- Two respondents felt that JICA should assist the alumni association financially as well as to provide administration support.

#### 1985

- One respondent felt that JICA could help to arrange for Japanese counterparts who participated in the programme to visit Singapore in order to strengthen the bond of friendship.
- Four respondents also felt that JICA should continue to provide funds for the alumni association's activities.
- Some respondents felt that JICA could provide more interaction news and activities amongst ASEAN countries.

## 1986

- Some suggested that JICA should consider establishing a permanent place for ex-participants to meet regularly.
- One respondent felt that JICA should organise talks by some prominent Japanese.
- Another five respondents felt that JICA should continue providing funds to alumni association.
- A few respondents also felt that JICA could set-up a database of contacts in Japan e.g. host family's addresses, e-mail addresses and fax numbers.
- One respondent suggested that JICA should consider organising more international exchange activities.
- Another respondent felt that JICA should consider setting up an association for host families as well as Japanese in-house seminar participants.
- One respondent suggested that JICA should organise activities for ex-participants and Japanese working and living in Singapore.

## 1987

- One respondent suggested that JICA could assist in organising trade visits and international exchange activities with Japan.
- Another four respondents felt that JICA should continue providing funds to alumni association to organise activities
- Some felt that JICA should organise more international exchange activities.

## 1988

- Four respondents suggested that JICA should continue supporting the alumni association financially.
- Another felt that JICA should organise dialogue with the Executive Committee members of the alumni association regularly.
- Some of the respondents suggested that JICA should consider providing a permanent place for members to meet.

## 1989

- Three respondents felt that JICA should continue supporting the alumni association financially.
- Another suggested that JICA should consider providing logistics and administration support to the alumni association.
- Some felt that JICA should continue with the programme.

## 1990

- One respondent suggested that JICA should continue to provide financial support to the alumni association.
- A couple of the respondents suggested that JICA should consider providing a link with the Japanese counterparts by means of networking.
- Some respondents suggested that JICA should consider providing up-to-date information on Japan.

## 1991

- One suggested that JICA could act as a channel for re-establishing lost contact between ex-participants and their counterpart in Japan.
- Some respondents suggested that JICA could provide up-to-date information about Japan and the way of life through different medium (e.g. video, film, poster, print, etc.).
- Four respondents from the 1991 batch suggested that JICA should continue to support the alumni association financially.

## 1992

- Three respondents suggested that JICA should support the alumni association financially.
- Some felt that JICA should continue to support activities that promote international exchange between Japan and Singapore.

## 1994

- One respondent suggested that JICA and the alumni association should organise joint activities
- Another suggested that JICA could help in keeping people in-touch.
- A few respondents felt that JICA should consider setting up a database for networking.
- Another respondent suggested that JICA could arrange speakers from Japan to talk on the latest developments in Japan.

## 1995

- One respondent suggested that JICA could work together with the alumni association to maintain a link and interest in Japanese culture and people.
- Five respondents suggested that JICA should continue providing funds for the alumni association to organise activities.
- Some felt that JICA HQ should organise dialogue session with the alumni association on a regular basis.
- A couple also suggested that JICA should work together with the alumni association to arrange for homestay for Japanese youths visiting Singapore.

## 1996

- Six respondents felt that JICA could help by continuing to provide the alumni association with financial help.
- Some respondents suggested that JICA could help to facilitate the good ties we have between Singapore and Japan through more exchange programmes.
- A few respondents suggested that JICA could consider publishing a newsletter together with the alumni association here in Singapore.
- One respondent felt that JICA could assist in broadening the network for possible friendship with Japanese youths, for e.g. providing e-mail pen-pal services.



1997

- One respondent suggested that JICA could help to facilitate the co-operation of the alumni associations in ASEAN.
- Another felt that JICA should provide an up-to-date information on JICA activities.
- Some of the respondents suggested that JICA should continue to provide opportunities for youths in Japan to interact and establish mutual understanding with ASEAN counterparts.
- Another six respondents suggested that JICA should continue to support the alumni association financially.
- One respondent suggested that JICA could help to facilitate networking amongst the various alumni association.
- Another respondents felt that JICA could continue and improve the present level of support for the alumni association.
- Some respondents suggested that JICA could provide information, resources and opportunity for exchanges.

From the suggestions received from the respondents the majority felt that JICA should continue to support the alumni association financially as well as to provide logistic and administration support. The respondents also felt that JICA could help to establish a database for networking amongst the alumni associations in ASEAN as well as their Japanese counterparts. Some respondents also felt that JICA could help by providing latest information on Japan to all ex-participants.

In general we can see that the respondents have not forgotten their wonder time they spend in Japan and they are still very keen to continue and to further strengthen the relationship with their Japanese counterparts as well as the ASEAN counterparts. The respondents also show interest in trying to expand their circle of friends as well as to renew old ties with their counterparts they met during the Friendship Programme. To conclude, the programme has a very good impact on the participants even after more than 10 years the good memories still linger in their mind.

**ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT  
FROM THE PROGRAMME**



## INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND PROMOTING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN SINGAPORE & JAPAN

From the returns, we found that the respondents now have a better understanding and knowledge of the Japanese culture.

The programme provided the respondents the opportunity to experience Japanese hospitality at a much more personal level. The everyday contact with the Japanese during their homestay programme, interaction with their host parents, their family members, neighbours and friends are things that they can never experience during sightseeing tours. From the returns, 96.4% of the respondents felt that they were able to learn more about the Japanese society better. At the same time 81.0% of the respondents felt that the programme helps to promote mutual understanding between Singapore participants and their Japanese counterparts.

From the survey we also learn that the majority of the respondents, 80.1% agreed and 17.5% somewhat agreed that the programme enable them to communicate better with people from a different culture.

In conclusion we can see that the programme plays a vital role in promoting friendship between the people of Singapore and Japan.

### **EX-PARTICIPANTS PROFESSIONAL GROWTH**

From the returns, 56.5% of the respondents agreed that one of their objectives in participating in the programme is to improve their professional knowledge. Another 27.8% of the respondents somewhat agreed to the statement. However only 30.6% of the respondents agreed that they were able to gather more knowledge in their field of profession and another 41.7% of the respondents somewhat agreed. From what we saw from the returns, the respondents had indeed benefited from the programme as 72.3% of the respondents agreed and somewhat agreed that they have gathered more knowledge of their profession. From the data collected we can conclude that by participating in the Friendship Programme for the 21st Century the respondents were able to gain all the relevant information that they needed to widen their knowledge in the field of profession.

### **PARTICIPANTS' INDIVIDUAL GROWTH**

The respondents felt that they had benefited in many ways. The experiences they had gained were able to help them in their individual growth. Some of the benefits are :

1. Being able to learn about the society in Japan - 94.6% agreed and 5.4% somewhat agreed.
2. Respondents were able to deepen their interest in international issues - 56.4% agreed and 26.3% somewhat agreed.

**SITUATION ANALYSIS, EVALUATION  
AND SUGGESTIONS**



### **Preparation of Participants of the Friendship Programme**

In general, the respondents who participated in the earlier batches felt that they are well prepared for the trip whereas the later batches especially those who participated in 1997 felt that the pre-departure is insufficient. The reasons are because the earlier batches of participants had two weekends of orientation whereas the 1997 batches had only one weekend due to the cut in budget.

### **Duration and Content of Each Sub-Programme in Japan**

The majority of the respondents were very happy with the arrangements however some felt that I would be better to have longer stay in the local areas. Other felt that the homestay programme should be extended because there is no better way of understanding the Japanese way of life than to stay with a Japanese family. There were also suggestions that the programme should base only on friendship rather than including the field of their professions.

### **Cost effectiveness of the Programme**

Many felt that the money is well spent; however in order to reduce cost; JICA may want to consider organising the programme in the local areas. It will be very much cheaper as well as participants will be able to experience a true Japanese way of life as compared to organising it in Tokyo.



### QUESTION 13

**If there are any suggestion or idea for future programme please do feel free to share with us.**

From the 410 respondents only 96 respondents (23%) gave some suggestions or idea for future programme.

The followings are some of the suggestions:

- One respondent suggested JICA could consider a programme for ex-participants from different countries.
- Another of the respondents suggested that JICA could have a column in the "Dear Friends" featuring the activities of the alumni associations.
- One respondent suggested that future participants must give an agreement to participate in the alumni activities and attendance at welcoming party for Japanese visitor is compulsory.
- Three respondents from 1986 heard that since Singapore is considered a develop nation she would most probably be excluded from the next phase of the programme. They felt that it will be a waste if Singapore is excluded from the next phase of the programme because SAJFA-21 will have to be dissolved and the Students' Exchange Programme and the Friendship Exchange Programme between Singapore and Miyazaki started by SAJFA-21 and Miyazaki-Singapore Friendship Association (MISFA) will have to stop, therefore years of hard work will go to waste. This will have a impact on other alumni associations, thus preventing them from expanding their own programme with their Japanese counterparts and the objectives of the Friendship Programme will not be met.

- Some respondents suggested reducing the number of participants in order that Singapore could be included in the next phase of the programme.
- One respondent felt that Singapore should be included in the next phase of the programme because it gives our youths the opportunity to understand one another.
- Some respondents suggested reducing the number of days in Japan to reduce cost so that Singapore and more countries could be included in this programme.
- One respondent suggested that the pre-departure orientation should be more comprehensive.
- Another suggested that host families be invited to visit Singapore.
- One respondent suggested organising a Friendship Day – sports and games.
- Another suggested setting up a club- house for ex-participants.
- One respondent suggested WebPages for interaction between ex-participants and Japanese and ASEAN counterparts.
- Another suggested organising Japanese cultural activities.
- Some respondents hope that JICA will consider including Singapore in the next phase of the programme.

From the suggestions gathered it shows that the respondents are trying every way to further strengthen the bond of friendship between the Japanese and ASEAN counterpart as well as their fellow-countrymen. From what we gather we strongly believe that the Friendship Programme have been successfully carried out and all the objectives are met.

JICA