



2023 WISE in Saku-Karuizawa, May 26-28, 2023

Japan Institute for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Japan Institute for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (JSIE) organized Women's Initiative for Sustainable Empowerment (WISE) in Saku-Karuizawa program on May 26-28, 2023 at Yuai Sanso. This program is designed to promote entrepreneurship and collaboration toward innovative solutions against various social challenges related to Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs). At the program, 29 participants from the U.S., Cambodia, Venezuela, Columbia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Kenya, Norway, and Japan had opportunities to shape ideas into plans through group work and to learn leadership and communication skills.

Under the theme of "Global x Inclusive x Leadership ~ Creating New Social Values for Sustainable Community," 2023 WISE in Saku-Karuizawa was co-sponsored by the U.S. Embassy of Tokyo and supported by Globalgiving, Saku city, Karuizawa-cho, TUJ ICAS, Kurabito stay, Kitsukura shuzo, Flower Robotics, Code Chrysalis, K.K.Guardian, and Ms. Kei Tolliver. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your support.

JSIE supports fostering global talent, and offers global networking opportunities for participants, including students, young and experienced professionals, with an emphasis on helping women and minorities realize their greatest potential. Women's Initiative for Sustainable Empowerment (WISE) program is to provide opportunities to shape our life mission and work toward social challenges.



Mr. Joshua Gonzalez, US Embassy Tokyo
JSIE has invited ideas that help to make our society better for the next generation. Participants shared their ideas tackling social problems and six groups were formed based on participants' interest. Participants pitched their ideas on the first day and voted, and top 6 ideas are selected. 6 ideas turned into 6 cross-border groups. Group members worked throughout 3 days of the program. WISE program is supported by United States Embassy of Tokyo, and we are honored to welcome Mr. Joshua Gonzalez for sending a kind message for our program, saying that the experience of different cultures strengthened himself and opened his eyes for more opportunities. The message can be viewed at vimeo.com/825316133/71da065be3



JSIE particularly focused on the following points and asked participants to consider such principles.

- *Identify and define problem(s)
- *Present and explain your ideas to others
- *Negotiate, collaborate, and involve with others
- *Accept different values and be flexible
- *Play leadership and bring "the best outcome"

2023 WISE in Saku-Karuizawa “Creating New Social Values for Sustainable Community” by JSIE



Mr. Tatsuya Matsui



Ms. Marika Tazawa

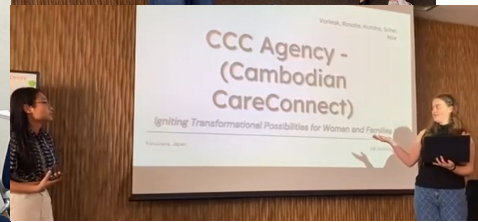


Mentors were providing different perspectives, asking critical questions and encouraging participants to take continued effort for shaping plans. Mentor Mr. Tatsuya Matsui, an artist and CEO of Flower Robotics who currently develops the enhanced home robot “Patin” that can be used in all homes around the world, provided a broader perspective to tackle problems. Ms. Marika Tazawa advised perspectives from a tourism professional who rounded experience-based Kurabito stay under the concept of sustainable tourism re-building local communities. Ms. Caitlin Puzzar Puzzar, a WISE fellow (2019 Kumamoto) and CEO of newly incorporated K.K. Guardian. She presented her kimino micata system, an SOS communication support tool to detect child abuse and bullying. With sharing her journeys, participants learned hints for their own projects.

Six teams presented their project ideas and implementation plans in the end of 3-day program. Each group had brilliant pitch and unique ideas as a result of working in very diverse environment. All enjoyed the unique and rich communication opportunities. They worked so hard on creating sustainable mechanisms and shared great time discussing how, why, what and when to produce new project plans. Organizers are very proud of all teams’ high-quality project plans within a short period!



The 1st prize went to “Interfood” team (Above) presented with a role play. The idea is about providing simple forms of communicating tool for food allergy and menu in English allowing restaurants to welcome foreign visitors even there is no wifi network is available. The 2nd prize went to “Immergence” team (upper right) that proposed disaster tourism to the serious flood affected island in the Philippines for educational and community-rebuilding purposes.



JSIE staff Fumiko Sasaki from NY provided keynote with life stories on Academia as well as experience from working with African education NGO. JSIE facilitator Hiromi Murakami also joined as mentor to stimulate thinking patterns and innovative minds.

JSIE is committed to support those WISE fellows for their activities. Please see www.jsie.net for more information.



Caitlin Puzzar



Hiromi Murakami

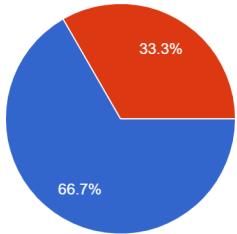


Fumiko Sasaki



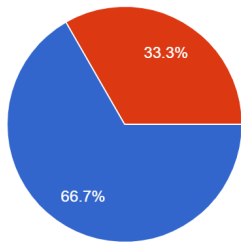
Evaluation Survey Result

1) Rate your level of satisfaction



- Very satisfied 大変満足
- Somewhat satisfied まあ満足
- Somewhat dissatisfied あまり満足していない
- Dissatisfied 満足していない

2) How effective were the facilitators?



- Very satisfied 大変満足
- Somewhat satisfied まあ満足
- Somewhat dissatisfied あまり満足していない
- Dissatisfied 満足していない

Q: What is it that you liked the most about WISE in Saku-Karuizawa?

- ・ Age is not matter. To challenge is up to me. Every stories and experiences could be the catalyst to solve the social problems.
- ・ Meeting people who are driven with goals to make the society/community a better place. Working on a project in a short period of time was hard but fun, I haven't done that in a while!
- ・ Team discussion, mentor's inspirational speech and inclusion of high school students for idea generation.
- ・ The diversity of the participants allowed me to have ideas and opinions from a variety of perspectives.
- ・ Discussing in English, working intensively on a project, working together with others as a team.
- ・ Networking and knowing each-other, motivational lectures for start ups at any age.
- ・ meeting different people and getting the chance to expand my horizon and getting contacts
- ・ Encouraging words and feedbacks from others
- ・ Mentor session were really helpful!!!
- ・ Innovative idea and it's way to implement. Inspired by Mentors
- ・ Hospitality of organizer

Q: What you've learned from this program, and what inspired you the most during the program?

- ・メンターの佐々木先生がWISE終了後もプロジェクトについて前向きに相談乗ってくれる姿勢。本気で社会課題解決に向けて行動してくれていると感じたから。
- ・より多様性あるメンバーとコラボレーションができ、また若いひとたちのポテンシャルも同時に体験できたこと。
- ・熊本より、よりいろいろとコミットできました。
- ・フレンドリーな雰囲気がとても楽しかったです♪ また、中身がとても高度でおもしろかったです!
- ・様々な人と話せたことや意見をシェアできたこと。英語だけでなく日本語のサポートもあったのもありがたかった。
- ・自分にもっと自信を持っていいのだと気づいた。

- ・自分を英語メインの環境に置いたことで、英語に関してとても意欲的になりました。面白い意見を持っている人が年齢性別にかかわらずたくさんいて、私ももっと深く会話に参加したいと思ったからです。
- ・イノベーションとコミュニケーションに年齢は関係なく、上げて行き続けられ、確実にみなさんのみらいをよくする要素に溢れていました。熱気とポテンシャルに刺激をいただきました。
- ・他の高校生の積極的な行動やアイデア。皆が自分の考えを持っていてそれに自信をもっていたから。
- ・参加者やメンターがどんどん自分の意見を発信している姿を見て感銘を受けた。

