

Kumamoto WISE Special May 18-19, 2019

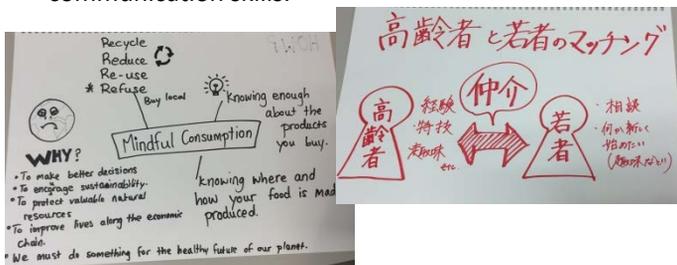


Japan Institute for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (JSIE) organized special Women's Initiative for Sustainable Empowerment (WISE) program in Kumamoto on May 18-19, 2019 in Kumamoto. WISE Kumamoto is specially organized by JSIE with collaboration of Kumamoto Prefecture, to provide opportunity to individuals for shaping ideas into actionable project plans. Kumamoto people continue to face challenges caused by devastating earthquake; however, it means we have great chances to create new social values by turning such challenges into (social) business ideas. JSIE provided opportunities to shape such ideas into plans through two-day workshop and to learn leadership styles through group works to bring women and younger generations in action. During the program, 27 participants from Kumamoto, Tokyo, Chiba, Saga, and Yamanashi, and countries of origin include the U.K., South Africa, Vietnam, and Japan. Participants had opportunities to shape ideas into plans through group work and to learn various types of leadership and communication skills.

Kumamoto WISE Special 2019 was supported by Kumamoto Prefecture, Mirai Talk, Fumidasu, and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership.



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



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"

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.



"Team Pichi Pichi"

Kumamoto WISE Special 2019 by JSIE x Kumamoto Prefecture



Mentors were providing different perspectives, asking critical questions, and encouraging continued effort for shaping plans. Mentors include, Mr. Koichi Ogawa, one of the top producers in Japan, working as a dream creator and the Founder of Happy Woman Inc.,; Ms. Yuki Wilson from Kumamoto, the owner of Tomi's Shortbread House, a professional pastry chef trained in U.K. and France, who has built her shop from scratch and now selling her products in major cities in Japan.



Mr. Chuk Beshner of 3Minute, Inc. a subsidiary of GREE, engages in producing a women's empowerment documentary video series: and Mr. Atsuyoshi Saisho, the founder of e-Education, who have won many awards including Worldbank Innovation Challenge Competition in 2014. Mr. Saisho gave the audience special presentation of his adventurous paths to succeed his e-Education project.



Six teams presented their business ideas and worked on implementation plans throughout two day program in groups. Their tackled challenges including 1) matching App of elders and younger generation in providing needs and advice, 2) student-led Kumamoto touring programs, 3) value creation of hot spring site, 4) mindful consumption App for providing traceable information where they are made, 5) alert service for child abuse, and 6) value creation for education system.



Other presenters are Mr. Yutaro Togami of Mirai Talk at Mashiki cho, where earthquake hit the hardest 3 years ago. He has been leading youth activities to empower the community, and presented his activities since. Dr. Emi Kiyota, originally from Kumamoto, the founder of ibasho.org has also joined a live interview from Singapore, who introduced a new concept of "creating space for elders" and spreading "Ibasho" practice in various nations. All mentors received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the participants.



JSIE staffs provided lectures on "Take an Action", social impact methods, Story-telling presentation", and "Investor's perspective" in order for each group to make attractive presentation on the final day.

The left photo: Team "Happy Cow"

Kumamoto WISE Special 2019 by JSIE x Kumamoto Prefecture



Kumamoto WISE was reported on Kumamoto Nichi-nichi newspaper, the top local newspaper in Kumamoto.

Heated discussions took place in each group for full two-day program. “Tojiba” team above, “One-nize” team below, and “Kira-kira” team to the right.



Special guest, Dr. Kiyoshi Kurokawa, who has roots in Kumamoto, JSIE advisor, enthusiastically talked about bottom-up civil society where each of you can make changes.



Six teams presented their implementation plans in the end of two-day program. All groups worked hard and have shown substantial improvement from first day. The first prize went to team “Kumamondai” and second prize went to team “Pichi-Pichi” introducing customer-oriented tour activities run by students. JSIE will continue to follow up with WISE fellows, through Facebook page and reunions connecting all previous WISE Fellows. For more information, please go to www.jsie.net/en for past WISE programs.

The winning team “Kumamondai” presented brilliant project plan to introduce new App for school children in Kumamoto.

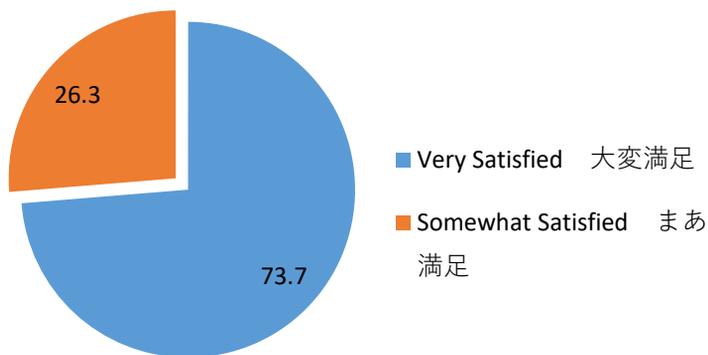
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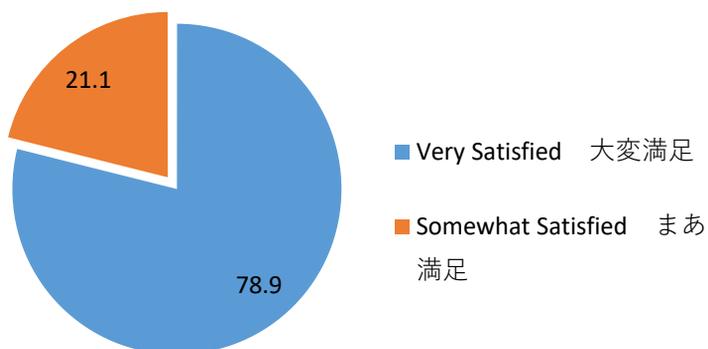


Evaluation Survey Result

1) Rate your level of satisfaction with the Kumamoto WISE.



2) How effective were the instructors?



Q: What inspired you the most during the Kumamoto WISE? In what way?

- Meeting so many interested people in the community and being able to collaborate.
- I learned how to present own idea, and get to know how to better pitch.
- I really enjoyed discussing ideas in constructive way with newly met people.
- Interaction with mentors who are globally active in their fields.
- Diversity of participants and positive thinking attitude
- Importance in taking actions now.
- Inspired by other same generation participants who are independent and already advancing a step forward.
- Knowing that Kumamoto has a lot of potential that we challenge at global level.
- hearing such a diverse views and various experience others have.

