

King Ling College

Grand Tour Report

Topic Comparing the methods of wildlife and environmental conservation in Japan and in Hong Kong

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Chapter 1

Introduction

An annual grand tour is held for all form 5 students. This provides students a precious opportunity to study and experience cultures abroad, broaden their horizons, as well as give them unforgettable memories that will last for years. This year, it is our turn to travel abroad and learn. Our class, 5E, first traveled to Shanghai and stayed there for 2 days, then proceeded to Kyoto. We stayed in Japan for 3 days before leaving for Hong Kong.

Shanghai is one of the most populated cities in the world¹, with a diverse culture that rivals many countries. Considered to be the center of innovation and progress, Shanghai has very advanced technology². However, this does not weaken the cultural power of Shanghai. In this tour, we have traveled to many sites of rich culture in Shanghai, from the Bund to the China Art Museum.

Japan has one of the most interesting cultures among Asian countries as well, from its cuisine to their philosophy³, not to mention their art. We have visited many locations and seen many beautiful sights that created memorable experiences.

We have learned much from this experience: cultural preservation, environmental preservation and more. We have seen the ancient sites of Shanghai, and delved into the technology of Japan. The grand tour allowed us to learn in a new environment, and thus led us to learn even more than before.

The sub-questions of our investigation are as follows:

1. What are the differences between conservation in Japan and in Shanghai?
2. How effective are the said conservation methods?
3. How has culture been preserved in Shanghai and Japan?

Chapter 2

Methodology

2.1 Choice of Method

In this project, our group has chosen observation, experience in local destinations and online research to investigate our topic: Conservation. By using the above methods, we can collect both subjective and objective information. Regarding this topic, we compare the ways of conserving natural environments and wildlife in Japan and Hong Kong.

2.1.1 Observation and Experience in Local Destinations

On the fourth day of our trip, we went to the Nara Park, participated in the Yodogawa Cleanup Volunteer Activity and visited the Osaka Green Eco Plaza. We found many deer freely roaming around in the Nara Park. Visitors are allowed to touch and feed the deer as long as they do not harm the deer. In Hong Kong, we can hardly have such an experience. Some Japanese students joined the Yodogawa Cleanup Volunteer Activity with us. In fact, there was almost no rubbish on the grassland. We witnessed that the Japanese are very disciplined and well-educated to conserve the natural environment voluntarily. Besides, we listened to a talk about the factors and consequences of global warming in the Osaka Green Eco Plaza. We believed that such a talk raise the awareness of both the Japanese and tourists like us to conserve the natural environment.

On the fifth day of our trip, we visited the Kyoto Aquarium. There is a zone that recreates the aquatic environment of rivers in Kyoto and features the Japanese giant salamander. The aquarium also strives to preserve numerous species of rare local aquatic life through breeding. In other zones, we saw sea animals from across the world, including penguins and seals. There is also a dolphin stadium with multiple performances every day.

2.1.2 Online Research

Before and after the Grand Tour, we have done online research on the conservation in Japan and Hong Kong through browsing websites and reading articles in order to obtain more information for this project.

2.1.3 Limitations

For observation and experience in local destinations, we did not have enough time to have an in-depth exploration of the destinations to know more about the conservation in Japan.

For online research, we are not able to determine whether the information collected is accurate or not. In addition, most of the websites and articles are written in Japanese or Chinese. When we quote the information, we have to make sure that we translate everything into English accurately.

Chapter 3

Literature Review

3.1 Ways to conserve the environment in Japan

To promote appropriate utilization of the natural resources, and to meet increasing desire of tourists for contact with nature, various guidance services are provided at visitor centers and other information providing facilities.

In order to conserve nature that surrounds citizens, secondary forests, cultivation fields, small streams and ponds, which are habitats of dragonflies, fireflies, beetles and other pretty insects and small animals, pivotal facilities named "Communities for Communication with Nature and Native Living Things" and "Communities harmonized with nature and culture" have been created in addition to such facilities as nature centers, nature observation paths and nature observatories.

3.2 Voluntary movements

The Environment Agency has supported and encouraged the aforementioned voluntary movements, which are recognized effectively for conservation of locally outstanding spots in particular.

As the first voluntary public foundation for nature conservation, a group to conserve Tenjinzaki Cape was authorized in January 1987. For further promotion of this movement, the Environment Agency will publish a manual to establish public foundation and to encourage nature conservation by voluntary movements.

3.3 Ways to protect wildlife in Japan

In order to protect valuable wildlife, it is very important to protect their habitats, to regulate hunting and illegal poaching strictly and to implement necessary measures to preserve endangered species.

Japanese wildlife protection system provides a variety of measures to conserve wildlife under the Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law, and the Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

International cooperation for conservation of migratory birds with neighboring countries and for protection of endangered species particularly in developing countries has been promoted by the Environment Agency.

To promote protection of the wildlife species and their habitats, the Environment Agency establishes two kinds of protected areas, Wildlife Protection Areas and Wildlife Special Protection Areas, while prefectural governor also establishes the same kinds of protected areas, which are locally important.

In fact, Hong Kong government has also made their effort in conserving the nature, plants and animals. Some examples of the measures are the Management Agreement Scheme and Public-Private Partnership Pilot Scheme. Despite government's effort in promoting conservation in Hong Kong, many citizens chose to ignore it and continue to execute their daily habits which are harming the environment like producing tones of wastes every day (An average Hongkonger sent 1.39kg of municipal solid waste into landfills per day in 2016, according to the Census and Statistics Department) and increasing gas emissions due to the popular car ownership trend. As a result the air pollution problem becomes more and more serious in Hong Kong. All these cause serious environmental impacts like extinction of endangered species.

It is hard to determine whether Hong Kong or Japan do more on conservation, but it is certain that citizens in Japan are more concerned about protecting the nature. Many Hongkongers lack conservation awareness in order to raise citizens' awareness in protecting the nature and environment it is better to start from education.

But Hong Kong in fact did educate the younger generations about environmental protection: the Nature Works Hong Kong Environmental Innovation and Leadership program was created and piloted with 5 English School Foundation (ESF) high schools in 2013 and would be scaled-up to all schools, Hong Kong-wide in 2015. The program offers students the opportunity to channel their passion for nature into real-world community projects with tangible impact. It offers students a chance to build their environmental competency through experiential learning, and having the unique opportunity to join students from different schools and backgrounds across Hong Kong to work together in teams to directly affect their own communities and share views about conservation in Hong Kong.

However, the methods of education seem to be ineffective, thus Hong Kong may learn from Japan in ways of educating the public. The current trends in conservation education in Japan can be highlighted through one successful project: geared toward university students and citizens in Yokohama, restored degraded dragonfly ponds and created butterfly biotope in the second largest city in Japan. Restoration of habitat that is centered on highly visible, popular species such as dragonflies and butterflies also benefits other, less prominent species that share these habitats. Many education methods in Japan are by letting the younger generations to experience the nature through field studies instead of merely from the books. This allows them to develop a sense of civic responsibility, discipline in protecting the nature and feel the need in conservation from the deep inside, thus help conserve the environment voluntarily.

Chapter 4

Photograph Analysis

4.1 General information of the photographs

The photos we took were taken at some tourist spots in Shanghai and Japan, like temples, streets and parks. Our photos reflect the culture of the two places.

4.2 Details of the photographs



This picture was taken at the China Art Museum in Shanghai on our second day of the Grand Tour. In the museum, we saw a lot of famous artworks created by a lot of well-known artists. One of the artworks that impressed me the most is the 'River of Wisdom', an animation about the ancient life of the Chinese people. The artwork showed that the streets in the old days were very crowded, it also showed that people were very busy on their job. We learned that the Song dynasty was very bustling and busy, as it had a lot of trading and development of infrastructure.



We visited at the Osaka International Peace Center on our third day of Grand Tour. In the Peace Center, we learned some history of the World War II and the fact that Japan lost and failed in this war. After the lost, the country received punishment and they experienced long time in poor financial, political and diplomatic status for a long time. We realized the importance of peace and war kills.



We visited the Todai-Ji Temple at Osaka. The Great Buddha Hall is big--57.01m frontage, 50.48m depth, 48.74m height. We are amazed by the gorgeousness of the temple. The Virocana Buddha is 26.92m tall, while its face and other details are sculpted very beautifully. We learned that Japanese are very loyal in their religion.



We are at the Yodogawa Riverside Park. We participated in a cleaning activity there with the Japanese students. Throughout the whole activity, we found that we did not have a lot of rubbish to be collected. This shows that Japan exercised their citizens to have a good habit on recycling.



We were at the Arashiyama in Japan. The bamboo grove there is the place where we relieved our pressure. We have very scenic view there. Walked through the bamboo grove, we felt like we were in harmony with the nature.

Chapter 5

Conclusion

The grand tour was an experience indeed. After this tour, we have created countless memories together, and learned more about Japan and Shanghai, while enjoying the entire process.

Shanghai has shown us its diverse culture. For instance, tourist spots such as the Bund are very unique. It was very interesting to hear the stories behind the different sites in Shanghai. The China Art Museum has shown us many delightful artworks, including the famous painting “Along the River during the Qing Ming Festival”. Shanghai emphasizes on cultural conservation, while Hong Kong seems to have lack behind.

We have visited a school in Shanghai as exchange students, and this experience has shown us the difference between Hong Kong students and Shanghai students compare. The teaching methods employed in Shanghai also differ from methods used in Hong Kong.

As for Japan, we have seen both cultural preservation and environmental conservation. For cultural preservation, there are many cultural sites in Japan as well, such as the Toudai-ji, also known as the Eastern Great Temple. The gigantic statues there were a sight to behold. Environmental preservation is also a focus in Japan. We have participated in the Yodogawa Cleanup Volunteer Activity, and helped the locals clean Yodogawa. We have learned how important it is to maintain a clean environment. It is also apparent that the locals keep their environment clean; as the riverside was already fairly clean by the time we arrived. Our trip to the Kyoto Aquarium also taught us much. We learned about the diversity of life in the sea.

We would like to thank King Ling College for providing us the chance to go on this trip. We have deepened our friendship, and formed many memories. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, King Ling College!

Chapter 6

Reflection

6.1 Day 1 (22nd March 2018)



After arrived in Shanghai, the only feeling we had was chilled but still we gained a lot of precious memories there.

The sky was getting dim gradually and we admired the dazzling sunset in Shanghai. We were amazed by the picture and it marked the start of our trip.

The first spot we visited was the Nanjing Road. The lamp brightens the bustling shopping street. Walking along the street, we saw different branded shops and they are familiar to Mong Kok. At the end of the street, it extends to the Bund. Look to the opposite shore, the Oriental Pearl Tower shining in the dark and symbol the luxury of the city. Many tourists were attracted by its significant appearance not to mention us. Exclude the tower, there still other tall buildings lighting up the night and bringing vitality to the city. Wave were dancing in breeze and we just cannot get rid of the breathtaking view.

Suddenly, the gorgeous scenery disappeared. The light faded in the dark and it marked the end of today. We went back to the hotel and felt thrilled for tomorrow's journey.

We are not just having fun and relax during the Grand Tour but also learning. The Bund can be crowned a must visit tour spot in Shanghai there must be some reasons. We believe that the conservation work done by the government is excellent. Hong Kong owns the Victoria Harbour and it is not worse than the Bund however the harbour is polluted by garbage and sewage which destroy its original beauty. It is responsibility for us to protect and conserve our home.

6.2 Day 2 (23rd March 2018)



All of us woke up very early as we tried to avoid traffic jam. Traffic jam was a serious problem in Shanghai since there were a lot of middle class, most of them can afford a car, this made the road crowded.

Fortunately, we could arrive the sister school, Shanghai Shi Bei High school on time. Visiting the Shi Bei High School was an unforgettable experience for us, the number of students and the environment were more than ours, the campus was also similar to the university. We were having a lesson of physical education with the local students, the teacher taught us the teenagers version of Tai Chi. I was so excited as it was my first time to play Tai Chi, although doing Tai Chi was tiring, it was beneficial to our health.

The canteen in Shi Bei High School was larger than ours; there were more choices of food for students. There are snacks, noodles and traditional Chinese food for students! After finishing the lunch, students could get a soup too. The food there was delicious; I also hope that our school could have more food for students to choose.

Grand tour was a meaningful trip for all of us, we all learn new things from this trip. For example, the development of Shanghai and the conservation work of China, I believe this knowledge can benefit us in the future.

6.3 Day 3 (24th March 2018)



It was the day which we left Shanghai. As our plane left Shanghai at 10:00 a.m., we arrived at the airport at 8:00. Therefore we got up at 5:30. It was extremely early for me as I haven't done that before. Then we offed to the airport and checked out. During the commute to Shanghai airport, most of us were fast asleep. I still remembered the memories in Shanghai as this was my first time to visit our sister school, Shi Bei High School. The campus there is similar to a University. Also the equipment of our sister school is state-of-the-art such as a significant number of machines in classrooms.

Arrived Osaka, we were greeted by our tour guide saying that he was born in Hong Kong. After taking HKALE, he migrated to Japan. Therefore he speaks Cantonese too. I expected a Japanese Tour Guide who speaks Japanese only. Luckily I was wrong. Then we went to some sightseeing spots and had lunch. I think the cuisines in Japan is scrumptious, especially those salmons.

At night we went to Lalaport shopping there. It is glad that the products sold in Japan were cheaper and we could buy a tremendous number of products. The types of shops vary from fast food shops to Department stores. Visiting these stores, I widened my horizons.

6.4 Day 4 (25th March 2018)



At day 4, we went to two tourist spots including Nara Park and Todaiji, the temples in Japan. We had valuable and unforgettable memories after visiting these two sites.

When we arrived at Nara Park, we saw a lot of pink Sakura. We are so delighted as we never saw these some of tree before. Besides, a plethora of Japanese sits under the tree and has a picnic. They seemed enjoying their life and rhythm of life is slow compare with Hong Kong. All things are new for us. Walking around the park, we were surrounded by a crowd of deer. On the same time, we are so worried that deer may assault us because of no any fence in the park. A lot of tourists purchased deer food to feed them. Not allowed by school, we cannot buy deer food to feed them. We were disappointed.

After we visited Nara Park, we went to Todaiji. Todaiji Temple in Nara Prefecture has probably the biggest statue of Lord Buddha in Japan. The temple was once the biggest wooden temple. The quiet environment with lush green trees, ponds and the bunch of deer walking around made the environment of the temple more interesting. The small museum displayed on some old statues of religious and historical value. However, the exhibition was very small with only a few artifacts on display. No photos were allowed.

After that, my schoolmates and I participated in local river cleaning event with a Japanese local school. We need to help clean trash along the riverside. This was a good chance for interacting with Japanese. After the activity started, I discovered that it is hard to find trash. The key reason is the environmental awareness of Japanese was very high. In contrast, Hong Kong citizens throw garbage on the street. This event is very meaningful, it can arouse our environmental awareness.

6.5 Day 5 (26th March 2018)



On our last day, we visited Arashiyama, Kyoto Aquarium, and Sakai City Hall Observatory Floor. The fact that this was our final day did not hinder our joy from visiting these sites.

To say that the scenery in Arashiyama is beautiful would be an understatement. We took a train while visiting there, and the scenery was simply breathtaking. Flowing rivers, dense forests, it looked like it came straight out of an oil painting. We were avid, and took photos constantly. We admired the view while the train whizzed by.

Soon, yet sadly, we arrived at our destination. But the journey was not over yet. We proceeded to a bamboo forest. The bamboos towered over us, and the view was, once again, breathtaking. The forest looked like a scene from a movie. Again, we took many photos. We passed by some performers once in a while, and enjoyed their soothing music.

At the end, after unwillingly leaving the forest and navigating some streets, we finally arrived at a restaurant. Each person had an electric stove, and could cook food on our own.

Afterwards, we took a bus to Kyoto Aquarium. The diversity of sea life on display there was amazing. There were sea lions, penguins and many others. Our favorite had to be the penguin performance, where a staff, surrounded by penguins, performed tricks with the penguins. We tried to take photos and videos, but the window pane had strong reflections that made it hard to take clear images.

We then headed to a restaurant to have dinner. The restaurant was special – customers would fry the food they wanted to eat themselves. We thoroughly enjoyed eating there, it was like a buffet for fried food! Sadly, there was a time limit, so we had to leave before we were fully satisfied.

We were in a hurry – time was running out. We rushed to our final destination: Sakai City Hall Observatory Floor. The sea of city lights was a treat for sore eyes, and we rushed to take as many photos as we could take!

Chapter 7

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