

## S-22 EDL AND LDE: ENVIRONMENTAL DIPLOMATIC LEADER AND LEARN DISCOVER EXTEND

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### 1. A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO EDL

With economic development, environmental problems have become increasingly global ones which do serious harm to life, survival and the development of mankind. Environmental problems include environmental degradation, over population, regional or ethnic conflicts, poverty, health and sanitation, and deterioration of ecological systems. In order to solve these problems, one needs a deep understanding and recognition of culture and its environmental, economic, political and social backgrounds. For this reason, the Environmental Diplomatic Leader (EDL) program aims to achieve three objectives: (1) to foster originality and problem solving skills that have the capacity for international mediations; (2) to deal with environmental governance that encourages the active participation of various stakeholders; and (3) to educate those who have knowledge about science and technologies that are related to the environment, environmental policies, ethics, legal systems, international relations, comparative culture, and other issues. This program comprises a joint degree to train managers in areas such as the environment and leadership.

The EDL program is primarily designed to promote and serve the development of environmental diplomacy professionals in the regions of Asia and Africa. It has three core areas of focus: (1) water resources, water treatment, and water environmental policy; (2) biodiversity and bio-resources; and (3) public health, epidemiology, and medical policy. Students from the master's program in environmental sciences and the doctoral program in sustainable environmental studies make up the core group of EDL participants. The EDL program is an organization made up of students from every

country. At the moment, the EDL program is composed of about 37 master students and 18 doctoral students.

### 2. WHAT I LEARN AT UNIVERSITY FROM EDL

The EDL program invited lecturers from various fields who make a contribution to protecting the environment, and included topics such as population, humanity and civilizations, AIDS, global warming and so on. In the EDL program we organized several debates on environmental problems. Moreover, every year we hold an annual symposium, which contains poster presentations about our research and internship. In order to improve our problem analysis, objectives analysis, project selection and project design, we have a Project Cycle Management workshop very year. A core problem that we discussed last year was "Urban Waste Management". These practices showed that exposing students to various professional development opportunities at university cultivates knowledge of the profession, innovative ability and improves capacity for analysis and problem solving.

### 3. WHAT I DISCOVERED DURING EDL INTERSHIPS

In order to foster practical skills, the EDL program offers various internships, including domestic and international internships. Their purpose is to allow us to gradually bridge the gap between knowledge and practical application.

Take myself for instance, I participated in the domestic internship to Nagasaki and Kumamoto. In Nagasaki we visited the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, learnt about the Isahaya land reclamation project, Minamata disease and the history and current situation of water resource management in the Kumamoto region. I also took part in the Kenya internship this summer. We focused on urbanization, economic development, environmental problems in Nairobi, nature conservation, community based conservation and environmental education. Through practice, I experienced a lot, acquired new deeper knowledge on many issues. In particular, environmental issues resulting from the conflict between environmental advantage and traditional advantage and to prevent and resolve environmental issues is the main task of environmental statutes. I believe it is better for us to take a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.

#### **4. SKILL EXTENSION**

Students were very interested in the EDL activities and our abilities in finding, raising and solving practical environmental problems were advanced to a great extent. The EDL program taught me to acquire knowledge of environmental problems and exposed me to more issues during the internship. In addition, the program showed me the importance of protecting the environment. Within the environmental protection field, my research focused

on the reuse of soybean curd residue a kind of waste. In this study, soybean curd residue was used as the fermentation medium to produce polysaccharides. The functional activities of polysaccharides are used in research on cancer cells.

The benefits of the EDL program on my study, are not only incarnated in my research, but also obviously displayed through learning English. To improve students' English writing, the EDL Writing Center helped me a lot. The EDL Writing Center offers proofreading of materials written in English such as thesis, research papers, presentation materials, and class reports, and so on. The center staff will correct grammar, spelling and sentence structures before the papers are published in English in a journal. This training method enhanced my writing level and English skills.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

This paper briefly introduces the EDL program, including the background, aim, core area and members. The activity of EDL activities did not only consist of classes, but included internships and extended study. This program is more fun, more interesting, than learning lots of facts and it teaches you more useful skills.