



Miyagi First Senior High School

Diver City – Focusing on Islam

International Group

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Introduction

Our theme is "Creating a city where people with different religious views can coexist - Focusing on Islam".

This is the first step towards achieving the tenth SDGs "Reducing Inequality" and the world needs to take action for intercultural coexistence.

By making it easier for Muslims to get halal food, we are taking action to create a better society for all people with different religious views.

Exploration Process

(I) Idea Generation and Confirmation

Tohoku University, which is located near our school in Miyagi Prefecture, has seen a significant rise in international students, including a notable increase in Muslim students. However, there is a lack of knowledge about Islam in Japan, which can lead to problems.

One such issue is the practice of burial, which holds deep religious significance for Muslims. Despite this, Japan is not yet well-prepared to accommodate Islamic burial traditions. Governor Yoshihiro Murai of Miyagi Prefecture has said that burial cemeteries should be developed in the region, and there has been a lot of discussion within the prefecture.

(II) Description of the Exploration Process

We gave international students at Tohoku University a questionnaire. We wanted to know what kind of religious difficulties they have. Many people said they had problems in their daily lives because people were not aware of, or did not accommodate, Islamic practices. We also looked at academic literature to learn about the current situation of Islam in Japan, including statistical data on the Muslim population. To learn more, we interviewed Md. Noboru Sato from The Islamic Cultural Center of Sendai (ICCS), who has been actively involved in supporting Muslim communities in Japan and advising the Miyagi Prefectural Government on related issues.

(III) Challenges Encountered

During our research, we learned that the ICCS often organizes some events every week. We thought these events might help share Islamic culture with Japanese people. But ICCS members told us these events were not for the Japanese audience. This made us change our original approach, which was to promote that event to Japanese people and use it as an opportunity to help them learn about Islam and instead look for other ways to reduce cultural differences and improve understanding.

(IV) Problem-Solving Journey

We asked Md. Noboru Sato what we could do to support the Muslim community. He said that we should start with small and practical actions. We decided to focus on halal food because it is an important part of daily life for Muslims. We have thought about asking local supermarkets to sell halal products. We believed that this would make life easier for Muslim residents and also give Japanese people a way to understand Islamic culture. This would create a more inclusive environment by sharing people about different cultures through food.



Learning Outcomes

(I) Description of Outcomes

We conducted surveys and interviews and found the followings:

- 1.Many international students felt difficulties.
- 2.In particular, obtaining halal food was challenging.
- 3.There is a need for Japanese people to understand Islamic customs.

(II) Things Worth Sharing

Our survey at Tohoku University showed that Muslim students have a hard time finding halal food, which makes it hard for them to get along with others. We plan to suggest that local supermarkets, COOP sell halal products to help Muslims and make people more understanding. Using surveys, research, and interviews with experts, we want to encourage young people around the world to get along with each other and provide specific steps they can take to do this.

Reflection

(I) Areas for Improvement

One area of improvement we can point to is talking directly to Muslims.

Although it is important to listen to them directly, we researched their challenges through questionnaires and by asking Japanese experts. Therefore, we could not recognize what they have in mind, so we should have provided opportunities for discourse with them.

(II) Potential Extensions

Our hope is that in the future we can realize a society in which the entire world, including Japan, is "tolerant" of ethnic, religious, and racial groups that are different from our own policies, even if we do not agree with those opinions.

It is difficult to do this immediately, but we will move forward every day in the hope that our exploration will be the first step toward realizing intercultural coexistence.

(III) Relevance to Future Exploration Topics

We believe that our various efforts, including this conference, will be the first step toward the realization of intercultural coexistence, and that the fact that Japanese high school students will inspire young people around the world to take action on their own.



The Islamic Cultural Center of Sendai (ICCS) is a voluntary organization without racial discrimination in order to keep Muslims' identity and Islamic activities healthy and to promote Islamic culture in Japanese society.



COOP is the local supermarket in the Miyagi prefecture, selling some regional food such as Miyagi Rice and local miso and soy sauce.



Miyagi First Senior High School is located in Miyagi Prefecture in the Tohoku region of Japan. This school has a long history, celebrating 127 years this year.



At the Tohoku University cafeteria, they offer halal menu options, showing consideration so that everyone can use the facilities.



We participated in the Tohoku Future Conference held at Tohoku University. We received advice and cooperation for this exploration from professors and presidents of various companies.