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Report : "Scavenger Hunt In Kyoto Botanical Gardens"(presented by SIED)

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SIED hosted "Scavenger Hunt In Kyoto Botanical Gardens" on November 20th (Sat.). This event was aimed at healing COVID-19 related fatigue and stress, and in addition to that, for the purpose of deepening international exchanges, we had students accomplish some SIED's original missions while strolling around the Gardens. Also, the Botanical Gardens' staff introduced the must-see sights in the Gardens to us. On the day of the event, we had 12 participants, including eight international students from various countries such as China, South Korea, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Bangladesh and four local students; it was an absolutely international event!

First of all, the staff of Botanical Gardens introduced a wide range of information on various plants in the Botanical Gardens. The staff provided various topics and knowledge that far beyond our expectations, and it was impressive that all the participants listened to the explanation with interest. The descriptions were so informative that even other visitors joined our tour. Afterwards, we introduced ourselves with an ice breaker activity and separated into some groups at the central lawn. In fact, there was an animal illustration was printed on the back side of the name tag, which we had given to each participant. The activity was a game to find people with the same animal drawn on their name tags while giving self-introductions to other participants. The game became more exciting than we had imagined, and the way the participants interacted with each other, the way they smiled, was so impressive.

Then, our main event, "Scavenger Hunt", finally started! Participants were split into small groups with people who had the same animal drawn on their name tag, and started to take up the missions given by SIED while strolling around one of the largest greenhouses in Japan where you can appreciate the tropical plants in the world and the gardens where the



autumn foliage are beautiful. The missions were unable to accomplish without visiting various places of the Gardens, but everyone was united and completed the missions one after another. Finally, time was up; the rankings of each team were announced, and this event came to an end. However, even after the word of dismissal, many participants stayed there, talked cheerfully with each other, and promised to meet again; we were happy to see them end up like that.



We were pleased that many participants said, "It was fascinating!" in the event questionnaire. Unfortunately, this event was cancelled once due to the state of emergency while recruiting participants in the spring semester. However, the situation of COVID-19 has turned better, and we were happy that we were able to hold this event in the fall semester. SIED will continue hosting lots of events where you can make wonderful encounters and connections under careful COVID-19 infection prevention. We look forward to seeing you at other events soon!

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