

Short Stay in Singapore

Report

January 2024



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Preface

From December 26, 2023, to January 2, 2024, we invited two high school students from the Misono Kodomo-no-le (Fujisawa City, Kanagawa Prefecture), a children's foster home, to Singapore for a short-term stay program. This program would never have been possible without the support and cooperation of many people.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to 10 Square, a cultural and educational institution for Singapore youth, who immediately agreed to collaborate with us, Little Creators.

Mrs. Joyce Ng and her family and Mrs. Yunis Lee and her family became their host families. They welcomed, hosted, and guided the two participants throughout their stay in Singapore. We cannot find a word to show our appreciation to them.

We would also like to thank Mr. Nogiwa, Ms. Sugihara, and all the staff of Misono for taking this program as an opportunity and sending the two to Singapore. We are happy that the Misono staff has put their trust in Little Creators' workshop activities at Misono for over a decade.

We would also like to thank Mr. Nagai of Shonan Dream Project for providing them with tickets to Universal Studios Singapore, Mr. Kato of Space World for helping us make their first trip abroad less burdensome, Ms. Mary Soh for sharing her wisdom to make their stay more effective, and many others.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and cooperation.

And to Mr. Colin Goh, president of The RICE Company Ltd. (TRCL), the corporate entity that owns 10 Square, nothing would have been possible without your long friendship. Thank you very much. We sincerely hope our collaboration will continue to help build a bridge between Singapore and Japan for our children's future.

Little Creators

After the COVID-19 pandemic, and amidst the economic downturn caused by the conflicts between Ukraine and Russia, Palestine and Israel, climate change due to global warming, and disasters, the vector of thought and action in Japan seems to be turning inward. On the other hand, during this period, it has been proven that the economy and everything cannot be completed domestically. It is also a fact that the country and its people can no longer make a living without being constantly aware of their position in the world.

So how will the world change in the future? From closed societies, as has been the case in the past, there will surely emerge forces and currents that will break through them. What will be required of the youth at that time will be creative resilience. What should we do to help nurture the next generation with the skills and mentality to adapt and move forward in a rapidly changing world?

Background

Little Creators, a non-profit organization, has been working to help children (under 18 years old) from disadvantaged backgrounds to express themselves, meet and interact with others, and develop dreams, wisdom, and strength to overcome invisible obstacles and live in society.

In partnership with like-minded organizations in Singapore and other Asian countries, we have organized various programs using art (expression and creation) as a tool. In the "ChildAid Asia" concert series, children with musical talent, children from overseas, and children from foster homes have come together to create a stage that transcends environmental and language barriers, creating a system where children can help children financially. Many children involved in these concerts have since had new opportunities and turnarounds. One of them almost gave up playing the violin for family reasons after performing in "ChildAid Asia." Still, her talent was recognized at the concert, and she performed in a concert of the same purpose held in Singapore with the cooperation of TRCL. After studying English in Singapore for a short period, she studied music at the University of Singapore and is now a violinist. Many others have also been able to expand their activities by gaining performance experience in Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia through the Little Creators' network.

Based on these experiences, Little Creators has established this program of a short stay in Singapore, believing that by spending even a short period abroad and broadening their horizons, high school students at a foster home can turn their hopes for the future into their own goals.

Overview

Participants:	2 high school students (16 years old, male & female) from the children's foster home, Misono Kodomo-no-le		
Destination:	Singapore		
Travel period:	December 26, 2023	from Haneda, Japan to Singapore	
	January 2, 2024	from Singapore to Narita, Japan	7 nights 8 days
Host Families :	Joyce Ng's family, Yunis Lee's family		
Co-organizer :	10 Square (Singapore)	Organizer: Little Creators	

Preparation Overview

2023	Jan. - Feb.	planning
	Mar.	negotiating with TRCL, Singapore
	Apr.	proposition to Misono
	Jul.	participants decided by Misono, inquiry to participants
	Sept. - Nov.	participants' preparation (obtaining passports etc)
	Nov. 14	MTG 1 with participants (about organizers, purposes, Singapore)
	Nov. 22 - 26	Little Creators' preparatory trip to Singapore
	Dec. 3	MTG with host families
	Dec. 5	MTG 2 with participants (airplane, immigration, itinerary etc)
	Dec. 10	The online exchange with 10 Square youth, "Culture Beats" (Organized by 10 Square, Granted by JCCI) to learn and perform together Kompang, a Malay traditional drum.
	Dec. 19	MTG 3 with participants (Introducing host families, homework, and presentation after the trip)
	Dec. 26	participants depart
2024	Jan. 2	participants arrive
	Jan. 6	MTG to prepare the post-trip presentation
	Jan. 21	post-trip presentation by participants



Tasks given to participants

1. English study

Before their trip to Japan, Little Creators provided the participants with MIKAN, an English vocabulary study app, and Speak Buddy, an AI English conversation study app. If interest continues, we promise to support using both apps until high school graduation.

2. To keep a diary during their stay in Singapore, keeping in mind the following items:

- Attach a bag of candy or a plane ticket to the diary so that it would not only be writing about what happened that day but also a memory for the participants.
- Ask people they met to write down comments and names.
- Be aware of what you want to convey to the younger participants who may be able to go to Singapore next at the debriefing session when they return home.

3. Not to be patient during the trip.

If there is anything that you feel uncomfortable or painful, such as food, lifestyle, physical condition, etc., tell them to insist on it by using gestures and translation apps.

Program Contents / Trip Itinerary

Dec. 26	PM	Arrival
Dec. 27	AM	Greet and meet by 10 Square youth
	PM	Sightseeing with 10 Square youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sultan Mosque - Sightseeing around Bugis (cultural space with many shophouses) - National Gallery Singapore
Dec. 28	PM	Sightseeing with 10 Square youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lee Kuan Yew Exhibition - Gardens by the Bay - Esplanade
		Explored Orchard Road
		Gardens by the Bay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flower Dome - Supertree Observatory - Christmas Wonderland
	NT	
Dec. 29	PM	Sightseeing with 10 Square youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mandai Zoo
Dec. 30		with host families
Dec. 31		Universal Studio Singapore with host families
	NT	Count down with host families
Jan. 1		With host families (family gathering)
Jan. 2	AM	Departure

The participants were accommodated at host families' homes: Mrs. Joyce Ng and her family and Mrs. Yunis Lee and her family from December 26 to January 1.

Participants' Feedback and Post-trip Presentation

On January 2, when Misono and Little Creators greeted the participants at the Narita airport upon their return, their first words were as follows.

- My stay was too long; maybe 3 days would be better.
- It was fun, but I didn't know what to do because I feel cautious about the time of year when many relatives gather. Maybe it would be better during the summer or spring vacation.
- Everyone is very friendly to me, so there is no need for an adult from Japan to accompany me.
- I have learned to listen to English a little.
- The food was good. (One of the participants who said this also ate sushi and McDonalds in Singapore.)
- The food was not very good. (The other participant ate only local food. Some of them were good, but some did not suit this participant.)

The post-trip presentation on January 21 was based on a PowerPoint presentation whose format was provided by Little Creators in advance. The participants filled it with photos and comments, and they read it aloud. In addition to the staff of Misono, those who lived there, from elementary to high school students, listened to the participants' presentations. At the end of the meeting, we asked those children who listened to the presentations if they would like to join in a similar project in the future, and nearly 10 children raised their hands.

The PowerPoint presentation is presented as compiled by the two participants and is attached at the end of this report. Although there are some errors in the report, they are included here as they are. The participants were informed of the corrections.



Feedback from the Host Families

Little Creators explained to the host families in advance, and they understood and kindly agreed to the following:

- The activities of Little Creators
- The situation of children in vulnerable environments in Japan and Misono Kodomo-no-ke
- Purpose of the homestay: 1) To enjoy the homestay and experience many new things, and 2) To broaden their perspectives
- Introduction of the two participants and their itinerary during their stay
- "Shower them with love," in the words of Mr. Colin Goh

1. Preparation: Should we have more ZOOM sessions before the children go to Singapore? What other information about children should we have provided?

A) The number of zoom calls between Little Creators worked for me.

The 3-way conversation, organized for Little Creators, the child and the host, was meaningful. It allowed the host to meet the child ahead of the trip to Singapore and for both parties to ask questions prior to the trip.

B) I feel there should be several short zoom sessions before the trip. The host families should be given information about the child they are hosting.

2. Duration & timing of the program: Is it too long? Too short? Should it be springtime or summertime?

A) The duration of stay was ideal for me.

B) 1 week is nice. As Singapore doesn't have 4 seasons, it does not matter whether it is springtime or summertime. However, it would be nice for the center/facility to discuss more with the host families eg maybe the children could visit during some festivities in Singapore for the children to experience etc

3. 10 Square program: Any suggestion or comment?

- A) N/A
- B) The programs at 10 Square were very good and well planned.

4. Short Stay in Singapore: Any suggestion or comment to NPO Little Creators?

- A) Communication was a challenge as I do not speak Japanese. Both parties relied on google translate to communication which resulted in some breakdown of communication. Consider more preparation on the part of the child to learn the English language and attempt to speak whilst in Singapore. This could be the motivation to come to Singapore.

Typically, each host family has its own lifestyle. Consider gathering some pre-departure information from the host on the lifestyle and habits, ie. Do they eat spicy or non-spicy food, do they sleep early or late, do they take breakfast, lunch or dinner, how big is the family, etc. These datapoints may be helpful to mentally prepare the children before they come to the family.

- B) N/A

Feedback from 10 Square

1. Preparation: Should we have more ZOOM interaction before the children go to Singapore?
What other information about children should we have provided?

Yes, more Zoom interactions will work so that the students and staff from both Singapore and Japan can meet and learn about each other. It can be a short interaction of perhaps 30 minutes, capped at around 3 sessions.

The information provided was quite adequate and helped us pre-empt the characteristics of the students who are going to Singapore.

2. Duration & timing of the program: Is it too long? Too short? Should it be springtime or summertime?

A week in Singapore works, it's neither too long nor too short and leaves the students enough time to look forward to things they wish to further see in Singapore.

The weather in Singapore doesn't differ much from month to month. The best time to visit Singapore would be November, when the weather is slightly cooler.

It would also be best to avoid major holiday periods, for example, Christmas or New Year, as there will be large crowds throughout the country, and it might be overwhelming for some students.

3. Please share your impression: Could children from Singapore and Japan get involved much?

Yes, we believe students from Singapore and Japan can get involved. There is much to learn from each other about their different lives and cultures, and also to share about their experiences. Most students that we work with would not have the chance to travel hence fostering relationships through this exchange could help widen their world view, and give them a chance to broaden their perspectives. As the academies under TRCL (The Little Arts

Academy and 10 Square)¹ are arts-focused academies, it would be beneficial for beneficiaries from both countries to learn about different art forms, be it dance, music, theatre, or visual arts.

4. How can we improve or change this program? If we have the same program next year, is there anything you would like to suggest?

The formula for this year is a good start. The youths in Singapore also shared that they were able to benefit and learn from 2 participants throughout their interactions. There is mutual sharing occurring between both parties and we believe that this is a good start.

Some suggestions we have to improve future exchanges would be to:

a. Have online sharing sessions between both groups of students, where they share common phrases in their own languages.

b. If students going to hosts' country can share what they are looking forward to, it would help with the planning.

Three of 10 Square's students, Rey, Syukrina, and Inani, accompanied the 2 participants for the first three days of their stay following the preliminary online exchange meeting to socialize, sightsee, shop, and eat together. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of 10 Square: Lynn, Santhiya, Fernandez, Shazna, and Atikah. And Emma, thank you for your cooperation.

¹ Little Arts Academy is for children and 10 Squares is for youth. Participants of this program have participated in previous exchange programs with Little Arts Academy in workshops and concerts by Little Creators.

Feedback from Misono Kodomo-no-le

We received responses from a few staff members who always cared for and watched over the participants. We will post their responses here as they are.

1. Preparation Period

1.1 Was it challenging to get the necessary documents, such as passports, and complete the required formalities? Is there anything that needs to be improved, such as if you were to do the same thing, you should start the preparation earlier, or is there anything you would like Little Creators to do in this area?

- Since parental consent is required for travel, rather than passport application, and not all children enrolled in the program will be able to obtain consent right away, we would like to have information as early as possible so that we can approach the program. Also, in terms of the situation of the participants, one of the children who participated in this project went to the passport center after the end of the school day but could not make it in time for the application time, so it was difficult to decide on a date to apply for the passport.
- As for the preparation time, the earlier we can move, the easier it will be for the staff to move and the more helpful it will be for them.
- It was difficult for them because it was their first time, but the preparation period was not a problem, especially since they were preparing with the staff while researching Singapore.

1.2 Should there be more contact with host families in advance? Is it necessary for the Misono staff, as well as the participants, to communicate with the host families?

- Communication between host families and staff is fine, but we would feel more comfortable if the children were given more information about their host families. (Introduce themselves on ZOOM, etc...)
- It is better to communicate between staff and host families in case something happens.
- Children and host families should have more opportunities to interact.

1.3 Is there anything Little Creators would have taught or informed the participants more in advance?

- It would have been easier to understand the host family's family structure and personality, so I think knowing the host family's situation would be reassuring. It would also be helpful to know the general schedule for your stay.
- I thought it would be good to know about the rules and religion of the country I was going to.

2. Going to Singapore

2.1 Since the participants are high school students, they flew to Singapore alone, but would it be better for someone else to accompany them? If they go with a chaperone, they could sleep with him/her at a hotel instead of staying at a homestay, and the participants could have a program where they interact with Singaporean children and adults only during the daytime. Which would be better?

- It would depend on the composition of the participating members. If it is a small child or a child with high anxiety, it would be OK to have someone with them. It was a good experience for the participants this time to stay only with host families the whole time since they were high school students.
- It was OK this time because the participants were solid high school students, but it is necessary for some of the children who plan to go in the future to be accompanied by a staff member. If accompanied, a hotel would be a good choice.
- The members were good this time, but a chaperone must accompany worried children. In that case, I hope the staff can attend them.

3. Program

3.1 This time, the participants spent the program's first half with 10 Square and the second half with host families. Do you have any comments about the program's content: what you liked, what you would like to see improved, etc?

- Participation in the 10 Square is also a good experience.
- The program and number of nights are good, but I thought it would be better not to do it during the year-end and New Year's holidays.

3.2 Having gone to Singapore with little or no English, have participants' attitudes toward learning English or learning in general changed?

- It has not yet led to a desire to learn, but they can now reply and say words in English.
- One participant's attitudes and awareness toward English were high upon returning to Japan, but awareness decreased over time.
- I don't think their attitude has changed, but they feel that they should have studied more.

3.3 What was good and bad about going to Singapore for the two participants, and have there been any changes?

- All experiences were good for the first time. They had never stayed overnight in a "home" other than the staff's home, so they were surprised at the differences in "home" and the cultural differences.
- Since they went to a different environment than usual, I think they were able to pay attention not only to themselves but also to the people around them. It was good to see that they could appreciate Misono again.

4. Post-trip Presentation

4.1 The homework during the short stay was to write freely in a diary. Did the participants handle it? Comments and suggestions.

- They were able to write more than I expected.
- They seemed able to create presentations well, but some of the content was thin, and they seemed to have trouble with other questions during the presentation.
- They didn't seem to have worked on it very properly. However, they did seem to be trying to write a little.

4.2 Evaluate participants' presentations and other ideas to let them make presentations.

- Staff needed to help the participants prepare the materials, but I was impressed to see them present in front of everyone. The PowerPoint report was excellent and easy to understand, so I thought they could have done their best if they had more time.
- It was the first time for them to hold presentations like this one.
- I felt that they had grown in their ability to use PowerPoint and make a presentation.

One of the participants was helped with writing by Little Creators and read straight through the presentation. It was like ad-libbing at times. The other also gave a good report. It would have been nice to know how the presentation would be made (flow and atmosphere) in advance.

5. Future

5.1 Your honest opinion on whether Little Creators should do more projects like this in the future. Please indicate if there is anything else you would like us to do.

- We want to ask if you can continue to provide short-stay opportunities for children in the future.
- It would be an experience for the children if you could do a project like this. Some children may be unable to make it due to circumstances, but we would like them to know about the possibility.
- Listening to the post-trip presentation is also a good experience. Both presenters and listeners can learn the difficulty and hardship of explaining their experience to someone else, which requires experience. I also thought that the children listening to the report would lead to hope that "next time, it will be me."

Future Tasks and Prospects

1. Accommodation

We found the wonderful host families this time with the tremendous help of Mr. Colin Goh. However, becoming a host family is a very labor-intensive process, and finding a potential host family depends on the host family's trust in Mr. Goh. To make this program sustainable in the future, Little Creators needs to have a system that does not rely on a single person. We want to plan accommodation for homestays, hotel stays, and a hybrid system.

2. Time of year for the trip

Although the end of the year is a time of many events and fun aspects, it is also a time when there are no classes at 10 Square during the vacations. We want to reconsider the timing of the trip to Singapore so that participants can take part in classes at 10 Square for an even closer exchange.

3. English study

We may want to consider providing English language training more in advance or some other mechanism to help students meet their goals regarding their English before the trip. Also, perhaps we should consider having high school students from 10 Square join us in this process.

4. Exchange programs

To connect more deeply with the same generation overseas, we will consider a parallel plan to have Japanese children travel to Singapore and welcome children from similar environments overseas to Japan for exchange.

Postscript

Before registering as a non-profit organization (November 2009), Little Creators started the "International Children's Art Festival." It has been held thrice since 2008, inviting elementary school children from a children's foster home to Singapore. When we were looking for sponsors, I sometimes recall being asked, "Why should I support sending children from a foster home overseas when I cannot take my children overseas? Then and now, we do not have a clear answer. However, we believe that by spending time in an "away" environment, children who must go out into society in a vulnerable position can cultivate the courage and confidence to try something and experience firsthand that there are possibilities in a world different from the one they are in now and gain the opportunity to forge their path toward the future. This is beneficial not only to the children but also to society. Why is it not appropriate for children in foster homes to have opportunities that children in ordinary dwellings do not have? Little Creators will continue to support children in foster homes so that we can put an end to the unspoken but latent notion that "because a child in a foster home must give up."

Deep down, we also believe it is enough if the short stay in Singapore becomes a pleasant memory for the project participants.

NPO Little Creators

To support the activities of Little Creators, please donate. All donations will be used to help children from disadvantaged backgrounds. (International exchange programs, and or art workshops)



Press  and select English from the globe 

Short Stay in Singapore

December 26, 2023 – January 2, 2024



Misono Kodomo-no-Ie, NPO Little Creators, The RICE Co., Ltd.



Host Family

The host family are Yunis-san, Gwen-san, and Dennis-san. Yunis-san is the mother of the family. She is very caring and treated me like a daughter even when I was in trouble. Gwen-san is the daughter, and she played the piano with me and played what I requested. She also spoke to me in Japanese, which was very nice. Her father, Dennis-san, told me that chicken rice would be delicious and he let me try it. It was really tasty.

Also, Dennis-san bought me a pair of Nike shoes, which made me very happy. And he gave me a New Year's gift in Japanese yen. In addition, Yunis-san bought many things I wanted to buy, and I was very happy.



Food & Drink



Chicken rice that Dennis-san served me. Chicken rice in Singapore is totally different from Japanese chicken rice. Japanese chicken rice is a mixture of ingredients, ketchup, and rice, but Singapore chicken rice is chicken and rice separately, not mixed together. The three sauces for chicken rice were a chili sauce, a sweet sauce, and a medium hot sauce with ginger. It was nice and tasted different from the Japanese one.

Bananas. Unlike in Japan, bananas in Singapore are short in length, but there are many in one bunch.

Green tea is called *Ryokucha* in Japan, but in Singapore, it is called green tea and tastes a little different. *Ryokucha* has a bitter taste, but green tea is a little less bitter.



City

In Japan, there are no illuminations on the roads, but in Singapore, they were decorated with those of jellyfish and various other patterns. Maybe because it was Christmas time. Everywhere I went, there were illumination everywhere.

Unlike in Japan, Christmas trees were many times bigger and more beautiful.

The light show at Marina Bay Sands was beautiful and held several times a night.

There was almost no garbage in the city, but from what I saw, there was a lot of waste in inconspicuous places. In Japan, people wash their hands after throwing garbage away, but in Singapore, people wipe their hands and mouths with wet wipes.



City

In Japan, there is a lot of concrete, but not in Singapore, and many roads are slippery. The roadways are concrete, but the sidewalks and shopping malls are slippery. It was strange.

When I went to Gardens by the Bay and asked why there were so many forests, I was told that since there is not much nature in Singapore, they built many things inspired by nature. Seeing this, I felt that Singapore is rich because Japan does not have such a big dome with nature-inspired illuminations.

Memories – People & Landscape

Dec. 28

At the Supertree Globe with friends from 10 Square



Dec. 29

The view from a Sentosa cable car ridden with a host family



Cultural Event

I met many youths, including Rey and others with whom I did an online drum workshop.

We went to the Hindu temple district together to shop and eat. When we went inside the temple I had to wear a green scarf because I was wearing a tank top. When praying, women are not allowed to show skin. There are different rules for women and men, and it is considered disrespectful to God if you don't follow the rules.

I also went to an art museum with everyone. I was surprised to see many pictures and crafts made by children in Singapore, whereas, in Japan, most artworks in art museums are pictures. I thought that Singaporean children are very clever.



Cultural Event

The museum was full of all kinds of stylish and interesting pieces. When people raised their hands, they cheered as if they had won a game, and when they went to the next room, the person who raised his or her hand was shown on the TV in that room, etc. The exhibits were interesting. I wrote "Japan Love" on what looked like a *Tanabata* strip of paper to make wishes come true.

We also went to the room where the remote exchange meeting was held, played the piano, and danced.



Diary

Diary of the 1st day

シンガポール

1日目

飛行機に、10:55に乗るはしめ、ぼっする
はすた、たつに、飛行機のこしやかいなにか
おいてたから、少し日本をしめ、ぼっする
時間がおくれた。飛行機ではおっい
食事からしてとても良かったです。

ふいふシンガポールについて、おんたかかいて
いふ方向をわいていて、エスカレーター
あつて、おんたか空のうへに行くところにおんたか
かいて、いふのかと思つてスタッフにきいて、
Xールをわいて、すずんで、マリスポート
おんたかいしもんにならうしてユニスさんと
ゴニスさんにおつて、~~おんたか~~おんたかおんたかにいふまじら。
夜におんたかは、キープ12おんたかおんたか、
トアトとたまごのスイートとおんたか。
おんたかおんたかです。

Diary of the 6th day

ミニカポール
6日目
おおおそがの日。
私は朝買物をしたあと、ホストファミリーのみんなと、ご飯を食べて、そのあとには、少しねて、スヌーズにじろきりました。
夜は、~~親~~ホストファミリーの家族以外に、しんせきまで、家にきて、パーティーをしていました。私は、止中が、参加しました。
しんせきの方から私とカードゲームをしたことになっていたので、はるかになががむ、カードゲームに参加しました。カードゲームは日本のしんせんといふとよくとりました。しんせきの方からとてはやされて、勢うめい入、たてず！
また、年をこまきくに、かすけをわたされた。の件をこまきき12:00にはたち、のめいすーと書いて、ヒックリした。そのあとへげて行っておようとしたけど、ぬめりさんでいた。

About Myself

- Do you feel that you have changed since you went to Singapore? What have you changed about yourself?

I don't spend much of my own money anymore. I have been bought many things and no longer want things. From now on, I will save money for the future.

- After returning from Singapore, is there anything new you are thinking of challenging yourself with or trying your best at? What is it?

English. I wanted to speak English, but I couldn't communicate in English, so I want to study English seriously and be able to speak in English next time I go there.

- Would you like to revisit Singapore? Why?

Yes. I could not speak in English, so I wish I could speak in English. I would like to see everyone again.

- Would you like to visit other countries besides Singapore? Why?

Korea. I want to experience the good spicy food in Korea because I like spicy food, and I also want to try sweets because they are delicious. Because there are very nice people in Korea. Korea is famous, so I want to go there first. After that, I want to go back to Singapore.

For the Next Generation

- Would you like to see other children in Misono have the same chance to go to Singapore next year and beyond? Why?

Yes. The kids at Misono now say they don't like being at Misono, but when they go overseas with just the kids and spend time with just the kids, your feelings for Misono become stronger. Also, it is good to experience going abroad, and even though I did not understand English, I gradually understood it. Even if you don't speak English, going for a week or so is a good idea.

The homestay was good because of all the nice people. Moreover, homestay means "being allowed to live at someone's home," and I was very happy when Yunis-san said to me, "I think of Suzu as my daughter."

- If you were to give advice to children who might go next, what would you advise? Why?

It was hard for me to be in Singapore for a week, but I sometimes felt calmer when I called the staff and children at Misono when I was having a hard time. I also felt that it was important to say no and not just be patient. I was a little too patient, and when things got tough, I called the staff and children at Misono and felt better, but after the call, things got tough again, so my priority was not to be patient.

I could not say I didn't want the food because some of it tasted good and some didn't (the good one was chicken rice) and I felt bad that they were paying for something that didn't taste good to me.

To the Host Family & Supporters

First of all, to my host family:

Thank you for thinking of me as your daughter and sister and for being so kind to me. Thank you for buying me the things I wanted to purchase and for giving me Nike shoes and gifts because I went to Singapore. I was very happy. Thank you for listening to my requests.

Those who took me sightseeing with you for 3 days:

Thank you for taking me to the places I wanted to go, for translating the English we didn't know or didn't understand into easy-to-understand English, for understanding when I didn't drink the mushroom soup that I didn't like and wasn't my favorite, for offering to clean it up for me, for dancing with me, for eating dinner with me, and for being so kind. Thank you for dining with us.

To the staff of Misono:

When I couldn't visit the Singapore Embassy before and wanted to go to Singapore, Little Creators said yes. Thank you, Nogiwa-san and Sugihara-san, for letting me go.

ご清聴ありがとうございます。

Thank you !

Short Stay in Singapore

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Misono Kodomo-no-Ie, NPO Little Creators, The RICE Co., Ltd.



Host Family

“They are very kind.”

I was worried and scared because I was going to a foreign country for the first time, but they welcomed me kindly.

“They are friendly.”

They invited me to games, shopped with me, and made talking to them easy.



Food & Drink

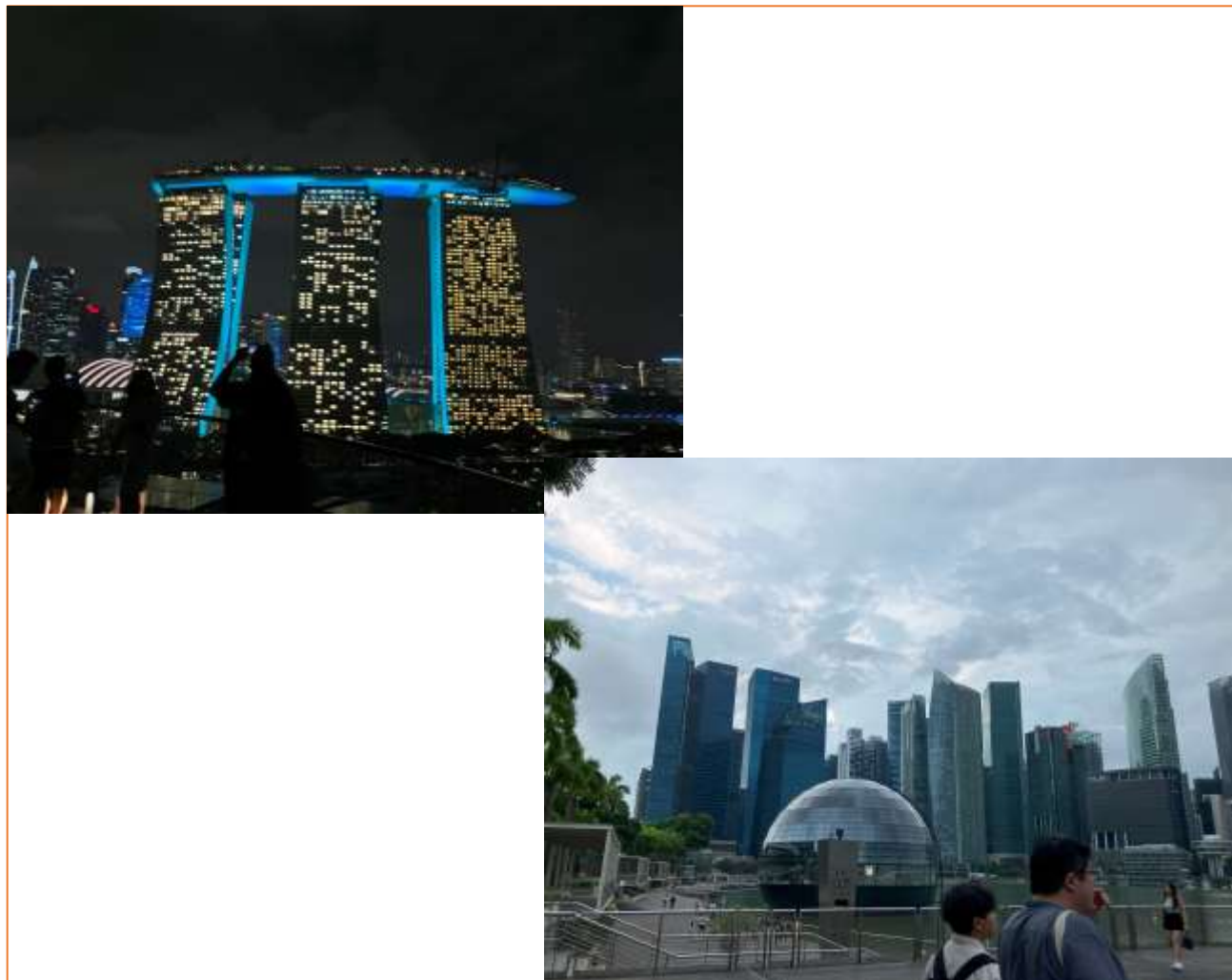


This is a kaya toast I had at a restaurant near my host family's house. Kaya toast is made by boiling a kaya plant to make jam and spreading it on bread with butter. It is a famous food in Singapore and is eaten as a snack or light meal. If you order Kaya Toast, you will get a hot spring egg as a set.

The drink I ordered with it was coffee. I was asked, "Would you like a little sugar?" I was surprised to find it was sweeter than I expected.

The most popular drink in Singapore is "MIRO". I found it in almost every store I went to.

The food we ate at home was delivered. They asked me what I wanted to eat, and I was able to enjoy the food.



City

In the central part of the city, there were many large buildings like those in Tokyo and Yokohama, while residential areas spread out a little further away from the city center.

The large buildings were not only large but also had unique shapes and foundations that were slender, many of which were not found in Japan.

Japan has many earthquakes, and I found it interesting that even shapes that are difficult to make in Japan can be made in Singapore.

Memories – People & Landscape

Dec. 29

On the bus from the zoo with friends from 1 OSQ



Dec. 28

Marina Bay Sands



Cultural Event

Everyone was more energetic and easier to talk to than when we spoke online. We didn't understand what each other was saying, so we used a translation app often and talked to each other. They were kind enough to talk to me frequently.



Diary

Dec. 28

Diary of the 3rd day

I went to see Marina Sands Bay with the 10SQ people. We spent a relaxing day taking lots of pictures and looking at souvenirs. The Christmas lights were still up and it was very beautiful.



Dec. 30

Diary of the 5th day

I had dinner with my host family and then we played games. We played Smash Brothers, Mario Kart, and Mario Party. I was nervous at first, but as we played, we got to know each other better and had a lot of fun.



About Myself

- Do you feel that you have changed since you went to Singapore? What have you changed about yourself?

Nothing major, but I need to study English a little more now.

- After returning from Singapore, is there anything new you are thinking of challenging yourself with or trying your best at? What is it?

Practical English study

- Would you like to revisit Singapore? Why?

I would like to go back because I had a great experience with my host family and with the people at 10SQ.

- Would you like to visit other countries besides Singapore? Why?

I would like to go. I would like to see buildings that do not exist in Japan, and I would like to get to know people from different cultures.

For the Next Generation

- Would you like to see other children in Misono have the same chance to go to Singapore next year and beyond? Why?

Because they will be able to live in various environments and see things from a broader perspective.

Because they will be able to think and judge things in a richer way by experiencing various things.

Because it is better to interact with people of different cultures and races in Singapore and abroad.

- If you were to give advice to children who might go next, what would you advise? Why?

They need these three: Gestures, facial expressions, and the desire to communicate using your whole body!

I could manage if I could do these three things because it's easier to convey a gesture or facial expression than to be silent because you don't know what you are talking about.

To the Host Family & Supporters

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who supported this homestay in Singapore, especially my host family and Little Creators. It was an unprecedented project to go abroad from the foster home. We had some worries and challenges at the destination, but thanks to everyone's support, we could go without any problems. It was many challenging conditions: my first time abroad, without an adult attendant and with a homestay, but my time in Singapore was valuable and full of excitement. We could not speak English properly, so they helped us with various things, such as arranging an app for us and providing detailed explanations beforehand. After we arrived in Singapore and met up with our host families, they were very considerate and friendly to us. This trip was made possible with the help of many people. It was a very valuable experience. Thank you very much.

ご清聴ありがとうございます。

Thank you !