
To become a leader

同志社国際高等学校 1年 廣 政 宗一郎

Why is our country always one step behind? Whether it comes to economics or government, we never seem to be on top. We tend to have the brains, but there is something missing in this country which needs to be addressed for our future. I feel like people have started to take notice of this, but it must be spread in order for these actions to start occurring, and I believe if Doshisha truly begins to put their power into these actions, the school could start creating a legacy of leaders for this nation.

Living in America for over fifteen years has opened my eyes to why America is still considered to many as the number one nation in the world. The answer is simple, leadership. In America, leadership is taught from a young age, and people tend to want to step up to be the lead dog. I believe that Doshisha should copy some of its strategies, not only for its students, but could also use it for advertising international exchange.

When I was back in The United States, I attended a program known as CIA, citizenship in action, a program which allows students to go the state capitol and meet some of the members of government. Not only would we meet some of the people who make the law however, we would also be able to have mock legislations, and make our own laws for the fun of it. This allowed us to step up, and talk about the state's current situation, and use our own thoughts to improve the status quo. The mock legislation was a very amazing experience, and it draws the attention of many people. During this event, we would also get to meet our region's representatives in the government, and event suggest things that we would like to have happening in the state. This may seem bizarre, but the people actually listen to your comments, and even take action at times.

Another program I attended was known as CWF, Citizenship Washington in Focus, where teenagers take a seven day trip to Washington D.C., and again hold mock legislations and get to tour the capitol of the country. Everyone attending was fascinated at the complexion of the government compared to that of the state level, as there many more rules that limit the process. However, the people attending the program seemed to be confident in what they said, attesting to their levels of leadership. Not only would we hold mock legislations, we would also be able to meet members of the government, just like CIA. However, meeting these people brought a different kind of amazement. When I met my first member of senate, I realized that these people were not just mean faces and dark suits, they were just as human as we were, and it made me realize that they weren't gods at all. The only thing that set us apart was their wisdom and leadership.

These were only some of the events that teens could participate in the United

States, but it is easy to see that events like these are not provided what so ever in Japan. This is a huge disappointment, and from the view of a *kikokusei*, a chance for Doshisha to step up in the race of international exchange and leadership. Japan for years has only focused on learning, and hasn't realized that in order to use this knowledge, one must have leadership. Doshisha can spread this kind of knowledge by having events like the ones mentioned earlier, as it would spread knowledge of the government, while also increasing popularity of the school.

For a first step, I believe that Doshisha should contact the prefecture level government, and try to set up meetings for teens at the member of government, as they would be able to communicate, and the teens would get to know how human these people truly are. Next, Doshisha should try to have mock legislations in the form of an event, to try to get people to step up and speak their opinions, while learning about the legal world. Finally, Doshisha should get international students to join these events, to get more opinions from an international perspective, to not only get the international students to enjoy their stay in Japan, but to also spread international ideals to the young minds of Doshisha.

Japan has many problems that can easily be solved by having people state their opinions. For a long time, this country has spent too much time on basic education, and not enough time on how to apply their knowledge. People just don't seem to have the courage to do so. But by teaching people at a younger age, they can eventually use this knowledge in the future, and be able to use their leadership to say their opinions. Doshisha has a huge opportunity to step up and become a major powerhouse as a university, by opening these kinds of events to students, and could also use it to open ways to more international exchange as well. Although it may be a difficult process, it seems to be that it produces good results, as strong countries tend to have these kinds of events. I believe that Doshisha should really take in consideration of what I am saying. As a long time *kikokusei*, I can say that these are the events that actually makes me interested in a country, and perhaps would make me want to live in it.