Network Session UNESCO APCAD Annual Meeting

The Driving Force of a Sustainable and Inclusive World : Glocal Network

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For the 2022 UNESCO Youth Boot Camp for Inclusive and Sustainable Cities, youth representatives from cities around the world gathered in the beautiful Italian city of Polica from July 03, 2022 to July 08, 2022. Together, we talked about 'the reasons why we need to overthrow the various discriminations that exist in this world', and we also discussed the efforts that young people can make to overcome them. Based on an attitude of understanding and respect for different cultures resulting from differences in race, gender, and beliefs, we focused on ways to create a social atmosphere that embraces each other. In addition, the youth participants in the camp have formed a global network and are planning follow-up projects for each unit to realize these ideas.

As multi-stakeholders, each of us is forming our own 'culture' resulting from our own unique history and chronology based on not only our region of origin, but also various social groups to which we belong, as well as our own ideology. Therefore, in the past, the concept of 'culture' in a broad sense was defined as a major mode of behavior or a symbol structure of a society, but it has now become a narrow concept of category to contain the meaning that the expression 'culture' in modern society should contain and imply. Also, considering the trend of our times, which are pluralism and individualism, it is now meaningless to draw out common characteristics from people belonging to a certain group to define them in one word. Rather, this sort of classification has been degenerated into 'partial discrimination', and if it does not meet the standard of a group generalized by someone, it often creates a social error in which discrimination is applied.

As a follow-up project of the Gwangju Metropolitan City under this basic trend, we are working hard to bring about 'glocal' changes in education in Korea by seeking ways to enhance Asia's global position and status as an alternative to eradicating racial discrimination to Asians. And through use of the significance of 'glocal', which means 'localization of globalization', we are continuing this 'glocal' networking for a leap toward a sustainable and inclusive world by not only realizing solutions to global problems from each city level, sharing proven effects with the global network, but also thinking about ways to localize success stories in other units identified through the global network, etc.