Now we are going to make a presentation.
Our theme is “The Relationship between neighboring countries”.

The purpose of setting this theme

The relationship between Japan and China has been deteriorating. We set this theme to find a way to improve this situation from the countries which have been building good relationships. We chose four countries, Australia and New Zealand, and Germany and France to research the relationships between each of them. The reason why we chose Australia and New Zealand is that these two countries have been building a good relationship and we believe that we can find a way to maintain diplomatic relations from them. The reason why we chose Germany and France is that these two countries also have been building a good relationship even though they sometimes had hostile relations with each other in the past. Therefore, we will be able to learn how to improve our circumstances through these examples.

These are the contents.
1. The history and present situation of the exchange between Japan and China
2. Australia and New Zealand
3. Germany and France
4. Our proposals

First, now we are going to talk about “The history and present situation of the exchange between Japan and China”. Let’s begin with the history of the exchange between them. We can easily find the history of the exchange from history. In ancient times and medieval times, Japan and China had conflicts such as “Battle of Hakusukinoe”, “The Mongol Invasions”, “The Russia-Japan war” and twice “Japan-China war”. On the other hand, having good diplomatic relationships between Japan and China, we had many cultural and economic exchanges like “Torai-jin (the people who came to Japan from overseas especially China and Korea)”, “Kenzui-shi, Kentou-shi (a Japanese envoy to Sui and Tang Dynasty in China)”, long trading history of “Ni-So trade, Shuin-sen trade, Trading at Nagasaki in Edo period”. These kinds of exchanges had a great influence on Japanese society, and as you know, Japanese cultures which are essential for our daily life, such as Chinese character, Chopsticks, Yearly Events and Eto (Chinese astrological calendar), were introduced from China.

Let’s move on to the present situation between Japan and China. Unfortunately, the national sentiment for each nation is now unsatisfactory. It is said that the major factors for these feelings are caused by the recent war. However, we can find Japan ranked in higher in the list when Chinese are asked what your favorite country is. Some people say that Chinese government educates people as anti-Japanese and are controlling the mass media, so we can’t clearly state that the entire Chinese really have anti-Japan feeling. How about Japanese? In Japan, more Japanese have undesirable feelings. Unlike China, Japanese government don’t educate people as anti-China, the main causes are found in the news about the dispute over Senkaku-island or Chinese diplomatic attitudes toward Japan at the summit conference. When it comes to the economic relationship, however, Japan is the biggest trading partner with China. The same goes for Japan because Chinese tourists have become
indispensable to Japanese tourist industry.

From these factors, Japan and China will be able to improve the relationship and both can be advantageous to both countries in economic and cultural fields.

Second, we are going to talk about Australia and New Zealand which has been building a good relationship. We take it for granted that these countries are on familiar terms due to being British colonies. However, through our research, we have found that these two countries are making efforts to maintain a good relationship. We will talk about the bond from three perspectives about the trade, the food distribution and the diplomacy. We will start with the trade. Australia and New Zealand have concluded The Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (CER) in 1983 to accelerate the economic integration. Thanks to this agreement, the trade barrier such as the tariff were gradually removed by 1990 and now, although there are some exceptions, the tariff has been abolished. Let's see the food distribution. Australia and New Zealand have installed Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) in 1995 to standardize the food safety. This has activated the food exchange, and food exports from New Zealand to Australia has been increasing no less than 70 percent in seven years. In terms of diplomacy, these countries have a strengthening cooperative relations. As an annual event, both Prime Ministers visit each other's countries and hold bilateral meeting to develop the relationship.

Last but not least, let's see the relationship between Germany and France which has a history of conflicts. Let me start with the two countries’ history. Germany and France had been continued wars since 1870s when Germany hadn't had the name Germany but Prussia. Especially in the first World War and the second World War, these two countries fought against each other as major countries. In 1950, however, the Schuman Plan, which the victorious France had proposed, provided an end of Franco-German rivalry. This promoted the European integration and both Germany and France has become close cooperation, which was described as an engine for the European integration, and this led to the EU. In this process, both countries made a vow not to go to war again after concluding the peace treaty. Moreover, various people took action to share the history and overcome the past tragedy. For instance, more than 2,000 cities signed friendship town agreements and there are television stations that serve a bilingual broadcasting. In addition, more than 1,500 companies have branch offices in each countries and even aircraft company of a joint venture was established. Furthermore, they established a joint Junior Chamber International and also published a common history textbook.

Japan and China are neighbors as well as Germany and France, and have the same issues about the war history. The relationship between Japan and China, however, is completely opposite. We believe that the differences in attitudes toward the past have caused the conflict.

Now we would like to propose two things which Japan and China should learn. Here is the first proposal from the relationship between Australia and New Zealand. We believe that it is important for Japan to build a reciprocal relationship in economics to benefit each other, in other words to give each other something. Specifically sharing the trade system and stepping on the way to liberalize trades, Japan and China could integrate each economy.

And the second proposal learned from the relationship between Germany and France, we consider that it is of importance for Japan and China to share the recognition of history in order to get over the hostile past. In concrete terms, Japanese and Chinese, including both governments, should take the history seriously and then forgive each other, building the future.

Thank you.