Report of Deshima AIR
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During my stay at Deshima AIR project, I've done research on the diversity of people and how they live together in Amsterdam. I interviewed people on the street about their living area, about the area where they don't want to live, and about the area where they think it's dangerous.

In Japan some of my friends told me that Amsterdam is a dangerous city, although they've never visited this place. This made me curious about how the concept of danger comes in somebodies mind. Could it be possible that fear is caused by a lack of will to understand the other (outsider, different from your background / culture / appearance, etc.).
To understand this better, I started to interview many people and tried to make a map of the "dangerous area" in people's mind.

I started in Amstelveen, where many company workers from Japan and Korea are living. Then I went to Bos en Lommer, where many Islamic people live. Most of the people answered me that the Bijlmer and Osdorp were dangerous area.
The Bijlmer has a big Suriname community, and in Osdorp, there are many Islamic people from Morocco and Turkey.
In the Bijlmer and Osdorp areas, the most common answer was: "there are no dangerous areas."
Some of them answered: "Osdorp is dangerous" at the Bijmer, and "the Bijlmer is dangerous" at Osdorp.

I asked if there is any effort taken by the municipality to integrate immigrants better into society.
They told me that housing associations organized community places in different areas to stimulate people to meet and to talk with each other. The precious words of a French man and a Suriname woman still whisper in my ear: "to give a greeting to each other and to accept each other, that's very important". But there are still problems to solve, for example that Islamic people are not coming to the community places, and they don't try to integrate with other inhabitants. I could feel the difficulty living with diversity.

During my stay I visited the "Kwakoe" Festival in the Bijlmer. This annual summer festival is organized by Suriname people, to celebrate their culture.
This warmhearted event is in big contrast with the media attention mostly about bad incidents in the area. News items on TV and in the newspapers create people's image of an area.

For the next time I would like to compare my experiences and research with:
  - the policy of the municipality
  - data about the number of incidents in each areas, and the number of incidents which got media coverage
  - add personal information about the interviewees (age, gender, home town, nationality)

In Japan it's so common to think that everybody is nearly the same, and we have difficulty in accepting the diversity.
During my residency in Amsterdam, I could experience a melting pot of all different cultures with their difficulties and struggles. But the inhabitants think and act to make a living together, based on the idea of diversity in thoughts, situations, and backgrounds.
It was a great experience for me to listen to many stories from different people.

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