# JENESYS2015 JENESYS2015 Inbound program (Mekong 5 countries, Theme: Social Activity & Culture) Program Report

# 1. Program Overview

Under "Japan's Friendship Ties Program", 55 youths from Mekong 5 countries who are interested in Japanese social activity and culture visited Japan. During the 7 days program from August 27 to September 2, the participants studied Japanese politics, social activity, history and culture, and much more.

# 2. Participating Countries and Number of Participants

Cambodia:11 participants, Laos:11 participants, Myanmar:11 participants, Thailand:11 participants, Vietnam:11 participants

# 3. Prefectures Visited

Tokyo, Chiba, and Miyagi

# 4. Program Schedule

August 27 (Thu) Arrival at Narita International Airport, Program Orientation

【Key Note Lecture】 by Mr. Kazunori Akaishi, Professor, Faculty of International Studies, Takushoku University

August 28 (Fri) ~ September 1 (Tues) Move to each region, Divided into 3 groups to visit each region

1. Group A(Cambodia, Vietnam):Tokyo, Chiba

[Observation] World Assembly for Women in Tokyo (WAW!2015) Opening Session/High Level Round Table, Edo Tokyo Museum, National Diet of Japan, Meiji Jingu

[Courtesy Call, Exchange] Kyonan Town Center, The Chamber, Michinoeki Hota Elementary School, Staying at Japanese Style Inn

[Cultural Experience] Ukiyoe Painting

[Nature] Mt.Nokogiri

[Observation of Historic Culture] Nihonji, Hishikawa Moronobu Memorial Museum [Regional Industry] Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. Ichihara Factory, Nursery

2. Group B(Laos), C(Myanmar, Thailand): Miyagi

[Courtesy Call, Introduction of the Region] Minamisanriku Town, Lecture

[Local Industry] Minamisanriku Soap Workshop, Ishimaki Reconstruction Support Network

Yappesu Lecture, Minamisanriku Reconstruction Dako no Kai Lecture and Class

[Observation of Historical Landmark] Matsukasa Residence 'Hikoro no Sato, Bakkari Tea House

[School Exchange] Ishimaki Senshu University

[Cultural Experience] `loving Ishimaki Workshop` Making Picture Letter, Cocoon work,

Making kiriko (paper cutouts) Hachiman River Balefire Reconstruction Festival [Japanese Language Communication] Minamisanriku- sansan shopping district [Exchange] Lunch with Ishimaki City Residents September 1(Tue) Move to Tokyo, Reporting Session September 2(Wed) Departure from Narita International Airport

## 3. JENESYS 2015 Program Photos

Group A : Cambodia, Vietnam (Women · Politics)



8/28 [Observation] World Assembly for Women in Tokyo (WAW!2015) (Tokyo)



8/28 [Observation] National Diet of Japan (Tokyo)



8/30 [Cultural Experience] Ukiyoe Painting (Kyonan Town)





8/31 [Observation] Michinoeki Hota Elementary School (Kyonan Town)

8/31[Courtesy Call]Kyonan Town (Kyonan Town)



8/31 [Local Industry] Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. Ichihara Factory, Nursery (Ichihara City)

# Group B : Laos (Local Development • Entrepreneur Creation) Group C : Thailand • Myanmar (Japanese Language • Japanese Culture)

8/27 【Key Note Lecture】 Exchange of opinions (Mr. Kazunori Akaishi, Professor, Faculty of International Studies, Takushoku University) (Tokyo)



8/28 【Courtesy Call】 Minamisanriku Town (Minamisanriku Town)





8/29 【Local Industry】 Minamisanriku Soap Workshop (Minamisanriku Town)

8/29 [Local Industry] Minamisanriku Reconstruction Dako no Kai Lecture, Lecture and Class (Minamisanriku Town)



8/29 【Cultural Experience】 Making Kiriko (paper cutouts (Minamisanriku Town)



8/29 【Cultural Experience】 Hachiman River Balefire Reconstruction Festival (Minamisanriku Town)



8/29 [Observation of Historical Landmark] Matsukasa Residence 'Hikoro no Sato (Minamisanriku Town)

8/30 [Exchange] Lunch with Ishimaki City Residents (Ishimaki City)

#### 4. Participants Comments

#### Cambodia, Adult

I was impressed with the friendliness, courtesy, agreeable manners, and hospitable nature of the Japanese people. Through my participation in WAW2015, I learned about how Japan is promoting women's social involvement. I also understood the need for global cooperation in working towards solving the problems we face with adolescents, which is a subject common to all humankind. The program encouraged us to deepen exchanges with the five participating Mekong countries and to share the challenges faced by each, in addition to getting a better picture of the situation in Japan. As part of the program, I also had the opportunity to stay with a Japanese family. I enjoyed wonderful Japanese traditional culture and cuisine. We visited a historical museum in Kyonan Town, Chiba Prefecture, where we tried ukiyoe, the woodblock print, of Mikaeri Bijin (a beauty looking back). As part of regional revitalization, construction was in progress to convert the now-closed Hota Elementary School into a commercial establishment. I also visited a Mitsui Chemicals factory. I was able to improve my appreciation of Japan through my experiences of its comfortable climate, wonderful landscapes, clean environment, traditional dance, and kimono.

#### · Vietnam, Adult

In the program, I was most impressed with the Japanese people's determination and untiring efforts dedicated to developing their country. Since World War II, Japan has grown into one of the world's leading countries. I saw these efforts for myself in Kyonan Town. The Town Hall and residents are striving to attract many visitors based on a specific action plan. When I return to Vietnam, I will talk about Kyonan Town to everyone and tell them that before starting any large-scale regional projects, we must first change our thinking on environmental conservation and traditional cultural values. I will also upload pictures of Japan's landscape and Japanese food to Instagram and share my experience with as many people as I can.

· Laos, Adult

In the program, I was impressed with the following three areas.

1. Culture: events and buildings that have lasted over 100 years are carefully conserved. They are blended with new sub-cultures, keeping a good balance.

2. The economy: to support local employment, specialty products using locally-abundant resources are produced that are sold throughout Japan as "home-grown."

3. Local infrastructure: new companies are set up to enable young people to remain in the area, and damaged buildings are repaired or rebuilt. This contributes to creating a safer and better living environment than enjoyed before the Great Earthquake.

#### · Myanmar, Adult

This was my first visit. Previously I only had a general knowledge of Japan. All I knew was that it is a developed country with advanced technology. I had also studied a little about Japan's traditional culture. On actually visiting the country, I was very surprised to find that although it is technologically advanced, Japan conserves its traditional culture.

When I go back, I will have a lot to talk about. I am particularly enthusiastic to tell people about the region we visited, which was damaged by the earthquake and tsunami, and how the government and local residents are working together to restore and reconstruct the region that was so badly hit by this natural disaster. I hope the people of Myanmar will also take a leaf out of Japan's book on hearing my story. The Japanese government is providing financial support, and the public is assisting victims of the disaster, from both the psychological and economic aspects, to rebuild their previous living environment. This is amazing. Myanmar is also often struck by natural disasters. I hope to share my knowledge obtained in Japan with everyone at home.

#### · Thailand, Adult

I was impressed with many things, but particularly the five below, which made me think about "wholehearted hand-in-hand cooperation" between people in the community.

1. Community people work together on projects to help people recover from mental disorders before asking for government support.

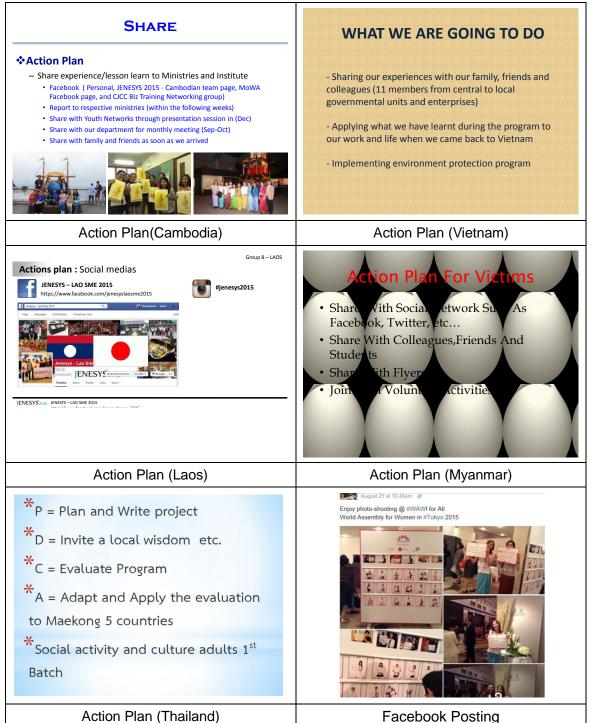
2. To prevent social isolation, activities are promoted for skilled people and retired older people.

3. At classes on faceted glass and self-illustrated postcard, their background history is explained in detail to improve participants' understanding.

4. Sightseeing based on regional industries and agriculture is promoted, and in this way local residents cooperate to restore the region's economy and social structure.

5. Local residents are respected. For example, if an organization wants to construct a new building, it seeks the permission of the original landowner.

After I return to my home country, I would like to tell my students and fellow teachers about these points to help resurrect Thailand's wise village ways and practices. I believe that the Thai people can also provide mental healthcare to aged people in the community and increase employment opportunities by using our regional wisdom. This will encourage young people to join together to build sales bases in cities, towns, and villages. I believe that we can increase regional income and develop sightseeing programs in the way that has been done in Miyagi Prefecture.



### 5. Participants Postings after program