

## JENESYS2015 Inbound Program (Singapore, Theme: Culture (Japanese Language/Japanese Culture)) Program Report

### 1. Program Overview

Under “Japan’s Friendship Ties Program”, 22 Singaporean high-school students who are interested in Japanese language and culture visited Japan. During the 9 days program from November 16 to November 24, the participants studied Japanese government, society, culture, language, history, foreign policy, and much more.

### 2. Participating Countries and Number of Participants

Singapore: 22 participants

### 3. Prefectures Visited

Tokyo and Tochigi

### 4. Program Schedule

November 16 (Mon)	Arrival at Narita International Airport, Program Orientation 【History and culture】 Nijubashi Bridge at Imperial Palace
November 17(Tue)	【Lecture on Japan】Theme “Japan Today” Lecturer: Mr. Hideo Kimura, Executive Managing Director, International Management Associate 【History and culture】 Asakusa, Sensoji Temple, Edo-Tokyo Museum
November 18 (Wed)	【Cutting-Edge Technology】 National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan) Move to Tochigi
November 19 (Thu)	【Cultural Experience/Nature/Environment】 Nakagawa Aquatic Park, Experience in Plant Dyeing 【School Exchange】 Otawara High School
November 20(Fri)	【History and culture】 Nasu Shrine 【Courtesy Call】 Otawara City Office 【Observation of Commercial Facility】 Toko-Toko Otawara 【Homestay】 Meeting with Hostfamily
November 21(Sat)	【Homestay】
November 22(Sun)	【Homestay】 Farewell Party with Hostfamily 【Workshop】 Preparation for Reporting Session
November 23(Mon)	Move to Tokyo Reporting Session 【Observation of Commercial Facility】 Daiba area
November 24 (Tue)	Departure from Narita International Airport

## 5. Program Photos



11/17 【Lecture on understanding Japan】  
(Tokyo)



11/17 【Historical Landmark】  
Edo-Tokyo Museum (Tokyo)



11/18 【Cutting-Edge Technology】  
National Museum of Emerging Science and  
Innovation (Tokyo)



11/19 【Nature】 Nakagawa Aquatic Park  
(Ohtawara City)



11/19 【School Exchange】  
Ohtawara High School(Ohtawara City)



11/20 【Historical Landmark】  
Nasu Shrine (Ohtawara City)



11/20 【Regional Industry】 Ohnishi Seimen, Making Noodle Experience (Ohtawara City)



11/20 【Curtesy Call】 Ohtawara City Office (Ohtawara City)



11/21 【Homestay】 (Ohtawara City)



11/22 【Homestay】 Farewell Party with Host Family (Ohtawara City)



11/22 【Workshop】 (Ohtawara City)



11/23 【Reporting Session】 (Tokyo)

## 6. Voice from Participants

### Singapore, High-school students

I was most impressed by how enthusiastic and proud the Japanese are with culture. They are not afraid to share information with foreigner and learn about other countries

with an open mind. I'm also very impressed with how Japanese people are very passionate about their jobs and lives. They do everything with a cautious mind and put their utmost effort to every small action. Moreover, they are very courteous and generous. I would like to share this about the Japanese as Japan is a very nice country and everyone should know about it!

#### **Singapore, High-school students**

I am very impressed by the hospitality of the Japanese people. They were very attentive to our needs and were constantly thinking about how to improve the homestay experience. I was also impressed and shocked at the variety and quality of the food in Japanese supermarkets. The way the local government tries to increase the fertility rates of Otawara is also interesting. Not only do they try to make child raising easier, they also have match-making events. This is holistic and unique way of solving the problem of a decreasing population. After returning, I would like to share about my good experience during the homestay, and would also like to share about the lifestyle of the citizens in Otawara.

#### **Singapore, High-school students**

I think what truly meant a lot to me was 'Ichigo Ichie' life philosophy of the Japanese people. It's really amazing how the Japanese people live every minute of their lives to their maximum. It's the mindset that explains the internationally renowned punctuality of the Japanese. The strict adherence to schedules, and the positivity and energy of the Japanese people even in the face of adversities.

#### **Singapore, High-school students**

I am impressed by the scenery in the countryside. The leaves are very beautiful especially that it is in the Autumn. In Singapore, there is no mountains or seasons. Thus, it is very impressive that Japan still retains the natural beauty of earth and allows people to come and enjoy the peacefulness. Outside of the noisy and busy Tokyo, this place in Japan (Nakagawa Machi) is very beautiful and I urge Singaporeans to come and enjoy this beauty.

#### **Singapore, High-school students**

The homestay was a very enriching experience. The farm was a very impressive place as I was able to learn about how wagyu farms are run. I would like to share about how farms are run in Japan and how the farmers wake up early (before 6 am) just to do work on the farm. Most food they eat is also homegrown.

## 7. Action Plan Presented at the Reporting Session by Participants

<div style="text-align: center; background-color: #f8d7da; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #c3e6cb;"> <b>Ageing Population</b> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="background-color: #c3e6cb; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">Many abandoned farms</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin: 5px 0;">↓</div> <div style="background-color: #d4edda; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">Lack of successors</div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="background-color: #c3e6cb; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">Konkatsu Parties</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin: 5px 0;">↓</div> <div style="background-color: #d4edda; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">Improving Marriage Rates</div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="background-color: #c3e6cb; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">Toko Toko Otawara</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin: 5px 0;">↓</div> <div style="background-color: #d4edda; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">Children-friendly Policies</div> </div> </div>	<div style="text-align: center; background-color: #f8d7da; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #c3e6cb;"> <b>Strong Beliefs and Values</b> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="background-color: #c3e6cb; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">Time Conscious</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin: 5px 0;">↓</div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="background-color: #c3e6cb; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">Commemoration of other sentient beings</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin: 5px 0;">↓</div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="background-color: #c3e6cb; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">Recycling</div> <div style="font-size: 10px; margin: 5px 0;">↓</div> </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="background-color: #d4edda; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px; width: 100%; border: 1px solid #c3e6cb;"> <b>Considerate in all aspects</b> </div> </div>
<p>Findings in Japan</p>	<p>Findings in Japan</p>
<div style="background-color: #fff3cd; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ffee58;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <h3>Raising Awareness: Social Media</h3> <hr/> <p><b>What:</b> An official Instagram account "JENESYS 2015"</p> <p><b>When:</b> With immediate effect</p> <p><b>How:</b> Post pictures and videos from our trip with a caption sharing our experiences, publicity for subsequent measure</p> <p><b>Target audience:</b> General public</p> </div> </div> </div>	<div style="background-color: #fff3cd; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ffee58;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <h3>First-hand Experience: School Exhibition</h3> <hr/> <p><b>What:</b> School exhibition with hands-on activities</p> <p><b>When:</b> CCA showcase</p> <p><b>Target audience:</b> Students and teachers</p> </div> </div> </div>
<p>Action Plan</p>	<p>Action Plan</p>
<div style="background-color: #fff3cd; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ffee58;"> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <h3>Timeline</h3> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="background-color: #c3e6cb; padding: 5px; margin-right: 5px;">Social Media</div> <div style="background-color: #d4edda; padding: 5px; margin-right: 5px;">School Exhibition</div> <div style="background-color: #c3e6cb; padding: 5px;">Sustained Updates</div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px; text-align: center;"> <div style="font-size: 20px; font-weight: bold;">→</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: 10px; margin-top: 5px;"> <span>End of 2015</span> <span>By first semester of 2016</span> <span>Before Sept 2016</span> </div> </div> </div> </div> </div>	<div style="background-color: #fff3cd; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #ffee58;"> <div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <span style="font-size: 10px; color: #007bff;">Amazing autumn in Ohtwara city</span> </div>  </div>
<p>Action Plan</p>	<p>Post Action (SNS)</p>