

## JENESYS2016 Outbound Program (Brunei Darussalam, Senior High School Students) Program Report

### 1. Program Overview

Under “Japan’s Friendship Ties Programs”, 20 Japanese senior high school students and 2 teachers, interested in introducing Japan and its culture overseas visited Brunei Darussalam. During the 9-day program from March 7th to the 15th, 2017, the participants visited two high schools in Bandar Seri Begawan and had educational cross-cultural experiences with their Darussalam peers. Their presentations and performances included a variety of content, including the Japanese four seasons, traditional culture, basic Japanese language, popular games among students, and local characteristics/specialties of their local Yamaguchi prefecture. The Bruneian students were very excited and greatly enjoyed the experience. The participants also learned a lot about Brunei and posted their experiences on their high school website, SNS and blogs. They also made an informative presentation about their action plan to further promote the friendship of the two countries before they left for Japan.

#### Number of Participants

Yamaguchi Prefectural Shimonoseki-nishi Senior High School: 20 students and 2 teachers

#### Country Visited

Brunei Darussalam

### 2. Program Schedule

March 6 (Mon)	【Program Orientation】 (in Tokyo)
March 7 (Tue)	Dep. from Haneda International Airport~Arr. in Bandar Seri Begawan
March 8 (Wed)	【Courtesy Call】 Embassy of Japan in Brunei Darussalam 【Visit/Lecture】 MC Biotech Sdn Bhd
March 9 (Thu)	【School Exchange Program 1】 Maktab Duli, Six Form Centre 【Courtesy Call】 Department of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
March 10 (Fri)	【History/Culture/Nature/Observation】 Mangrove~Kampong Ayer, Royal Regalia Museum, Royal Palace, Mosques
March 11 (Sat)	【School Exchange Program 2】 Sayyidina Hasan Secondary School 【Home Stay Program】 Matching Ceremony
March 12 (Sun)	【Home Stay Program】
March 13 (Mon)	【Observation】 Seria Oil Field Area Tour (~Billionth Barrel Monument) 【Workshop】
March 14 (Tue)	【Reporting Session】 / Dep. from Bandar Seri Begawan
March 15 (Wed)	~Arr. in Haneda International Airport

### 3. Program Photos

	
<p>8 March 【Visit to Japanese-affiliated Company】 Briefing on the Outline of MC Biotech</p>	<p>9 March 【School Exchange Program 1】 Maktab Duli Six Form Center: Demonstration of Japanese traditional seasonal events - The star festival</p>
	
<p>9 March 【Courtesy Call】 Department of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (with Director)</p>	<p>10 March 【History/Culture/Nature/Observation】 Walking in Kampong Ayer: on the way to visit a typical house in the water village</p>
	
<p>13 March 【Home Stay Program】</p>	<p>14 March 【Reporting Session】 Presentation of Program Report and Post-program Action Plans</p>

#### 4. Voices from Participants

##### ◆ Yamaguchi Prefectural Shimonoseki-nishi Senior High School Student

This visit to Brunei has broadened my outlook. There were many things that amazed me. First of all, almost all the citizens can speak English as well as Malay. I learned that English education starts when students are 5 years old in Brunei. I was very surprised at their colloquial English skills. I learned that the students usually communicate in English at school, and music that is played has lyrics in both English and Malay. I think this is one practice that Japan should adopt. In addition, I was amazed at their patriotism. People have trust in His Majesty, are blessed with rich national land, and have pride in their country. I think that the development of the country is rooted in their deep desire to make it better. Through this experience, I realized that we have to stop viewing the world through only our cultural framework and experiences. For example, Japanese society has accepted the mixture of different religions, and the society has become more tolerant of various religions under the trend of modernization. However, Muslim-centric politics exists in Brunei. This was my first experience seeing that type of politics. Consequently it was an invaluable experience allowing me to understand what this type of political system is like. The biggest cultural difference faced in Brunei was this religious difference in my case.

During the 10-day program, I was able to make friends with Bruneians as well as the fellow 19 students sent by our school. They were all very kind which allowed me to increase my social network and broaden my global outlook. I am encouraged by the fact that I can make friends with people from different countries. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for those who allowed me to experience this once in a lifetime opportunity. I hope that I make the most of this experience, introducing Japan and its culture to people around the world.

##### ◆ Yamaguchi Prefectural Shimonoseki-nishi Senior High School Student

I am thankful for the opportunity to participate in the JENESYS program and travel to Brunei Darussalam. Before the program began, we spent half a year preparing. However, we gained much more knowledge and more meaningful experiences by actually visiting the country than when we studied about Brunei before going there. First of all, what caught my attention were the amount of Japanese cars on the road. I had heard that people in Brunei use cars frequently in their daily lives, and those Japanese cars seen in a part of Bruneian society shows the worldwide popularity of cars made in Japan. Furthermore, there were many Japanese electric products such as elevators, washing machines, and refrigerators used in the hotels and host family's homes. The expansion of Japanese-affiliated enterprises, such as MC Biotech, indicates that Japanese technology is needed in the world. I could actually feel how much "Made in Japan" has influenced the world during the program. Also, in Japan, there is less opportunity to communicate in English and it seems that only a few people can speak English fluently. However, it is necessary for Japan to connect with other countries in the future. I truly understood the high standard of English education done in Brunei through communicating with local students. It is important to turn our

eyes to English education systems of foreign nations in order to cultivate personnel who will be active in the world. It also seemed to me that Japan has a great influence on other countries although it is just one of about 200 nations that exist in the world. Looking at Japan objectively reminded me that things I take for granted in Japan are those I should be really proud of.

Our experiences obtained in Brunei were the result of using all five senses we have (eyes, ears, nose, mouth and hands) with our minds as well. It should not be possessed only by an individual but must be shared with others by disseminating it through SNS and other means in order to renew our appreciation for the charm of Japan and to show the attractiveness of Brunei too. It is not a matter of which country is superior. Each of them has different merit. I would like to put forth the good points of Japan to surrounding countries and make our country better by adopting the advantages of other countries.

◆ **Yamaguchi Prefectural Shimonoseki-nishi Senior High School Student**

I knew Brunei Darussalam only by name before participation in this program. However, after participation in this program I not only deepened my understanding of Brunei but also recognized the position of Japan in the world. I saw a lot of Japanese products there and consequently understood how friendly the relationship established between Brunei and Japan is. During our school exchange program the Bruneian students earnestly listened to our presentation. I really enjoyed the presentation because the students seemed to really enjoy our performance. I was really surprised at the fact that Japan's four seasons and customs, which I thought was well known in foreign countries, was not actually known at all in Brunei. We had never really thought about this until we talked to the Bruneian people. We had the opportunity to share a lot about pop culture such as Anime and Manga. Concerning food culture, there were some common points to share like seasoning since we are both Asian countries though there are also culinary differences such as the vegetables that are grown in each country. On the contrary, observation of a mangrove forest and houses built on stilts over the water, which are hardly seen in Japan, brought to my attention the rich nature that exists around me and the culture I experienced there.

Through this program, I, not only physically experienced the marvelous country of Brunei, but also wanted to share the charm of Japan with the Brunei people. I was surprised at the fact that many Bruneians did not know much about Japan. I hope to share about Japan and Japanese culture with not only the extremely kind-hearted Bruneian people, but also with many more foreigners to aide in their understanding of Japan. Because of the local culture Japanese may be hesitant to introduce Japanese culture overseas but after what I have learned since being away from Japan I believe that we should share our culture. Before we host the Tokyo Olympics in 2020, in order for Japan to strengthen relations with foreign countries, we must first begin activities to get people interested in Japan from small scale delegations like of ours to expanding the initiative all over the world. I will make the most of what I was taught and studied by myself in Brunei in order to build various bridges over the world for the future.

## 5. Voices from Bruneian Students

### ◆ **Maktab Duli, Six Form Centre Student**

Their presentation was impressive and allowed me to understand many facts about Japan. Everything they introduced was very interesting. They talked about the Japanese language, their culture, advanced technologies and wonderful places to visit in their country. I enjoyed the presentation even more when they showed fun games and they taught us basic Japanese and Kanji characters which I appreciated very much. The Japanese students were very confident and their performance was well done. I think they did a great job in their presentation about Japan.

Through the exchange program, I gained confidence and I met new friends. I learned that communicating with Japanese students is easy and I learned a lot about their country. I have learned how to socialize and be more outspoken. Furthermore, I improved my communicating skills. More importantly, my interest in Japan has increased and I see Japan as a country full of joyful and peaceful citizens.

### ◆ **Sayyidina Hasan Secondary School**

The presentation and performance left a huge impression on me. Their presentation was very detailed and it made me change the way I think about them. It also made me interested in going to Japan and exploring more. It also made me realize how beautiful Japan is.

I gained a lot during the exchange program. I met new friends and learned a lot about Japan. The students from Japan left a huge impression on me. They made me change my mindset towards Japan. They were also very polite and nice to me. I learned a lot from them through the exchange program. Even if there was a language barrier between us, we were able to communicate and I felt as if we were a family.

### ◆ **Sayyidina Hasan Secondary School**

When I first saw the Japanese students, all of them looked lovely and friendly. The presentation was amazing. It made me want to know more about Japan. When the Japanese students presented about their traditional events, I liked it very much, especially their Yukata. It was so pretty I really wish I could wear it. The more they talked about Japanese culture, the more it made me want to go to Japan.



My achievement through this exchange programs helped me to know more about Japan's culture. Personally, this program had taught me some of the Japanese characters and language. In addition, I have been inspired by them to learn the Japanese language. Furthermore, I learned about more interesting places in Japan. Therefore, Japan not only is pretty but it has more amazing things I can learn. After this program, I promised myself I would save enough money to go visit Japan in the future and see all the Japanese friends I had met through this program.



## 6. Information Dissemination by Participants

	
<p>【Exchange Program at Maktab Duli Center】 Japanese and Bruneian students both introduced their history, tradition and culture, and share the experiences by SNS in English and Japanese.</p>	<p>【Reporting Session / Farewell Lunch】 The delegates posted to SNS their findings, action plan, and their fruitful outcome. Their English skills and working attitude have been much improved.</p>

## 7. Action Plan presented at Reporting Session

	
<p>【Action Plan 1】 To hold debriefing sessions to convey the findings from comparing Brunei and Japan in various aspects and good points of both countries to as many people as possible.</p>	<p>【Action Plan 2】 To continuously study and disseminate the aspects of Japanese companies doing business in Brunei, the differences in education and living environment between the two by countries through SNS to people in and out of the country</p>