1. Program Overview
30 working youths from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam visited Japan from November 27 to December 5, 2017 under the scheme of “Japan’s Friendship Ties Program” and participated in the program with the theme of “Industry Exchange by Five Mekong Countries and Japan”.

This program aims to increase connectivity in an abstract sense in the “Japan-Mekong Connectivity Initiative.” The participants learned about initiatives to maintain safe and high quality infrastructure and training personnel concerned with maintenance, in lectures on the current state of Japanese road, rail and harbor infrastructure, and through actual observations of onsite maintenance of railways and onsite control systems for highways. In Minamisanriku town, Miyagi prefecture, they received lectures on responses to earthquake disasters, including the immediate actions, formulation of recovery plans and long term initiatives aimed at the reconstruction of the town, and through observations of the actual sites, they got a deep impression of Japanese people’s strong determination to overcome adversity, and it provided an opportunity to increase their interest in planned activities that are done with the cooperation of the government and the citizens.

Besides the programs related to Industry, through exchange meeting with Japanese, the participants gained a broad understanding of Japan, and shared their interests and experiences by social media. Based on those findings in Japan, participants made group presentations in the final session and reported their action plans, which are to be implemented after returning home.

【Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants】
30 participants in total (Cambodia 6 participants, Lao PDR 6 participants, Myanmar 6 participants, Thailand 6 participants, Vietnam 6 participants)

【Prefectures Visited】
Tokyo, Miyagi
2. Program Schedule

November 28 (Tue)  Arrival
   【Orientation】

November 29 (Wed)  【Lecture on Japanese Culture/Key Note Lecture】 Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
   【Observation of Theme-related Facility】 Central Nippon Expressway Company Ltd. (NEXCO Central)

November 30 (Thu)  【Observation of Theme-related Facility】 Tokyo Corporation; Nagatsuta Rolling Stock Center
   【Lecture on Theme-related Field】 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

December 01 (Fri)  【Observation of Environment-related Facility】 SANKYU Inc. (Logistics, Plant Engineering)
   Move to Miyagi

December 02 (Sat)  【Lecture on the Region】 Minamisanriku town
   【Observation of Disaster Prevention-related Facility】 Reconstruction areas (fish market, local market, residential areas etc.)

December 03 (Sun)  Move back to Tokyo
   【Workshop】

December 04 (Mon)  【Courtesy Call】 Mr. Iwao Horii, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
   【Reporting Session】

December 05 (Tue)  Departure

3. Program Photos

11/29  【Lecture on Japanese Culture/Key Note Lecture】 Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

11/29  【Observation of Theme-related Facility】 Central Nippon Expressway Company Ltd. (NEXCO Central)
### 4. Voice from Participants

**Cambodia, Adult**

My most significant impression on lecture is the presentation from JICA regarding the Japan and 5 Mekong countries connectivity. With the explanation, I’ve learned that Japanese Government through JICA has contributed huge value in our countries. With the kind help from Japanese people, it provides us the chance for develop our organization. My
organization has obtained a lot of help and technical assistance from Japan. For site visit, I was really impressed by visiting Minamisanriku town. It was so touching after watching the movie or video about the tragedy. The strong mindset of Japanese has converted obstacles to success and even convert the town to a better place for the local residence.

◆ Thailand, Adult
The most significant impression program to me is to go to Minamisanriku Town. Because my hometown is also located near the sea, so “tsunami” is also the same disaster that my hometown used to face. I feel like we are in the same shoes with people in Minamisanriku town because “tsunami” also used to destroy my place, too. I was impressed with the plan of renewing the place of Minamisanriku town that move everyone to the place that could not be hit by “tsunami” by returning the land to government. Then the government rebuilds that place for the new business for the local. In addition, the government also think about how to help their people not to forget the fear but can live together with the nature and understand it.

◆ Vietnam, Adult
When I visited some companies such as NEXCO Central, Tokyu Corporation, SANKYU Inc., I was impressed by how people worked. They are hard-working and careful. All the working process are strictly obeyed. And the safety is always the first priority. The traffic in Japan is nearly perfect. No accident, the streets are very clean and the air is fresh, too. All the residents use GPS to find their best way to move. The road quality is very good, bus can drive smoothly and fast.

◆ Myanmar, Adult
I really appreciate NEXCO Centra, SANKYU Inc. The local government of Minamisanriku has strong spirit to provide the residents there. We could see the rehabilitation work there. The local people in Minamisanriku are warm-hearted. The privatization system is good and the relation between the government and the companies has strong legal system.

◆ Lao PDR, Adult
On lecture in this program, I learned about the management of roads and transportation to reduce traffic jams in the city. Moreover, disaster prevention methods, and I was interested in port system and management in Yokohama. Therefore staff in these companies, they are all hard-working to develop their companies to be successful.

5. Voice from Japanese Students/Schools/Host Families/Organizations
◆ Person involved with the host organization
It was memorable that the questions from the group came from an unexpected point of view. It was a good opportunity to realize once again the differences in national political systems and private enterprises’ social standpoints, so we learned a lot from the experience too.
◆ Person involved with the host organization
I was grateful for the opportunity to introduce our project to the people from the various Mekong countries. For all the young leaders too, it was a good opportunity to increase their awareness of the Asian economic corridor and Mekong connectivity, and it was also very worthwhile in terms of our public relations.

◆ Person involved with the host organization
All the participants once again saw varied aspects on the observational study trip, which I found inspirational. I want to properly convey all aspects, including the way of life of the people who live in the area, the environment, etc., and not just the fact that Minamisanriku town is a town that suffered a disaster.

6. Dissemination by the participants

(Cambodia) About program (Facebook)
Everyone well participated and learn a lot. Thanks for this impressive arrangement.

(Vietnam) About disaster on the earthquake (Facebook)
The place I'm standing right here was swallowed by Tsunami 2011 and more than 600 ppl were killed. Now the town is under reconstruction for not only for recovery but for the brighter future of town. The Tsunami wave came from the view behind me.
7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

**Action Plan (Vietnam)**
- To continue promoting Japan through SNS about culture, economy, infrastructure, technology, disaster etc.
- To keep in touch with other team/partner/colleagues and friends by social media.
- To strengthen cooperation among Japan and Mekong countries (ASEAN, GMS, CLMV etc.)
- To expand cooperation with Japanese companies in Vietnam.

**Action Plan (Lao PDR)**
Project title: Solving the traffic congestion by engaging in Vientiane Capital City
- Build and improve new urban road for the urban transportation.
- Planning the master of the urban transportation route.
- Engaging and promoting the people more using the urban transport.
- Publish the information related on urban transport for everybody.
- Asking for more supporting from international organization.