

JENESYS2018 ASEAN Outbound 6th Batch Program Report
Theme: Japanese Culture Exchange
(Republic of the Union of Myanmar)

1. Program Overview

Under the “JENESYS2018” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 18 Japanese university students visited Myanmar from January 22 to January 30, 2019 to participate in the program aimed at promoting the understanding of Japan with regard to its politics, economy, society, culture, history, and foreign policy. This batch is held under the theme of “Japanese Culture Exchange”.

The delegation enhanced their knowledge about the relationship between Japan and Myanmar people, culture and lifestyle through the meeting with government officials, observation of Japan’s ODA site, school exchange, homestay experience and city tour. During the school exchange program, they cultivated the friendship between Japan and Myanmar youths, and they delivered a presentation of the attractiveness of Japan. They shared their individual discovery, interests and experiences through social media. In the final reporting session, they reported about both the discovery in Myanmar and the action plans to be implemented after returning to Japan for government officials and local residents.

【School Names and Number of Participants】

Tokai University 6, Hiroshima University 6, Yokohama National University 6

【Outline of presentation】

Tokai University: Onsen (hot spring) Culture in Japan

Hiroshima University: Recovery after the atomic bombing and Efforts as a peace city
in Hiroshima

Yokohama National University: Characteristics of Japanese school education

Performance: Soran-bushi Dance, Origami, Shodo (Japanese Calligraphy)


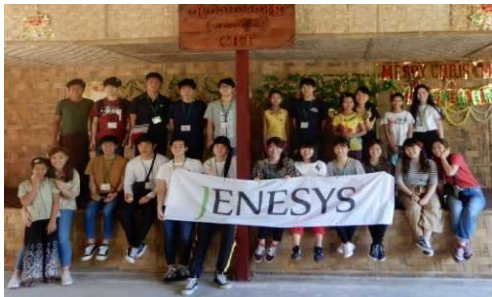


2. Program Schedule

Jan. 22 (Tue)	【Orientation】 , Departure from Narita International Airport Arrival at Myanmar Yangon International Airport
Jan. 23 (Wed)	【Courtesy Call】 Embassy of Japan in Myanmar 【Observation・Lecture】 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Myanmar Office 【Observation of ODA site】 AAR JAPAN Yangon Office, Vocational School for challenged person

Jan. 24 (Thu)	【School Exchange①】 Yangon University of Economics 【Cultural Observation】 Shwedagon Pagoda
Jan. 25 (Fri)	【School Exchange②】 University of Yangon
Jan. 26 (Sat)	【Home-visit】
Jan. 27 (Sun)	【Cultural Observation】 Twantay area
Jan. 28 (Mon)	【School Exchange③】 Aung Zayar Min Monastery School, Pynnyadepan Private School, 【Workshop】
Jan. 29 (Tue)	【Reporting session】
Jan. 30 (Wed)	Arrival in Japan

3. Program Photos

	
Jan.23 【Courtesy Call】 Embassy of Japan in Myanmar	Jan.23 【Observation・Lecture】 JICA Myanmar Office
	
Jan.23 【Observation of ODA site】 AAR JAPAN Yangon Office, Vocational School for challenged person	Jan.24 【School Exchange①】 Yangon University of Economics
	
Jan.24 【Cultural Observation】 Shwedagon Pagoda	Jan.25 【School Exchange②】 University of Yangon

	
Jan.26 【Home-visit】	Jan.27 【Cultural Observation】 Twantay area
	
Jan.28 【School Exchange③】 Pynnyadepan Private School	Jan.29 【Reporting session】

4. Voices from Participants

◆ University Student (Tokai University)

Interaction programs with students at Yangon University of Economics, University of Yangon and monastery school were especially meaningful. I was impressed by the hospitality of Myanmar students and the university students' high command of English. But also, I was struck by Myanmar students' communication ability beyond language barrier. Our priority mission this time was sharing and spreading Japan's charms to Myanmar people. Seems like a lot of Myanmar students have high interests and trusts towards Japan. They are interested in pop culture such as *anime*, *manga* and Shibuya's *kawaii* culture as well as *sakura* or Mr.Fuji. It can be said that we, each member of this dispatch program and Japanese products are representing Japan itself and such image can directly influence the relationship between our countries. The children whom I met in Twantay area, they are not able to speak other languages other than Myanmar, but they were able to repeat exactly what I said in Japanese. I was surprised to hear their accurate pronunciation. In this program, I was able to connect with over 400 Myanmar people. I would like to continue to share Japan's charms, manner, language and so on personally.

◆ University Student (Hiroshima University)

What impressed me most during this program was the visit to the vocational school operated by NGO, Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR). As I have been interested in grassroots NGO activities very much, observation of the actual site was valuable

experience for me. At AAR's vocational school, people with disabilities due to various reasons participate in the courses including people with congenital disorder, amputees caused by land-mines and so on. During this program, Japanese students practiced sewing with a sewing machine with them. After trying it, I felt how difficult it was, I was moved by how dedicated they were and how warm their hearts were. Assistance like AAR provide can only be implemented by NGO which work very close to people. I've heard AAR projects are funded by donations by companies and individuals, but it is not enough. Students like us can help them by learning the actual situation and disseminate such information to many people. I will start action from things what I can do now.

◆ **University Student** (Hiroshima University)

The head monk of the monastery school said to us, "Thanks to Buddhism teachings, our children live peacefully without fighting. Therefore, the teachers can teach the students without worries." After listening to his talk, I felt that the peaceful and serene atmosphere which I can feel when I interact with Myanmar people might be related to Buddhism. The head monk also mentioned, "Try to live each day to the fullest without thinking about tomorrow! If you are too greedy, it will suffer yourself. If you try to get rid of it, you can enrich your life. However, when you are young and healthy, always set your target high and try to achieve the goal one step at a time". I will never forget this message for the rest of my life. I felt as if I had been invited to Myanmar in order to hear this message. I had been striving to work on my target which I set to achieve during my university life. However, I had been worrying too much about my future. I had no time to look back at myself, just spending hectic days every day. I easily figured it out that I just have to work on things in front of me in a respectful manner and make an effort for it a little by little. Through this dispatch program, I was able to learn a lot of things about Myanmar, but also I feel like my mind has been refined.

5. Voice from the local Students/Schools/Organizations

◆ **Student** (University of Yangon)

Japanese students' presentation about their country, culture and universities was really good. I loved the Soran-Bushi Dance very much and I would like to learn it more in detail. Thank you for teaching us how to fold origami to create a crane and how to write Japanese word. Because of this exchange program, I am more interested in Japan and its language. I thought Japanese people would underestimate Myanmar before but they actually have good mind. I would like to say "Thank you" for helping and spreading good image of our country. I wish Japan-Myanmar communication will get stronger. Please come back and visit our country again. We will try to visit Japan as fast as we can.

◆ **Student** (Yangon University of Economics)



Learning about the reconstruction of Hiroshima after the city was destroyed by the Atomic bomb was interesting for me. I also think Japanese school system is so impressive. I especially like school cleaning by students. I was very much delighted when Myanmar


and Japanese students danced together on the stage. We learnt and shared our dances during the program. During the lunch time, I really enjoyed speaking with Japanese students. We talked a lot about the education system and life style and so on. All the Japanese students are friendly and I am very happy to meet and get to know with you.

◆ **Student** (Pynnyadepan Private School)






Although the time was limited, we enjoyed meeting Japanese university students. They were really cheerful and full of curiosity. We were very happy to see those Japanese students wearing Myanmar traditional costumes. They looked great in our traditional costumes. Also, they tried to introduce about themselves in Myanmar language. Even we met for the first time, it was not long before we got along with each other. The female students were all very pretty and the way they talk and act was so cute. We taught Myanmar and Japanese culture, language and traditional play each other. Even though there was a language barrier, we could not stop laughing. We also enjoyed picking up garbage together. We made new friends and now we like Japanese people. We felt so sad when we had to say good-bye. We wish the time to spend with the Japanese students were longer. Thank you very much for visiting our monastery school all the way from Japan. We hope you can come back to Myanmar and visit our monastery school again to meet us. We would like to have more interaction opportunities with students through this kind of program. If there is a chance, we would like to visit Japan as well.

6. Dissemination by participants

	<p>Visiting Yangon University of Economics, we enjoyed school exchange by doing presentations and performances each other. It was a meaningful time for us to know different culture.</p>
	<p>At the observation of Twantay area, we saw a workshop where textiles and pottery are handcrafted. And we stayed in the village surrounded by nature. We are so impressed by the local people's hospitality.</p>

 <p>jenesys_ymu - 7月12日 - 木</p> <p>Jenesys_ymu Day 8 We visited monastery school in Yangon city. Their smiles are wonderful ☺ The English education starts at the age of 8. Moreover, 8 grade students were studying science with using English textbooks when we went there. 私たちはヤンゴンにあるお寺の学校を訪ねました。子供達の笑顔がとても素敵でした。そして、ここでは英語教科書の内容を授業から始まる。</p> <p>--- jenesyschirodaiさん、恵子さん、みんながいていいね！おもしろい！</p> <p>コメントを追加...</p>	<p>Visited Aung Zayar Min Monastery School located in suburbs of Yangon. The smiles of the children who studied happily were impressive. And we were surprised to see the Physics class was conducted in English.</p>
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7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

<p>3. Holding Myanmar booth at International Festival in our university</p>  	<p>【Tokai University】</p> <p>We will display a Myanmar booth at the International Festival held in our University, and we will introduce our program experience to visitors.</p>
<p>2. Spreading our findings about Myanmar culture</p>  <p>6th Feb @Hiroshima University</p>	<p>【Hiroshima University】</p> <p>One week after returning home, we will have a reporting meeting at university and present the charms of Japan and Myanmar when we found out in Myanmar.</p>
  <p>jenesys_ymu</p> <p>jenesys_ymu Day 8 We visited Yangon University! They showed us around the university. We knew how historical the university is.</p>	<p>【Yokohama National University】</p> <p>Using our group social media account which was made by us before departure, we will continue to disseminate about the information of Japan and Myanmar for building our strong bond.</p>