

JENESYS2018 ASEAN Outbound 5th Batch Program Report

Theme: Japanese Culture Exchange (Lao People's Democratic Republic)

1. Program Overview

Under the “JENESYS2018” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 18 Japanese high school students and supervisors visited Lao PDR from December 18 to December 26, 2018 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 Lao PDR, Lao people, culture and lifestyle through the meeting with government officials, observation of Japanese company, Japan’s ODA site and JOCV activity site, school exchange, home-visit experience and city tour. During the school exchange program, they cultivated the friendship between Japan and Lao 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 Lao PDR and the action plans to be implemented after returning to Japan for government officials and local residents.

【School Names and Number of Participants】 Isahaya High School 18

【Outline of presentation】 Japanese Subculture, School Life and Education in Japan, Nagasaki Overview, Special feature on Specialty and Events in each season


2. Program Schedule

Dec.18 (Tue)	【Orientation】 Departure From Fukuoka International Airport Arrival at Vientian International Airport (Lao PDR)
Dec.19 (Wed)	【Courtesy call】 Embassy of Japan in Lao PDR 【Courtesy call】 Lao Youth Union 【Observation・Lecture】 Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA) Laos Office 【Observation of JOCV’s activity site】 Lao Youth Union
Dec.20 (Thu)	【School Exchange ①】 Chao Anouvong Secondary School 【Cultural Observation】 Vientian city
Dec.21 (Fri)	【School Exchange ②】 Phonesavanh Secondary School 【Home-visit】 in Vientian city

Dec.22 (Sat)	【Home-visit】
Dec.23 (Sun)	【Cultural Experience】 Monk's begging, Houey Hong Vocational Training Center 【Cultural Observation】 Thongkhankham Market, 【Observation】 COPE Visitor Centre
Dec.24 (Mon)	【Observation of ODA site】 IV-JAPAN, Asian Development with the Disabled Persons (ADDP) 【Workshop (Preparation for the Presentation session)】
Dec.25 (Tue)	【Reporting Session】 , 【Farewell Party】 Departure from Laos
Dec.26 (Wed)	Arrival in Japan

3. Program Photos

	
Dec.19 【Courtesy call】 Embassy of Japan in Laos	Dec.19 【Courtesy call】 Lao Youth Union
	
Dec.19 【Observation・Lecture】 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Laos Office	Dec.19 【Observation of JOCV's activity site】 Lao Youth Union
	
Dec.20 【School Exchange①】 Chao Anouvong Secondary School	Dec.21 【School Exchange②】 Phonesavanh Secondary School

	
<p>Dec.23 【Cultural Experience】 Houey Hong Vocational Training Center</p>	<p>Dec.23 【Cultural Experience】 COPE Visitor Centre</p>
	
<p>Dec.23 【Cultural Observation】 Thongkhankham Market</p>	<p>Dec.22 【Home-visit】</p>
	
<p>Dec.24 【Observation of ODA site】 Asian Development with the Disabled Persons (ADDP)</p>	<p>Dec.24 【Observation of ODA site】 IV-JAPAN</p>
	
<p>Dec.25 【Reporting Session】</p>	

4. Voice from Participants

◆ **Student** (Isahaya High School)

My first impression on my arrival in Wattay International Airport was that Laos likes Japan hanging Japanese flags, signs, and ramen noodle shops, sushi restaurants and of course Japanese culture are ubiquitous. We visited the embassy of Japan and JICA office, where we learned that Japan has been providing demand-driven support to Laos and forming a strong bond. I do believe that the social bond would motivate Lao people to be very familiar with Japanese culture. This could be seen when we visited the schools. Local students know simple Japanese words such as *Konnichiwa* or *Hajimemashite*. And even some students showed me some photos of their practicing Aikido or Japanese classes they take. What I was amazed the most was that some said their dreams are to study in Japan in the future. I was inspired by their hardworking to try to win scholarship. Their attitude gave me a new perspective.

◆ **Student** (Isahaya High School)

This program widened my perception of Japan realizing that our country is amazing. I'd never appreciated the luxury of access to a bunch of books in the library in Japan or thoughtfulness extended to the hearing-impaired by audible signal appliances. To boot had I not realized that Japan is one of the biggest ODA donors to Laos before I was chosen to participate in this program. Now I feel I am responsible for letting as many people as possible to know these facts as well as paying even more attention to the ODA projects practical for the people of Laos regardless of physical challenges.

◆ **Student** (Isahaya High School)

Laos and Japan have a greater bearing than I thought. Right after I set foot on its land, we saw JICA support memorial stones at the airport and learnt that Lao students are so big fans of Japan. The experience in this program gave me a new perspective to see Japan. For example, how to support Laos people, such as JICA's projects in Laos. By actually visiting the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, I was impressed by the non-unilateral support that was close to the local people. Secondly what I learned over there is a warm personality of Lao students. There is much in common between Lao and Japanese students. However differences are they have more pride in their country and they are instilled a passion for learning. When we asked them about Laos, they would elaborate on that. On the other hand when I was asked what we were proud of about Japan I could not answer well even we studied about Japan before this visit to Laos. The question still lingered in my mind. It was a discovery that cannot be obtained in Japan.

◆ **Student** (Isahaya High School)

It was very nice that we met with a lot of students when we visited the schools. Not only meeting new people, but we've still kept in touch with many of them even after we returned. Social media allows us to follow each other knowing what is going on in respective countries.

5. Voice from the local people

◆ Student (Phonesavanh Secondary School)

I was happy to have discussed many topics with the Japanese students and learned a lot about not only Japanese culture but also our own one. I was impressed by Japanese good mentality, exemplary disciplines. If any further opportunity, I'd love to participated in this kind of program.



◆ Teacher (Phonesavanh Secondary School)

I am very grateful that we had an opportunity for cultural exchange between the youth of Laos and Japan. This opportunity allowed the Lao youth to deepen their understanding on Japan, its culture, food, education and their way of learning. The youth will be keep in touch with one another by any means such as emails. Hopefully they will be playing a role of the bridge between the two nations bringing prosperity of the countries.






◆ Student (Chao Anouvong Secondary School)

This program gave me deeper understanding on Japanese culture, food, mentality and their way of living. Those are very intriguing. If possible, I'd like to visit Japan in the future to see their beautiful country on my own eyes. I've had a huge affection for Japan and visiting Japan is one of my dreams. Just like the students I also love to introduce our culture expediting even more exchanges.

6. Dissemination by participants

 <p>現地学生とダンス交流 通訳生は「通訳の心」と題して、言葉の壁を越え、お互いの文化を伝え合いました。</p> <p>現地学生とダンス交流 Phonesavanh Secondary School</p> <p>現地学生とダンス交流 Phonesavanh Secondary School</p> <p>現地学生とダンス交流 Phonesavanh Secondary School</p> <p>現地学生との座談会 Phonesavanh Secondary School</p> <p>現地学生との座談会 Phonesavanh Secondary School</p> <p>現地学生との座談会 Phonesavanh Secondary School</p> <p>JENESYSラオス研修 (3日目)</p> <p>JENESYS</p>	 <p>投稿</p> <p>「いいね!」 43件</p> <p>miya_miyas I visited Phonesavanh Secondary School. We were welcomed and showed traditional dances and a presentation in #laos. I had a good time. I'll never forget today. Thank you for welcoming us. #ラオス #Jenesys2018 #bestfriend #Japan #highschool #日本</p>
Daily Findings and Report of Activity (school website)	Reporting on school exchange program (participant's Social Media page)

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

<p>1. School Newspaper</p> <p>To 1200 students in our school !!</p>		<p>2. Laos special campaign week</p> 
<p>1. Newspaper</p> 		<p>2. SNS</p> 

1. Making and Distributing of our school newsletter

We make a newsletter to distribute among all the students, their parents, teachers and staff and poster it with adequate visibility. It will contain our experience in Laos and attractive features of Japanese culture, its diversity and how we pass the wish for peace from our grandparents, which we realized through this program.

2. Holding the 'Laos Week' event

We held an event called 'Laos Week', in order for the other students to learn Lao culture and the relations between Laos and Japan. We exhibit our photos taken during the program in Laos and show the movies as well. We make this opportunity not only to introduce Lao culture but also to think about Japanese culture and tradition as well.

3. Posting on the local newspaper

We would like to use our courtesy call to Isahaya City Maier after returning to Japan for an occasion to appeal the local media especially Nagasaki Shinbun, one of the most prominent local newspapers in Nagasaki. In an article, we introduce this program to Laos, what we realized through our experience and the attractive features of Japanese culture, which we haven't noticed before.

4. Use of Social Media and Dissemination about Japan and Lao PDR

We are going to make our group account and make it use of for sharing information with more expanded community on a long term basis. We would like to let the students know this account on the school newspaper.