

Program Report: JENESYS2019 Inbound Program for ASEAN Youths (1st Batch)

(Country: Cambodia, Theme: Multiparty Democracy in Japan)

1. Overview of the Program

As part of JENESYS2019, ten young politics oriented Cambodians visited Japan for nine days from July 17 to 25. Under the theme of “Multiparty Democracy in Japan”, the group attended a lecture by an expert and visited law-making, administrative and judicial organs in Tokyo. Afterwards, they visited a board of elections in Yamagata prefecture to see the actual practices of voting and vote counting for the House of Councilors election. The group also learned Japanese history at Yonezawa City Uesugi Museum and deepened their understanding about Japan through a tea ceremony experience, etc. in Asakusa. It is desired that, through this program, the young politics-oriented Cambodians who will lead the future of Cambodia enriched their knowledge of multiparty democracy in Japan and will take it as reference for the democratic development of their own country.

2. Itinerary

Wed July 17	Arrival at Narita International Airport, orientation meeting, lecture by an expert (Chihiro Okawa, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law Department of Law, Kanagawa University), and meeting with Japanese involved in Cambodia Peace Process (Mr. Yasushi Akashi, former Chief of Mission of UNTAC)
Thu July 18	Visits to the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court, and Meeting with the Japan-Cambodia Parliamentary Friendship Association and in Tokyo
Fri July 19 - Sun July 21	Visit to Yamagata prefecture Briefing from the election administration commissions of Kawanishi Town and observation of election campaign, early voting, voting and vote-counting operations in Yamagata for House of Councilors election, etc.
Mon July 22	Travel to Tokyo, Tea ceremony experience in Asakusa, etc.
Tue July 23	Visit to TEPIA Advanced Technology Gallery, meeting with Japanese media, etc.
Wed July 24	Courtesy call on Foreign Minister Kono, workshop, report session, etc.
Thu July 25	Leaving Narita Airport

3. Photos of the Program

	
<p>July 17 Orientation</p>	<p>July 17 [Lecture] Chihiro Okawa, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law Department of Law, Kanagawa University)</p>
	
<p>July 18 [Visit] House of Representatives</p>	<p>July 18 [Visit] Diet Building</p>
	
<p>July 18 [Visit] Japan-Cambodia Parliamentarian Association</p>	<p>July 18 [Visit] Supreme Court</p>



July 19 [Observation]
Street speech



July 20 [Briefing]
Kawanishi Town Board of Elections



July 20 [Observation]
Advance polling place in Kawanishi town




July 21 [Observation]
Voting and vote counting for House of
Councilors election



July 22 [Experience]
Tea ceremony in Asakusa



July 24 [Courtesy visit]
Foreign Minister Kono

	
<p style="text-align: center;">July 24 Report meeting</p>	

4. Comments from the Participants (Extract)

- ◆ During the program, I was most impressed with the patriotic spirit, compliance, sense of unity, diligence and sense of responsibility of the Japanese people.
As for democracy, I was also impressed with the single-member constituency system, the proportional representation system, fair and equitable campaign activities, politicians not able to exert influence on the media or the judiciary, the ruling party and opposition parties working together for the country and the government sincerely responding to the media and the general public.
The public can express their opinions to the government without worry and can monitor the government's activities.

- ◆ Through this program, I learned some points that will be very useful to Cambodia, such as constitutional democracy in Japan, guaranteed rights to free speech and division of roles between the ruling party and opposition parties for the development of the country. Specifically, I learned useful points in such areas as infrastructure development, Japan's economy, environment, industry, agriculture, construction and human rights. Moreover, the election system, the vote counting system and election campaigns are highly transparent, with accuracy, fairness and equitability being secured. I felt that Japan really is a law-governed state.

- ◆ For the past week, I have gained a lot of experiences and knowledge about Japan's politics, democracy and society. What I can do is to spread the information and knowledge I have gained in this week-long training to other people.
Finally, I would like to thank the Japanese government for giving us the opportunity to learn about politics. I will keep this in mind for the rest of my life.

5. External Communication from the Participants

<p>Communication about the meeting with Yasushi Akashi, former Chief of Mission of UNTAC and the peacebuilding process in Cambodia</p>	<p>Communication about vote counting for House of Councilors election</p>

6. Presentation of a Plan for the Actions to Take after Returning to Cambodia (Extract)

- Use the experience obtained in Japan for such activities as implementation of elections, establishment of election campaign offices and election campaigns.
- Share the information about democracy, elections, media reports, analysis and discussion on common interests, campaign activities (single-member constituency system and proportional representation), environment, culture, technologies and economy with others.
- Share the knowledge obtained in Japan (about democracy, justice system and election system) with people in Cambodia.
- Share the knowledge about Japanese democracy and culture with young people in Cambodia.
- Share the information about environmental issues, social order, culture, etc. with people in Cambodia and solve problems for the public together with the government.