

JENESYS2018 ASEAN Inbound Program 21st Batch Program Report History and Culture Exchange, Country: Philippines

1. Program Overview

17 young diplomats, administrative officials, researchers visited Japan from February 5th to February 12th, 2019 under the scheme of “Japan's Friendship Ties Program JENESYS2018” and participated in the program with the theme of “History and Culture Exchange”.

After attending the lecture and observing the national diet in Tokyo, the delegation visited Osaka and Kyoto prefecture. They respectively made courtesy call to the local governments, visited them-related sites, historical landmarks, and interacted and exchanged opinions with theme-related people. They also had opportunities to have homestay and cultural experience. Their understandings of Japan have been enriched through the observations and cultural experiences, and they shared their individual interests and experiences via Social Media. Based upon their findings and learning in Japan, they made a presentation in the final session and reported on the action plans to be taken after returning to their home countries.

【Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants】 Philippines 17

【Prefectures Visited】 Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto

2. Program Schedule

- Feb.5 (Tue) Arrival in Japan, **【Orientation】**
- Feb.6 (Wed) **【Keynote Lecture】** , **【Opinion Exchange with lunch】**
Prof. Mamoru TSUDA, Nagoya University of Foreign Studies
【Observation of Theme-related site】 Hibiya Park (Monument of Dr. Jose Rizal, Monument of honor for H.E.Elpidio QUIRINO)
【Observation】 National Diet Building(House of Representatives),Daiba
- Feb.7 (Thu) Move to Kyoto from Tokyo
【Cultural Experience】 Zazen (Shourinji temple)
- Feb.8 (Fri) **【Courtesy Call】** Mayor of Takatsuki City
【Lecture on the Region】 Takatsuki City
【Observation of Theme-related site】 Places associated with Dom Justo Takayama
- Feb.9 (Sat) **【Cultural Experience】** Chakabuki,tea-tasting (Wazuka town)
【Homestay】 Wazuka town, Soraku District, Kyoto
- Feb.10 (Sun) **【Cultural Observation】** Fushimi Inari Taisha shrine
【Workshop】
- Feb.11 (Mon) Return to Tokyo

【Observation】 Observation (Ikebukuro Life Safety Learning Center)
【Observation of Cutting-Edge Technology】 Tokyo Sky Tree
 Feb.12 (Tue) **【Reporting Session】** , **【Observation of Japanese Culture】** Sensoji temple, Asakusa, Departure

3. Program Photos

	
<p>Feb.6 【Keynote Lecture】</p>	<p>Feb.6 【Observation】 National Diet Building (House of Representatives)</p>
	
<p>Feb.7 【Cultural Experience】 Zazen (Shourinji temple)</p>	<p>Feb.8 【Courtesy Call】 Mayor of Takatsuki City</p>
	
<p>Feb.9 【Cultural Experience】 Chakabuki,tea-tasting (Wazuka town)</p>	<p>Feb.9 to 10 【Homestay】 Wazuka town</p>
	
<p>Feb.10 【Cultural Observation】 Fushimi Inari Taisha shrine</p>	<p>Feb.12 【Reporting Session】</p>

4. Voice from Participants

Official

Lecture of Prof. Tsuda – This is significant because we learned a lot about his interactions with my fellow Filipino. He also gave us his insight on how the Japan-Philippines relations started and its continuing strength. Visit to Hibiya Park – Two monuments of known Filipino (Dr. Jose Rizal and H.E. Elpidio Quirino) are located there. It is a manifestation of close ties between the two countries. And we are thankful to the Japanese honoring them. Takatsuki City Visit – Since it is the sister city of Manila, it is just very appropriate for us to visit this place where we can trace back the roots of two cities sisterhood. We learned about the continuing support of each other cities and their commitment with each other. Homestay – This is the part where we have the chance to interact with people closely and stay at their home. We learned how disciplined they are and how warm they receive guests. Their simple life is very admirable and their family traditions are very intact and still practiced until today. Kimono wearing – It is a memorable experience for me since it is my first time to do so. In this experience, you can see the culture manifested and the discipline since it is hard to wear the kimono. The patience of the person helping to put it on is very commendable. And the art in the kimono itself is very beautiful.

Official

For the lecture, I'm really impressed on the thoughts and lessons provided by Prof. Tsuda. He, as an expert of Japan – Philippines relations, provided clear and meaningful insights and overview on his topic. To visit the National Diet of Japan is a privilege for me. This provided of a deeper understanding of Japan's government and business organizations. I also like the visits to the city of Takatsukki and Wazuka Town where we get an insight on now the local governments and social structures operated. I'm impressed on the sense of pride of these cities and their strategies to promote their local cities. For the homestay, I was able to see how the daily lives of common Japanese family goes on. I'm happy to visit and experience the tourist spots in Japan where we think are the main attractions of Japan. I like the balance of the experience of understanding the religions of Japan: Christianity (through Takayama Ukon), Shintoism, and Buddhism. I also like the foods that were given to us. The authenticity of Japanese culture was reflected on these foods.

Official

Regarding Lecture, I felt honored to know that Prof. Tsuda was feeling enamored by the culture and history of the Philippines as a way to learn more about Japan because of the similarity and history we shared. Regarding Shorinji Temple and Gion area, I was amazed that until now, Japan was able to preserve its tradition and culture that helped shape the country today. The National Diet Building was an impressive structure that mirrors Japanese government's sturdy and reputable foundation. Visiting the sister city of Manila, Takatsuki City officials made me realize that the bond between these two cities is one-of-a-kind. Host family were welcoming and willing to share their culture with us.

