

JENESYS2020 Japan-ASEAN, Timor-Leste Online Exchange (Reconstruction of Disaster-Affected Areas, Japanese Culture) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】

This program was conducted with the main objective of promoting goodwill between Japan and participating countries and contributing to the dispelling of any reputational damage by having undergraduate and graduate students from ASEAN member states and Timor-Leste, learn about the reconstruction efforts taken after the Great East Japan Earthquake, and experience Japan from various perspectives.

【Participants】 Undergraduate and graduate students from ASEAN 10 countries and Timor-Leste

Total: 90 participants

*ASEAN 10 countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam

【Locations】

Tokyo, Fukushima Pref., Miyagi Pref., Iwate Pref., Okinawa Pref., Yamanashi Pref., Nagasaki Pref.

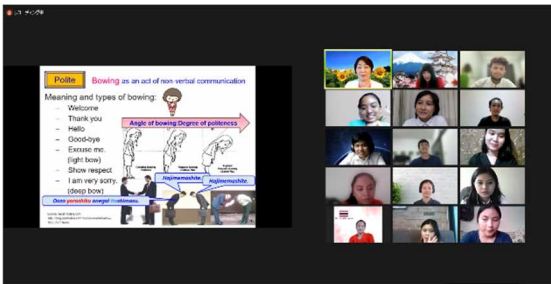



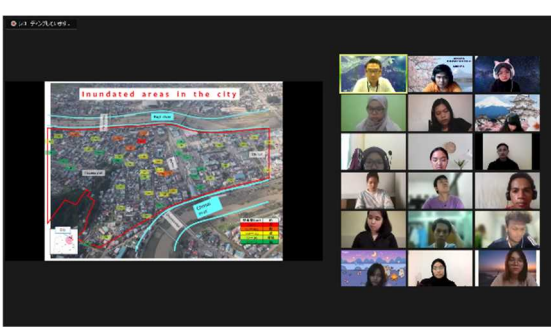
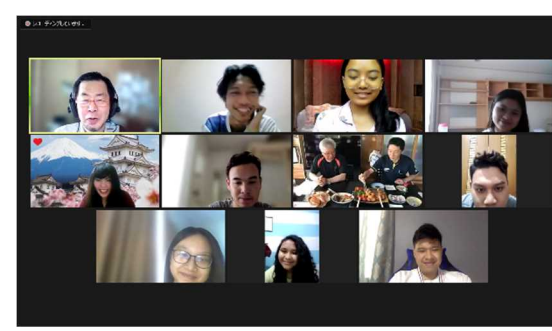
2. 【Program Schedule】



Date Location	Program contents	Participants' questions and reactions
Jul. 29, 2021 Tokyo	<p>【Orientation, Ice Breaker】</p> <p>【Webinar, Q&A】</p> <p>Lecture on Japan “Japanese Society and Culture” Lecturer: Ms. Hisami Andrade A Former Associate Professor at Yokohama National University</p>	<p>Participants actively exchanged opinions with on their expectations for the program and their respective roles. They actively used the Japanese greetings and expressions they learned in the lecture. Many questions were asked, and their interests in Japan seemed to have increased.</p>
Jul. 30, 2021 Fukushi ma Pref.	<p>【Webinar, Exchange of Opinions】</p> <p>“The situation and reconstruction efforts from the day of the Great East Japan Earthquake to the present” Lecturer: Mr. William D.Y McMichael, Deputy Director, Fukushima University International Center</p>	<p>Participants asked many questions in regards to the current situation of reconstruction, such as “What is life currently like for the approximately 35,000 evacuees?”</p>

<p>Aug. 3, 2021 Miyagi Pref.</p>	<p>【Courtesy Call】 Location: Minamisanriku Town, Miyagi Prefecture</p> <p>① Overview of the local region -Local characteristics, charms -Towards reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake</p> <p>② Q&A</p>	<p>There were questions such as, "How long did it take to restore electricity and water after the earthquake?", "In my country, there are many elderly people who would not evacuate in a disaster, even if they were instructed to do so by the government. Are people forced to evacuate in Japan?", and "Were services to relieve mental stress at evacuation centers provided?"</p>
<p>Aug. 4, 2021 Miyagi Pref.</p>	<p>【Home Visit】 (Conducted in groups: A to E) Location: Minamisanriku Town, Miyagi Prefecture</p>	<p>The participants learned of the experiences of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and the daily disaster prevention measures taken by a Japanese family, raising the participants' awareness of disaster prevention. The participants also expressed interest in traditional Japanese culture, including Japanese-style rooms and kimono.</p> <p>In addition to questions such as "How were you able to move forward after having experienced such loss from the earthquake?" and "Indonesia also falls victim to tsunamis, but what measures should we take?", there were comments such as, "When I visit Japan, I definitely want to meet everyone."</p>
<p>Aug. 5, 2021 Iwate Pref.</p>	<p>【Courtesy Call】 Location: Kuji City, Iwate Prefecture</p> <p>① Overview of the local region -Local characteristics (tourist attractions, etc.) -Natural disasters and disaster prevention education</p> <p>② Q&A</p>	<p>There were questions such as "The Philippines is also a country susceptible to typhoon damage, but how long did it take to restore electricity and water when there was storm and flood damage in Kuji City?"</p>
<p>Aug. 6, 2021 Iwate Pref.</p>	<p>【Home Visit】 (Conducted in groups: F to J) Location: Kuji City, Iwate Prefecture</p>	<p>Participants got close to their host families through self-introductions, talks about their hobbies, cooking demonstrations using local ingredients, virtual house tours, and folding</p>

		origami together. At the end of the event, the participants handed thank-you messages to their host families, and promised to meet each other once COVID-19 has settled.
Aug. 10, 2021 Okinawa Pref.	【Japanese Culture Experience】 Karate Practice Location: Okinawa Karate Kaikan	There were many questions about the gold medalists Ryo Kiyuna, how the instructors began karate, the differences between karate and taekwondo, etc.
Aug. 13, 2021 Yamanashi Pref.	【Japanese Culture Observation】 Washi and Shoji Paper Factory Location: Kincho Tokushu Paper Co., Ltd.	There were questions related to the traditional and environmental protection aspects, such as "Is washi paper produced in a method that has not changed for many years?", "Are there any companies other than this one that make washi paper?", and "Is washi paper recycled?"
Aug. 19, 2021 Nagasaki Pref.	【School Exchange】 Location: Nagasaki University ① University overview, introduction the history of Nagasaki ② Q&A/Exchange session	Participants actively talked about the current situations in each country with the spread of COVID-19 and ideas on how the youth can overcome this predicament.
Aug. 20, 2021 Fukushima Pref.	【Company Visit】 Location: GRA Inc., Agricultural Production Corporation ① Company overview, explanation on the current situation of reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake ② Virtual field inspection	Participants expressed great interest in the history of the company's establishment and business development, as well as the strawberry cultivation. Many questions were asked, such as about the time and costs necessary to set up the greenhouses, the method of managing humidity and temperature, and the current situation in regards to exports overseas.
Aug. 25, 2021 Tokyo	【Reporting Session】 ① Report on the outcomes of the online exchange (10 days) ② Theme based video creations (theme examples: "The charms of Japan I learned" "COVID-19 A message of support (in hopes of resuming face to face exchange)", etc.)	The participants shared what they learned through the program in regards to earthquake disasters and reconstruction activities, as well as what they want to do /where they want to visit in Japan, the activities they want to do, and their hopes for the future.

3. Record Photos

	
<p>Jul. 29, 2021 【Webinar】 Learning about Japanese culture/manners</p>	<p>Jul. 30, 2021 【Webinar】 Fervently listening to the lecture on the reconstruction efforts after the Great East Japan Earthquake</p>
	
<p>Aug. 3, 2021 【Courtesy Call on Minamisanriku Town, Miyagi Pref.】 Learning about the government response immediately after the earthquake</p>	<p>Aug. 4, 2021 【Home Visit in Minamisanriku Town】 Learning about Kimono from the host family</p>
	
<p>Aug. 5, 2021 【Courtesy Call on Kuji City, Iwate Pref.】 Hearing about typhoon disasters and inundated areas</p>	<p>Aug. 6, 2021 【Home Visit in Kuji City】 Participants looking enviously at homemade Japanese dishes</p>

	
<p>Aug. 10, 2021 【Karate Experience】</p>	<p>Aug. 13, 2021 【Japanese Culture/Washi Paper Factory Visit】</p>
	
<p>Aug. 19, 2021 【Exchange with Nagasaki University Students】</p>	<p>Aug. 20, 2021 【Visit to GRA Inc.】</p>
	
<p>Aug. 25, 2021 【Presentation at the Report Session】</p>	<p>Aug. 25, 2021 【Presentation at the Report Session】</p>

4. Voices from Participants (excerpt)

◆ **Undergraduate student (Myanmar)**

It is really amazing and effective for me. This is going to be a thing I'm proud of. I knew many more interesting things about Japan which caught my attention to love Japan. I met numerous amazing and wonderful friends and made memories with them. Now, I'm strongly into studying in Japan.

◆ **Undergraduate student (Indonesia)**

It is a very valuable opportunity to be able to join the program this time, although this year it was done

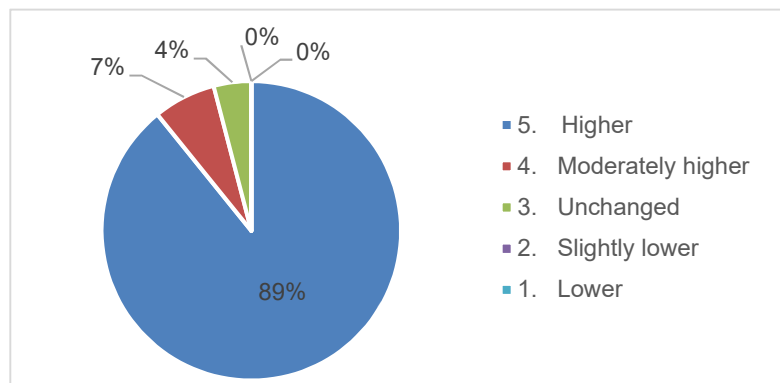
online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the impression I got was very positive. My knowledge about Japan became more profound. Many positive things obtained. With a virtual home visit with the host family, we can get to know their character, lifestyle, habits, and of course we also get a new family. Also, I'm very impressed with Japan's technological and economic progress.

◆ **Undergraduate student (The Philippines)**

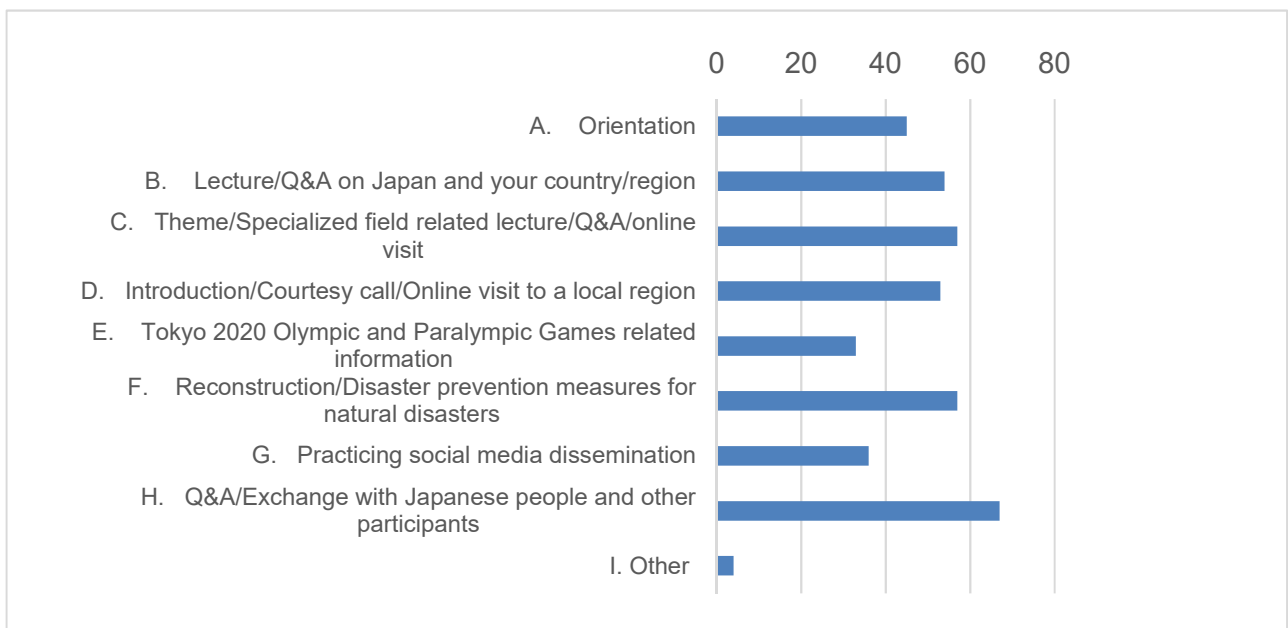
I love how the 10-day program tackled Japanese culture and society. In addition, I was so thankful to hear the stories of the resiliency of Japanese people (never giving in to earthquakes and disasters), which is truly admirable and such an inspiration. I enjoyed interacting with the host, lecturers, and with my groupmates from other countries.

◆ **Questionnaire Survey Answers (excerpt)**

(1) After your participation in the online-exchange program, did your expectations to visit Japan become higher?



(2) Which component of the online-pre-exchange program left a strong impression on you?
(Select all that apply)



5. Voices from Japanese Locals (excerpt)

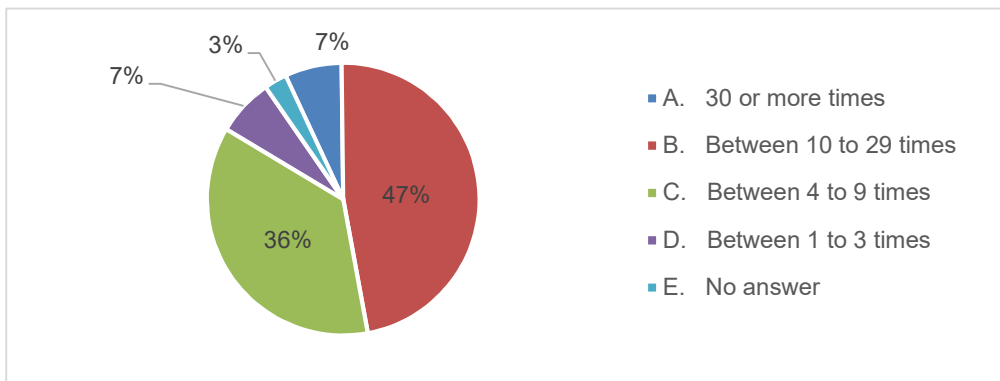
◆ Lecturer, Nagasaki University

I'm glad I was able to see how the participants were doing during the exchange session before the lecture. Setting up a time to interact is not only beneficial to the lecturers, but also creates unity among the participants once they understand that "they are among friends". Some participants could speak more English than others, but it was good to see that despite their abilities, many of the participants were actively speaking. I hope students in Japan become more active like them.

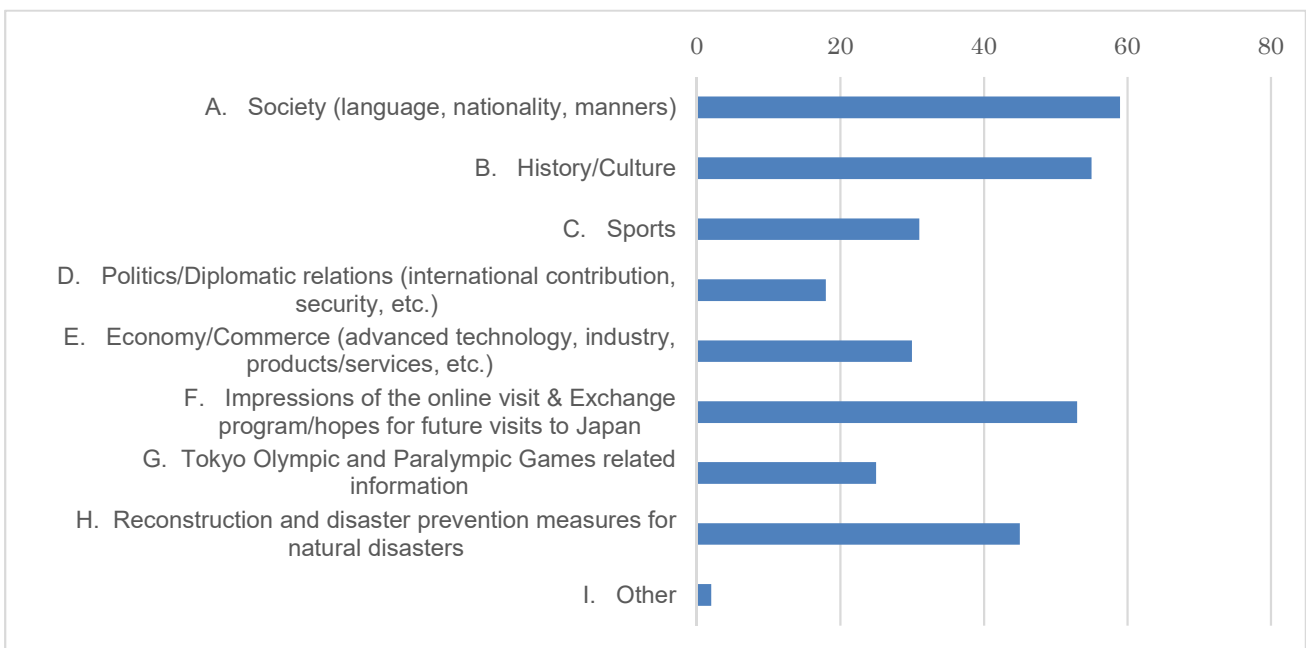
6. Dissemination by the participants

◆ Questionnaire Survey Answers (excerpt)

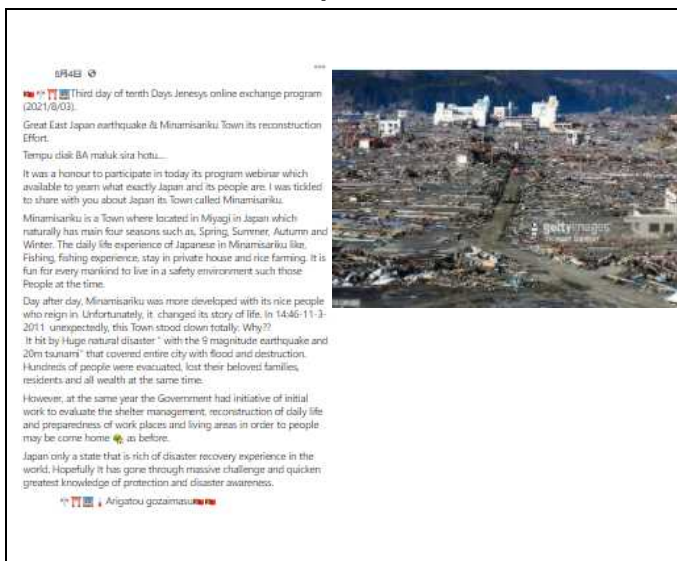
(1) Please specify the exact number of times you shared your impression on the participation of the online-exchange program, characteristics of Japan and Japan's current situation through social media during the online exchange program.



(2) If you shared your experiences on social media, what was it about.(Select all that apply)



◆ Dissemination examples



Aug. 4, 2021 (Facebook)

【Minamisanriku Town, Miyagi Pref. and the road so far】

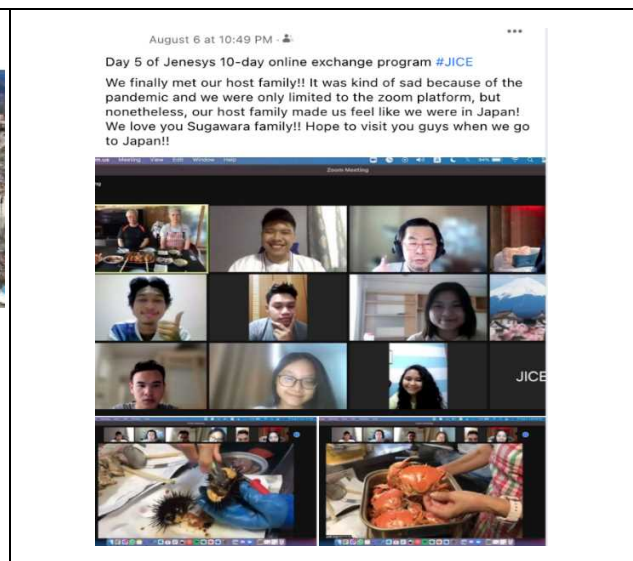
Minamisanriku is a Town located in Miyagi in Japan which naturally has main four seasons such as, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. The daily life experience of Japanese in Minamisanriku like, Fishing, fishing experience stay in private house and rice farming. It is fun for every mankind to live in a safety environments such those People at the time.

Day after day, Minamisanriku was more developed with its nice people who reign in.

It hit by Huge natural disaster "with the 9 magnitude earthquake and 20m tsunami" that covered entire city with flood and destruction Hundreds of people were evacuated, lost their beloved families, residents and all wealth at the same time.

However, the Government had initiative of initial work to evaluate the shelter management, reconstruction of daily life and preparedness of work places and living in order to people may be come home as before.

Japan only a state that is rich of disaster recovery experience in the world.



Aug. 6, 2021 (Facebook)

【Home Visit】

Day 5 of Jenesys 10-day online exchange program.

We finally met our host family!! It was kind of sad because of the pandemic and we were only limited to the zoom platform, but nonetheless, our host family made us feel like we were in Japan! Hope to visit our host family when we go to Japan!!

Today's session I had a very good discussion with friends from Group F and also from Nagasaki University. To begin with, we are presented about various aspects of Nagasaki University and also the historical experience of Nagasaki after the atomic bombing and the aftermath of the damage. It is a truth that there is no such thing as a perfect rehabilitation. Japan has done its best not only in terms of physical (infrastructure, buildings) but also psychological problems faced by society after that.

In the next part we had breakout room to have discussion and we agreed to discuss on the topic what we should do as youth to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic in our own country/region. From this topic I know how conditions are in many countries but basically we as ASIA countries have similarities in the problems we face. Many countries struggle to get vaccines because of political problems in their country, Hoax or any form of misinformation. We all agree that the role of youth is very crucial in dealing with this pandemic situation. We as a generation that can receive extensive and educated information must educate not only ourselves but the community around us about this global pandemic, how vaccines can help us, how important global cooperation is and how important it is to tackle the hoaxes that are currently being faced.

Just now · 🌐

DAY 9 || Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths Online Exchange Program

Today is the ninth day of lectures for our JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths Online Exchange Program) online exchange program. We had a lecture and a virtual tour on a strawberry farm of the General Reconstruction Association Inc.. The GRA was established to create jobs and bring back people to the Yamamoto town. I was amazed by the technology utilized in the greenhouses of the company. Someday I wish to visit their farm and pick some strawberries.

Aug. 19, 2021 (Facebook)

【School Exchange with Nagasaki University】

To begin with, we are presented about various aspects of Nagasaki University and also the historical experience of Nagasaki after the atomic bombing and the aftermath of the damage.

We discussed what we should do as youth to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic in our own country/region, and learned about the conditions of other countries. We all agree that the role of youth is very crucial in dealing with this pandemic situation.

We as a generation that can receive extensive and educated information must educate not only ourselves but the community around us about this global pandemic, how vaccines can help us, how important global cooperation is and how important it is to tackle the hoaxes that are currently being faced.

Aug. 20, 2021 (Facebook)

【Visit to GRA Inc.】

Today is the ninth day of lectures for our JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths Online Exchange Program) online exchange program. We had a lecture and a virtual tour on a strawberry farm of the General Reconstruction Association Inc.. The GRA was established to create jobs and bring back people to the Yamamoto town. I was amazed by the technology utilized in the greenhouses of the company. Someday I wish to visit their farm and pick same strawberries.

7. Report Session Records

<p>Group A</p> 	<p>Group F</p> 	<p>◆ Participant Presentations (Excerpt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I learned how far reconstructions have progressed in Japan since the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. - Disasters can occur anywhere in the world, and I felt that what is important in such situations is how the people can come together in support. <u>I hope to share the mentality of “helping one another”.</u> - During the talks on COVID-19 with the students from Nagasaki University, I recognized how the issues that face the world are common to us all, and that <u>the young generation are pivotal to reconstruction efforts.</u>
<p>Group B</p> 	<p>Group G</p> 	
<p>Group C</p> 	<p>Group H</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We learned that in Japan there exists topnotch technology (the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework based on renewable energy, etc.) and disaster prevention measures. - There were 24 social media posts made during the program, with 108 followers and over 530 Likes.
<p>Group D</p> 	<p>Group I</p> 	
<p>Group E</p> 	<p>Group J</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I want to take home what we have learned, and <u>support the future relationships between Japan and ASEAN/Timor-Leste.</u> - I want to visit Fukushima, Miyagi, and Iwate in Japan myself, to see how reconstruction in the disaster affected areas have progressed. I want to learn the Japanese language. I want to go and visit the Yoshida-san family we met during the home visit experience. I want to see the Nagasaki University students again.

Implementation agency : Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)