# **JENESYS**

## JENESYS2021 Japan-Laos Online Exchange (Japanese Martial Arts) Report

## 1. Program Overview

[Objective] This program was conducted with the main objective of having Lao youths build friendly relations through exchanges with Japanese martial artists, promoting further understanding of the spirit of Japanese martial arts and Japanese culture, and encouraging the development of Lao martial artists and the dissemination of Japanese culture.

[Participants] Total: 43 high school students, undergraduate students, graduate students, and working youth from Lao PDR

[Location] Tokyo, Okayama Pref., Gifu Pref., Aichi Pref.

## [Program Schedule]

Date Location	Program Contents	Participants' questions and reactions	
Number of participants for the following 2 days: 38			
November	[Webinar, Q&A Session]	The participants were quite fluent in	
16, 2021	"The history and appeal of Japanese	Japanese, and directly asked questions,	
Tokyo	Budo"	such as why Japanese youth choose	
TOKYO		, ,	
	Lecturer: Mr. YOSHIKAWA Hideo, Trustee,	Budo (martial arts) out of many sports, the	
	Secretary-General, Nippon Budokan	meaning and differences of the colors of	
	1. Lecture	judo belts, and how Budo is connected to	
	2 . Q&A session	Japanese history.	
December	[School Exchange]	The Judo club showed their usual training	
18, 2021	Okayama Prefectural Tamanokonan High	routine. The Lao participants looked very	
Tamano	School Judo club 26 participants	interested in seeing the techniques and	
City,	1. Opening, JENESYS Overview	training content through their screens.	
Okayama	2. Greetings from students from both	During the group exchanges, the	
Pref.	countries	participants deepened their	
	3. Presentation by Japan	understanding of each other in a friendly	
	4. Group exchanges	environment, quizzing each other using	
	5. Comments from each group	slides and asking questions about judo.	
	6. Group photo	Some of the participants actually	
	7. Social media and questionnaire request,	demonstrated their signature moves.	
	Closing	Participants commented that they would	

		like to practice together when COVID-19
		comes to an end.
Number of p	participants during the following 6 days: 5 (Jo	intly with other programs)
March 2~,	【Video Viewing】	To foster better understanding of Japan,
20200	1. Welcome address	participants watched a video about Japan
	2. The Host Town Initiative	and the program before they participated
	3. Virtual home visit	in the main program.
March 9,	[Orientation] [Webinar, Q&A Session]	It being the first day, and being the first
2022	1. Orientation	time they all met, the participants seemed
Tokyo	2. Japanese language lesson (beginner)	nervous during the orientation. They
	JICE Japanese language teachers	listened attentively to the explanation of
		their roles and missions in the program.
		Japanese language lessons were
		conducted in small groups, and the
		participants were fully engaged and
		seemed to truly enjoy the lessons.
March 10,	【Budo Experience, Webinar, Q&A	Judo and kendo are well known in
2022	Session]	Cambodia, but many participants had no
Ogaki	1. Lecture	knowledge of laido. Many of the
City, Gifu	"Lecture on laido:"	participants said that they were able to
Pref.	Lecturer: Gifu World Youth	gain new knowledge about Japanese
	- Mr. KATO Haruhiko,	budo (martial arts). They were especially
	- Mr. TERAMACHI Yoshio,	interested in the budo spirit, which is to
	2. laido demonstration	defend oneself rather than attack, to train
	3. Q&A session	the mind and body, and to learn etiquette.
	4. Group photo	During the Q&A session, the participants
		asked questions such as "The Japanese
		swords you showed us were all curved,
		but are there any Japanese swords that
		are straight and not curved?", "How many
		years does it take to reach 5-dan or 6-
		dan?", and "Have you ever wanted to quit
		laido after practicing it for so many years?
		If you did, how did you overcome it?"
March 11,	[ Online visit and exchange with local	Many of the participants for this program
2022	government, Q&A Session]	had previous judo experience and were
City of	1. Opening remarks	interested in learning Japanese, so they
Nagoya,	2. Lecture	were very interested in Japan and asked

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Aichi Pref.	"Introduction to Nagoya City"	many questions. The main questions
	Lecturer: Mr. OTSUKA Katsuki	asked were "Can I enter the Hommaru
	Senior Coordinator for Tourism	Palace?", "What is the most popular
	Promotion, Tourism & Exchange	Nagoya meshi (local cuisine)?", "If I were
	Department Bureau of Tourism - Culture	to go sightseeing in Nagoya, how much
	& Exchange, The City of Nagoya	would I have to pay for a hotel and one
	3. Q&A session	meal?", and "I understand that the most
	4. Group photo	popular Nagoya meshi is hitsumabushi
	5. Closing	(an eel dish), but what are the standards
		for eel cultivation in Japan to maintain a
		stable production of eels?"
March 14,	[Workshop]	The participants had been preparing for
2022	1. Action plan formulation	the reporting session in advance, and
Tokyo	2. Presentation preparations for the	they reviewed and did their final checks
	reporting session	on the final draft slides. All participants
		worked together on the group action plan,
		sharing their opinions and carefully
		finalizing it.
March 15,	【Reporting Session】	Watched by the other members, the
2022	1. Opening remarks	presenter calmly gave the presentation.
Tokyo	2. Presentation review	The secretary of the Embassy of Japan in
	Mr. NISHIMURA Yuki, Third Secretary,	Lao PDR also attended the event, and
	Embassy of Japan in Lao PDR	gave a review of the presentation, which
	3. Announcement from JICE, Closing	raised the participants' awareness toward
		future activities.

# 2. Program Photos





November 16, 2021 [Webinar, Q&A Session] Lecture

November 16, 2021 [Webinar, Q&A Session] Lecture





November 16, 2021 [Webinar, Q&A Session] Q&A session

November 16, 2021 [Webinar, Q&A Session] Group photo





December 18, 2021 [School Exchange] Japan demonstrating their Judo training routine.

December 18, 2021 [ School Exchange ] Participants quizzing each other during the group exchanges



December 18, 2021 [ School Exchange ]
Comments from each group

December 18, 2021 [School Exchange] Group photo





March 9, 2022 [Orientation]

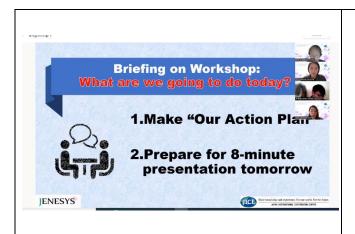
March 9, 2022 [Webinar, Q&A session] Japanese language lesson

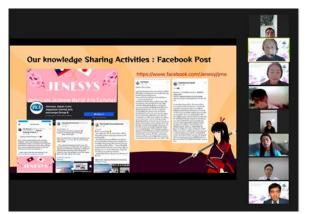




March 10, 2022 [Budo Experience]

March 11, 2022 [ Municipality Lecture, Q&A Session]





March 14, 2022 [Workshop]

March 15, 2022 [Reporting session] Presentation



March 15, 2022 【Reporting session】 Group photo

## 3. Voices from Participants (excerpt)

#### **♦** High School Student

It was an interesting program and I learned much. It gave me an opportunity to deepen my understanding of things that are not easy for the younger generation to learn. It gave us youth a chance to voluntarily learn about a new culture. I now have a better understanding of the Japanese lifestyle than I did before participating in the program. The overall implementation and arrangement of the program was great, the content was detailed, and the quality of the program was amazing.

## **♦** High School Student

It was short, but I was thrilled to be able to participate in this program. It was great to see Japanese culture and the judo of the high school students. Overall, the program was very good, but I would have liked to spend more time talking with the Japanese participants.

## **♦** Undergraduate Student

I was very excited to participate in this exchange program. If I have the chance, I would love to participate in an exchange program in Japan and learn about Japanese culture.

#### ◆ Undergraduate Student

Everyone was very friendly and cooperative. I love opportunities like this. It makes me want to go to Japan, my dream country, even more. I am now saving up to go to Japan.

## **◆** Undergraduate Student

I was very satisfied, and I believe I was able to gain more knowledge about Japan.

#### 4. Voice from Japanese Locals (excerpt)

#### **♦** Lecturer

Everyone at JICE did amazing, tending to us from the preliminary preparations to the actual event. The participants were very enthusiastic and showed a high level of interest in Japan and Japanese culture.

## **♦ School Exchange Participating Student**

I was moved by the fact that the participants from Laos did not only use the word "sugoi", but also clapped to express themselves.

## ◆ School Exchange Participating Student

It was moving to see photos of people in a country far from our own practicing Judo.

#### **♦** School Exchange Participating Students

I really enjoyed learning about various things such as the judo practice schedules and the staple foods in Laos.

#### ◆ Faculty Member from the Exchange School

I was very pleased that the students seemed to enjoy participating and showed interest in our presentation.

## 5. Dissemination by the participants





September 16, 2021 (Facebook)

I had a great time today. It was an opportunity to learn so much about the history of Japanese budo, and I was able to learn more about things I didn't know about. I was able to learn many things and ask questions directly to the Japanese instructor. I want to go to Japan.

September 17, 2021 (Facebook)

It is said that Japanese "Budo" has a long history. I think it is a sport that has an important role and meaning in Japanese society. What impressed me the most was the manners of Budo. For example, the custom of "rei," or bowing in respect for the opponent before and after a match, is very important. This is not only a way of respecting your opponent, but also a way of taking care of yourself. It is a manner that gives you a sense of Japanese tradition.

ຕີໃຈຫລາຍທີ່ໄດ້ເຂົ້າຮ່ວມ JENESYS ຍີ່ປຸ່ນ-ລາວໄປຮແກຮມແລກປ່ຽນສີລະປະການຕໍ່ສູ້ ຂອບໃຈ ທາງທີມງານອາຈານ ຈາກສະໄນສອນບູໄດວງງຈັນ ທີ່ໃຫ້ນ້ອງໄດ້ມີໂອກາດຮ່ວມງານໃນຄັ້ງນີ້ ນ້ອງ ຮູ້ສຶກຕີໃຈທີ່ໄດ້ເຫັນການສະແດງຕໍ່ສູ້ຂອງນ້ອງໆຢູ່ທາງຍີ່ປຸ່ນ ດີໃຈທີ່ໄດ້ຮູ້ຈັກກັບ ນ້ອງyuta,Ryota,marin ເຖິງເປັນຊ່ວງເວລາສັນໆພຽງ5ນາທີກໍຕານ ແຕ່ຮູ້ສຶກໄດ້ເຖິງຄວາມຫ ກຳຮັກຂອງນ້ອງນ້ອງແລະຍັງໄດ້ຮູ້ວ່າພວກນ້ອງທາງມັນໄດ້ໃຊ້ທ່າUJimata ແລະ Taiotoshi ຫວັງວ່າ ຈະມີໂອກາດໄດ້ໄປຝຶກຮ້ອມໃກ້ຊິດກັບພວກນ້ອງທາງນັ້ນ ແລະ ຖ້າສະຖານະການໂຄວິດດີຂຶ້ນກໍຍືນດີ ຕ້ອນຮັບສູ່ປະເທດລາວເດີ #jenesys\_asean #jenesys





December 18, 2021 (Facebook)

It was great to be able to participate in the JENESYS program and to see the presentation on Japanese Judo. I would like to thank the Viang chan Judo Club instructors for giving me the opportunity to participate in this event.

The group exchange was short, but I talked with Yuta, Ryota and Marin and felt as close to them as if we were brothers and sisters. They also showed me some of their signature moves, such as the uchi-mata and the taiotoshi. I hope to have a chance to practice with them someday. When the COVID-19 situation improves, I hope they will come to Laos.

December 18, 2021 (Facebook)

I enjoyed participating in the JENESYS program. I engaged in many exchanges with everyone from Japan.





March 11, 2022 (Facebook)

Hello everyone! Today I would like to share with you my experience participating in a Japanese cultural exchange program. Five members from Lao PDR participated in an online class on martial arts and culture organized by Japan, together with participants from Cambodia. There was not enough time for our members to get to know each other well, but thanks to the friendly support of our members and the JICE team, I hope to have the opportunity to work together again with everyone.

Last but not least, the project for the five of us is about to begin.

March 11, 2022 (Facebook)

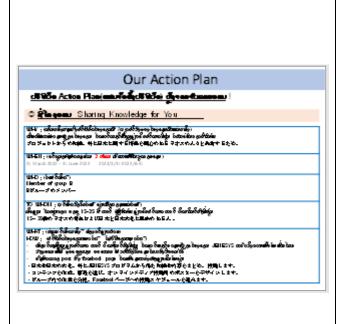
The top 5 of Nagoya City

Let's travel to Nagoya City, Aichi Pref., the birthplace of Lao PDR's most popular car, the Toyota. Here are 5 places I want to visit in Nagoya.

- 1. Nagoya Castle. Nagoya Castle was rebuilt in 1954 after the war. It is popular among foreigners and famous for its golden Shachihoko.
- 2. Hommaru Palace. This gorgeous palace offers a sense of the history and art of the Tokugawa period.
- 3. The Tokugawa Art Museum. Visitors can see and experience artifacts and historical exhibits from the Tokugawa period. Do not forget to visit this museum when you are in Nagoya.
- 4. Tokugawaen. After visiting the museum, enjoy the Japanese garden, Tokugawaen.
- 5. Osu Kannon. If you are interested in Buddhism, please visit Osu Kannon. At Osu Bunko, you can also see some of the oldest and most valuable books in Japan.

There are many more interesting things in Nagoya, including its gourmet cuisine.

#### 6. Action plan presentations at the final reporting session



WHY: To share knowledge from the project, especially about Japan, with people in Laos who are interested.

WHEN: 31 March to 30 June, 2022

WHO: Group members

TO WHOM: Youth in Laos aged 15 to 35, and those interested in Japan and Japanese culture WHAT: We will summarize and post information about Japan, Japanese culture, and especially about the knowledge and content we gained from the JENESYS program.

HOW:

-We will create content, select images, and design posters for online media outlets.

-We will divide the workload among group members, and come up with a posting schedule for Facebook.

Implementation agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)