

JENESYS2021 Japan-Thailand Online Exchange (Japanese Language Learners Inbound Program) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 This program was conducted with the main objective of providing Thai high school students interested in Japan and the Japanese language with opportunities to learn about Japanese culture, the Japanese language, and Japan's cutting-edge science and technology, to give them further motivation to study Japanese, and to have them promote an understanding of Japan in themselves and their surroundings after returning home.

【Participants】 Total: 157 high school students, faculty members, and youth from Thailand

【Location】 Kanagawa Pref., Hokkaido, Tokyo, Aichi Pref.

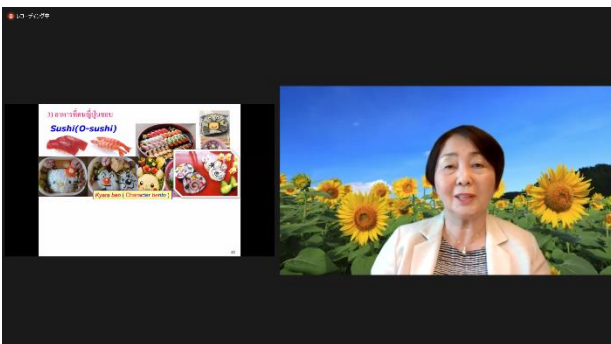
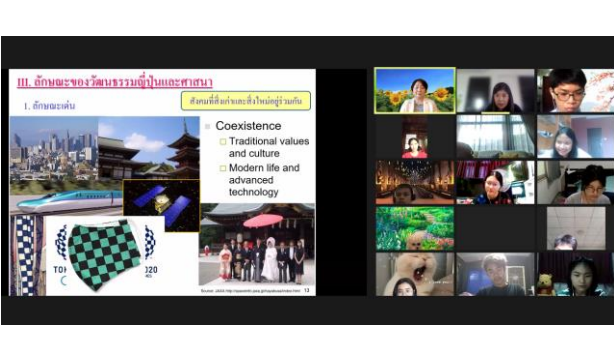
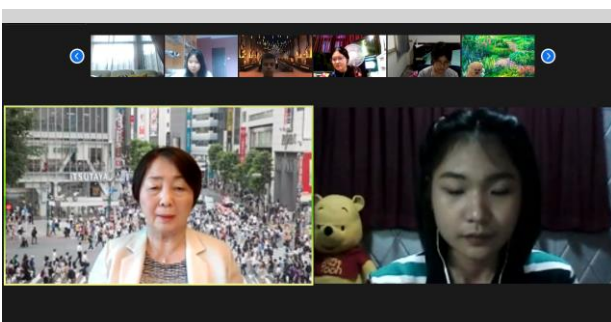

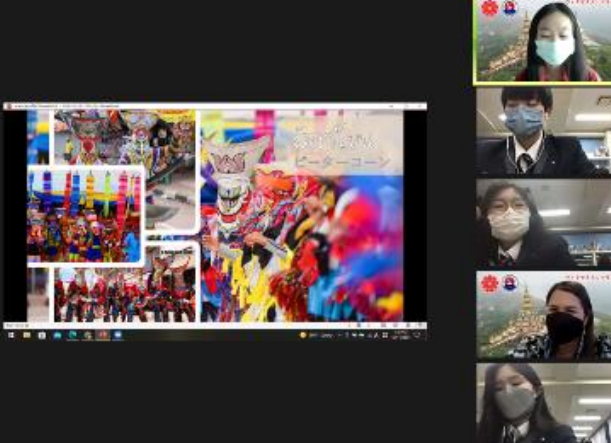

【Program Schedule】

Date Location	Program contents	Participants' questions and reactions
Number of participants for the following 2 days: 145		
August 28, 2021 Kanagawa Pref.	(Jointly with another programs) 【Webinar, Q&A session】 “Japanese Society and Culture” Ms. ANDRADE Hisami	The lecturer made sure there was a smooth communication going both ways between the lecturer and participants, asking questions like about the weather at the beginning of the lecture, and the participants were kept engaged, keeping their cameras on during the lecture. The participants showed interest not only in Japanese subcultures (anime and manga), but also the culture like the four seasons in Japan and the latest technology, diligently taking notes and attentively listening to the lecture. The participants said that they gained a deeper understanding of Japanese culture and society, and that the event inspired them to study Japanese more diligently.

Decemb er 17, 2021 Sapporo City, Hokkaido	【School Exchange】 Hokkaido Sapporo Intercultural and Technological High School 35 participants 1. Address by student representatives from Thailand and Japan 2. Presentation by Thailand 3. Group exchanges (general presentation by Japan followed by exchanges in groups on set themes)	Thai high school students who had studied Japanese before interacted with Japanese high school students. The Thai participants gave a colorful presentation in Japanese, introducing the culture, food, daily life, and school life of their country. The Japanese participants expressed their desire to visit Thailand after the pandemic. In the group exchanges, the Japanese Participants first gave a presentation on three themes: "Festivals," "Fashion," and "Love," and the participants exchanged opinions on their chosen themes, using Japanese as much as possible. The participating school from Japan focuses on English education, and the students spoke in English when possible during the exchanges. At first, both sides tended to be reserved and there were times when conversations did not take off, but as time went by, they gradually got to know each other and were able to talk more freely. As everyone was around the same age, the participants were able to find common ground, and seemed to truly enjoy interacting with each other.
Number of participants during the following 6 days: 12 (Jointly with other programs)		
Jan. 22~, 2022	【Video Viewing】 1. Welcome Address 2. Virtual Home Visit 3. Message from Minamisanriku 4. Allure Aichi -Industry/Cutting-edge technology – 5. Learning Japanese	To foster better understanding of Japan, participants watched a video about Japan and the program before they participated in the main program.
January, 25, 2022 Tokyo	【Orientation】 【Webinar, Q&A session】 1. Lecture, Video “Japan’s Attractions” Lecturer: Prof. ODA Yuichi, Institute for Excellence in Educational Innovation,	After the lecture, there were many questions about Japanese culture, such as “What is the most distinctive Japanese culture?” The participants also asked the lecturer questions about his favorite things

	Chiba University 2. Q&A	in Japan, and there was active communication between the lecturer and the participants.
January, 26, 2022 Aichi Pref. Nagoya City	【Culture Experience】 “Osu Shopping District Visit” 1. Virtual observation 2. Q&A	The participants had many comments and questions about the cleanliness of Japanese cities, food, and subcultures such as anime and manga.
Jan. 27, 2022 Nagoya City, Aichi Pref.	【Webinar, Q&A session】 1. Lecture, Video “Introduction to Nagoya City” Lecturer: Mr. WKAYAMA Rioya Tourism & Exchange Department Bureau of Tourism - Culture & Exchange, City of Nagoya 2. Q&A	Participants actively asked questions on a wide array of topics, including Nagoya's food culture, tourism information, and the administration of Nagoya City.
January 28, 2022 Tokyo	【Workshop】 1. Reflection on the program 2. Action plan formulation and presentation preparation	Divided into groups of seven to eight, the participants developed action plans based on their learning throughout the program and prepared presentations for the reporting session.
January 31, 2022 Tokyo	【Reporting Session】 1. Presentations by the participants 2. Review Mr. YAMASHITA Ryusei Second Secretary, Japan Information Service (JIS), Embassy of Japan in Thailand	The participants made presentations in English and Japanese on their action plans to be implemented within three months after the program. A number of creative plans to disseminate information about Japan to a wide range of people were proposed.

2. Program Photos

	
<p>August 28, 2021 【 Webinar, Q&A session 】 Lecturer introducing Japanese food.</p>	<p>August 28, 2021 【 Webinar, Q&A session 】 Introduction to traditional culture, sub-cultures, and advanced technology.</p>
	
<p>August 28, 2021 【 Webinar, Q&A session 】 Lecturer answering a question from a student in Thailand</p>	<p>August 28, 2021 【 Webinar, Q&A session 】 Group photo</p>
	
<p>December 17, 2021 【 School Exchange 】</p>	<p>“Presentation by Thai high school students. ”</p>



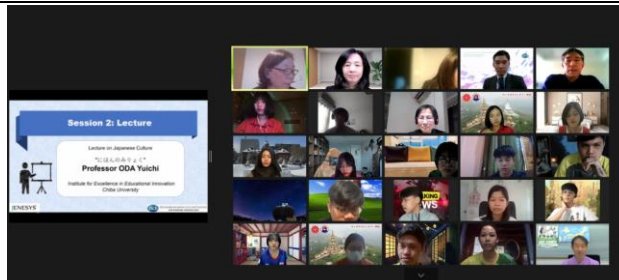
December 17, 2021 【 School Exchange 】
“Presentation by Japanese high school students
for the group exchanges.”



December 17, 2021【School Exchange】 “Group
exchanges.”



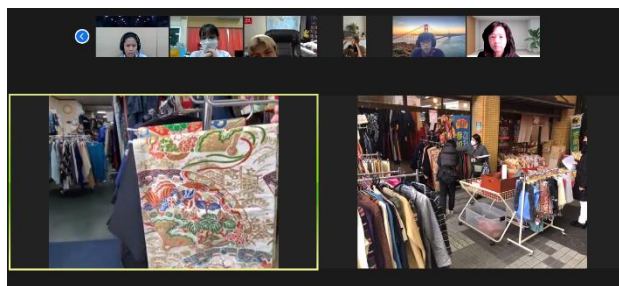
December 17, 2021 【School Exchange】 Group
photo



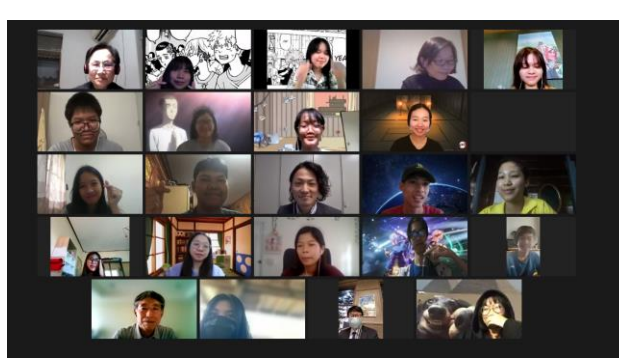
January 25, 2022 【Webinar, Q&A session】
“Japan’ s Attractions”

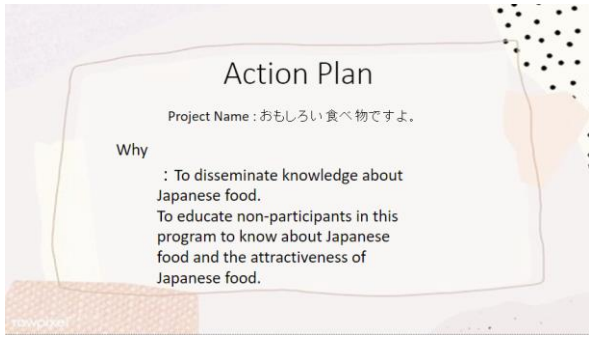
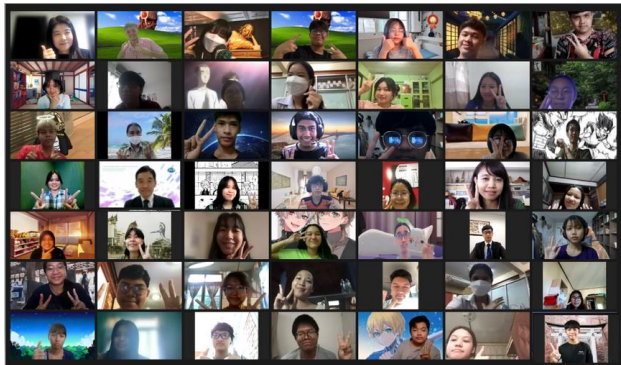


January 25, 2022 【Webinar, Q&A session】
“Japan’s Attractions”



January 26, 2022【Culture Experience】 “Virtual
Observation” Osu Shopping District



January 26, 2022 【Culture experience】 “Virtual Observation” Commemorative photo with a maneki-neko (beckoning cat)	January 27, 2022 【Webinar, Q&A session】 Group photo
	
January 31, 2022 【Reporting session】 Slide from an action plan presentation	January 31, 2022 【Reporting session】

3. Voices from Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student

I was able to learn more about Japanese culture that you cannot learn in a classroom. I think it is a wonderful program.

◆ High School Student

It was fun. Having participated in this program, I am now more motivated to study the language and culture of Japan.

◆ High School Student

Having participated in this online program, I now understand more about Japanese culture and society. This has also motivated us to study Japanese with more passion.

◆ High School Student

I am glad I was able to efficiently use the Japanese I have learned so far to communicate with everyone.

◆ High School Student

I was very nervous talking to Japanese people, but everyone was adorable.

◆ High School Student

I was thrilled to take part in the program and I had fun. I was able to learn more about Japan. Now I want to go to Japan even more.

◆ High School Student

I'm glad I was able to participate in the program. Through the lectures my interest toward Japan has grown.

◆ High School Student

I'm glad I was able to participate in this program. I learned so much about Japan.

4. Voice from Japanese Locals (excerpt)

◆ Lecturer

Thanks to the interpreter, the lecture went smoothly and I think most of the students were satisfied with the lecture. Although I was concerned about allocating the time correctly, I was glad to have enough time to receive questions. I do regret however that I was not able to give an ideal answer to some of the questions. I was worried about my first online lecture, but I was relieved to be able to communicate with the "invisible" students better than I had expected.



◆ School Exchange Participating Student





We taught each other about our countries. There were some factors that our countries shared.

◆ School Exchange Participating Student

It was fun to ask each other questions. We mainly spoke in English, so I wish we could have communicated more in Japanese as well.


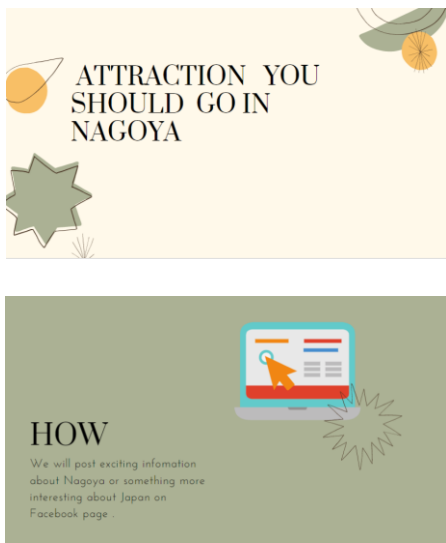
5. Disseminations by the participants

	
<p>August 28, 2021 (Facebook)</p> <p>Thank you for holding this amazing program.</p>	<p>August 28, 2021 (Facebook)</p> <p>This was my second time talking with people</p>

<p>I learned much about their culture. Thank you for this learning opportunity.</p>	<p>from Japan. Thankfully there was an interpreter, otherwise it would have been a mess!</p>
	
<p>December 17, 2021 (Facebook) High school representatives in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade studying in the English-Japanese Special Literature Class participated in the JENESYS2021 Online Exchange Program with Hokkaido Sapporo Intercultural and Technological High School in Japan.</p>	<p>December 17, 2021 (Facebook) Representative in the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade at Wittayanukulnaree School participated in an online exchange with Hokkaido Sapporo Intercultural and Technological High School.</p>
	
<p>January 25, 2022 (Facebook) Day 1</p>	<p>January 27, 2022 (Facebook) Day 2</p>

We learned about the geography, culture, and many other things of Japan in today's lecture. It was very entertaining.	We were taken on a tour of Nagoya, the central city of Aichi Prefecture and the fourth largest city in Japan. There are many shopping streets and restaurants in Nagoya, and we were getting hungry as the tour went on. So today I would like to introduce the top 5 most popular dishes in Japan. We hope you will be able to gain some knowledge from the information we provide.
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6. Action plan presentations at the final reporting session

Group 1	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project: It's Interesting food 2. Period: February ~ April 3. We will introduce Japanese food and promote the appeal of Japanese cuisine to those who are interested and those who are not participating in the JENESYS program. The information will be uploaded to Instagram once a week in a poster format.
Group 2	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project: Attraction you should go in Nagoya 2. Period: Feb. 1 – Apr. 30 3. We will take what we've learned in the JENESYS Program, and spread the word about Nagoya and the JENESYS Program through weekly Facebook posts. Three of our members will be in charge of articles and posts, and three will be in charge of graphic design.

Implementation agency : Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)