

JENESYS2020 Japan-the Philippines Online Exchange (Revitalization from Disaster) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 This program was conducted with the main objective of expanding the scale of Japan-the Philippines relations in the private sector by allowing youth from the Philippines to exchange opinions, engage in exchanges, and learn about climate change issues and the threats of natural disasters, common to both countries, as well as their countermeasures.

【Participants】 Total: 254 high school students, undergraduate students, and working youths from the Philippines

【Location】 Nagasaki Pref., Miyagi Pref., Tokyo, Iwate Pref.

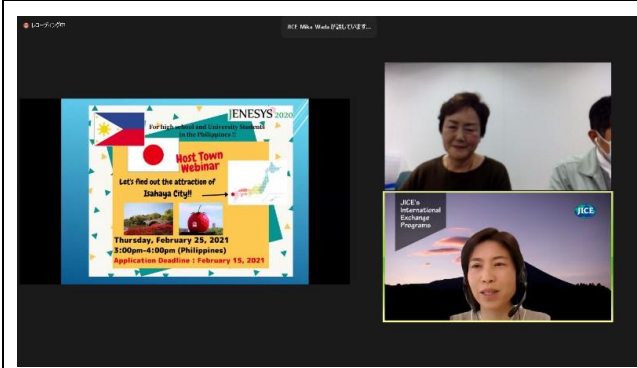
【Program Schedule】

Date Location	Program contents	Participants' questions and reactions
Number of participants for the following 2 days: 242 (Jointly with other programs)		
February 25, 2021 Isahaya City, Nagasaki Pref.	(Jointly with other programs) 【Webinar, Q&A Session】 122 high school students, undergraduate students, and working youths from the Philippines 1. Lecture/Video “Presentation on the local charms of Isahaya City, Host Town to the Philippines” Lecturer: Ms. IWAMOTO Yoriko, Secretary General of Isahaya International Center 2. Q&A session	There were questions such as about both the good aspects and challenges of accepting Filipino athletes as a Host Town, and about future plans to conduct exchange programs outside of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.
May 28, 2021 Ishinomaki City,	(Jointly with other programs) 【Webinar, Q&A Session】 120 high school students, undergraduate students, and	Questions were asked such as about how long it took for the tsunami to hit after the earthquake, how long it took Ishinomaki City to recover, how Ishinomaki City provided mental support to the

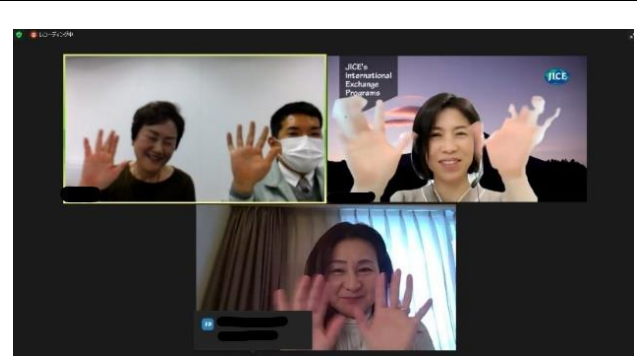
Miyagi Pref.	<p>working youths from the Philippines</p> <p>1. Lecture “Ishinomaki City during the 2011 tsunami & subsequent reconstruction efforts” Lecturer: Mr. Richard HALBERSTADT, Director of the Ishinomaki Community & Info Center</p> <p>2. Q&A session</p>	<p>citizens, and how they plan to share what was learned from the earthquakes and tsunamis to those who have never experienced a disaster.</p>
<p>Number of participants during the following 7 days: 14 (Jointly with other programs)</p>		
February 15~, 2022	<p>【Video Viewing】</p> <p>1. Welcome Address 2. Message from Minamisanriku 3. Study Japanese Culture in Kyoto 4. Learning Japanese</p>	<p>To foster better understanding of Japan, participants watched a video about Japan and the program before they participated in the main program.</p>
February 22, 2022 Tokyo	<p>【 Orientation 】 【 Webinar, Q&A session】</p> <p>1. Orientation 2. Lecture “Japanese Society and Culture” Lecturer: Ms. ANDRADE Hisami 3. Exchanges in groups</p>	<p>The orientation began with an explanation on the roles and mission of the participants in the main exchange program. In the lecture, the participants listened with great interest to the content, which incorporated many pictures, examples, and demonstrations to explain the geography and climate of Japan, the characteristics of the Japanese people, and society, culture, and daily life in general in Japan. Questions covered a wide range of topics, including the impact of COVID-19 on Japan, Japanese culture and technology, and issues faced by international students in Japan.</p>
February 23, 2022 City of Rikuzentakata, Iwate Pref.	<p>【Disaster Prevention Observation Tour】</p> <p>Location : City of Rikuzentakata</p> <p>1. Observation 2. Q&A session 3. Words of gratitude by the participant representative</p>	<p>Participants from countries where natural disasters frequently occur showed great interest in the live broadcast from the disaster-stricken areas, the explanations of the damage and recovery process, and the observation tour to learn about disaster prevention city planning. Participants familiar with disasters asked many specific questions, such as about the kind of trees</p>

		to plant for windbreaks, the reconstruction status and care for disaster victims, and the impact of development in terms of disaster risk.
February 24, 2022 City of Rikuzentakata, Iwate Pref.	【Home Visit】 *optional program 1. Host family introduction 2. Exchange with the host families 3. Comments	The participants seemed to be intrigued throughout the program. They were especially pleased to be introduced to the local cuisine made by the host family. The participants asked many questions such as "What is the butsudan (Buddhist altar) for?" and "For how long is there snow on the ground?"
February 25, 2022 Iwate Pref./Tokyo	【School Exchange】 Exchange school : Iwate University, Rikkyo University (Tokyo) 1. Presentation by the exchange school 2. Presentation by the participants 3. Exchanges in groups 4. Words of gratitude by the participant representative	Presentations by both the exchange school and the participants were given, allowing for everyone to learn the differences between their countries. In the exchanges in groups, the participants talked about their school life, hobbies, favorite artists, and so on. The participants seemed to have enjoyed the exchange with their peers.
February 26, 2022 Tokyo	【Workshop】 1. Action plan formulation 2. Presentation preparation	In order to proceed efficiently, the sub-leaders took the initiative to create worksheets, which were then shared online, while each participant wrote the main points on their own worksheet, categorized the contents, and prepared presentation materials. Everyone was working hard toward a mutual goal.
February 28, 2022 Tokyo	【Reporting Session】 1. Opening remarks 2. Presentations by the participant 3. Review 4. Closing	The members of each group worked together, sharing ideas within their groups to create action plans, and after hearing each groups' presentations, the participants commended each other. Some of the presenters were adept speakers who enlivened the other participants, creating a further sense of togetherness.

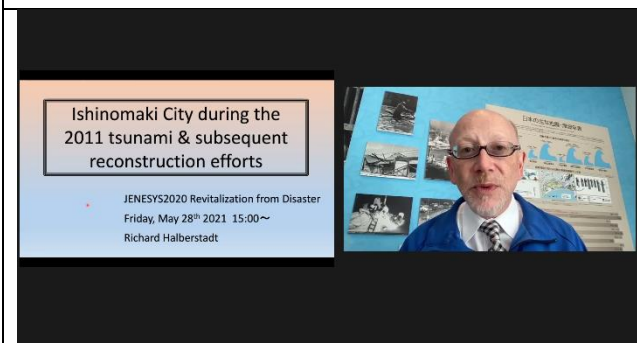
2. Program Photos



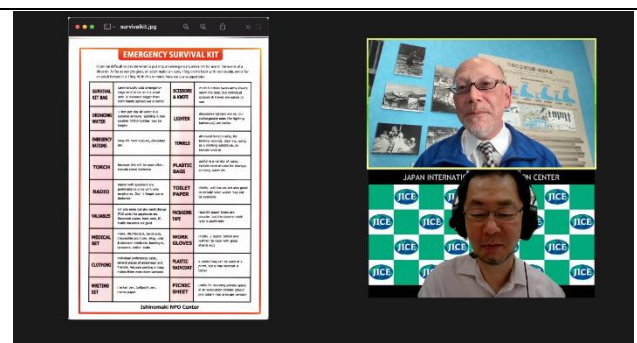
February 25, 2021 【Webinar, Q&A Session】
Lecture



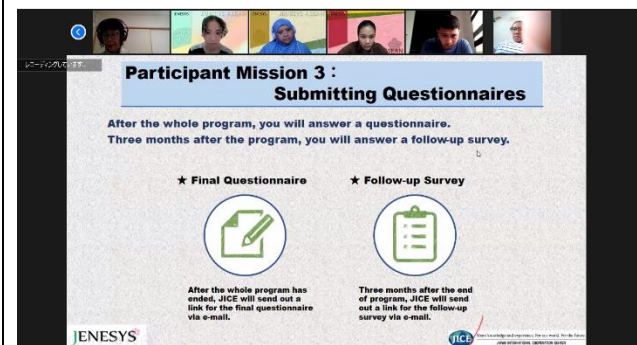
February 25, 2021 【Webinar, Q&A Session】
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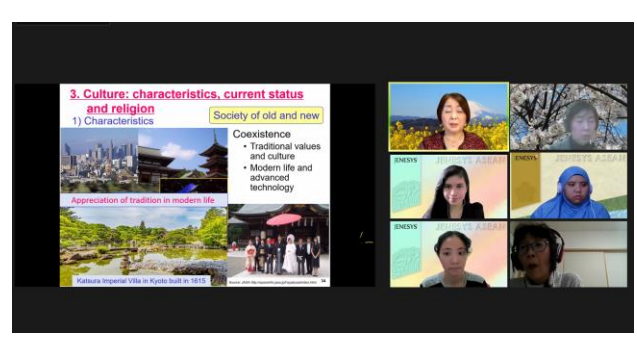
May 28, 2021 【Webinar, Q&A Session】
Lecture





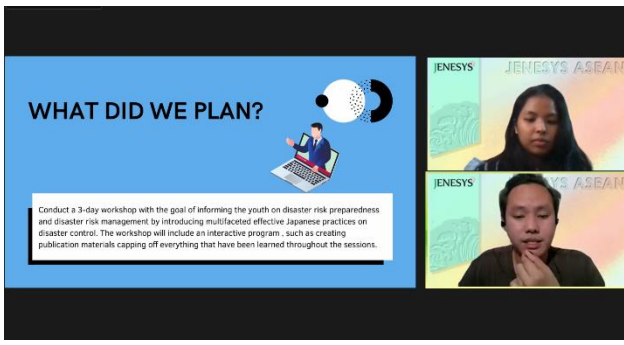
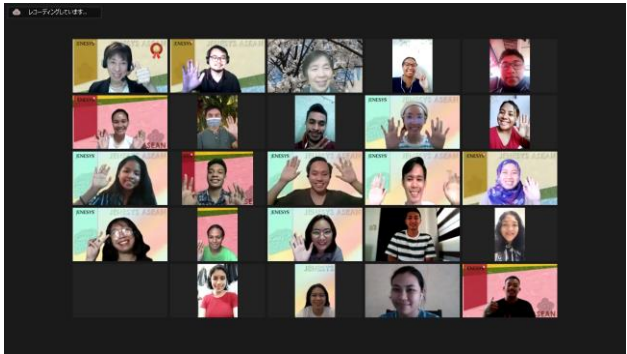
May 28, 2021 【Webinar, Q&A Session】
Lecture



February 22, 2022 【Orientation】



February 22, 2022 【Webinar, Q&A Session】
Lecture

	
<p>February 23, 2022 【Disaster Prevention Observation Tour】 Observation</p>	<p>February 25, 2022 【School Exchange】 Presentation by the participants</p>
	
<p>February 28, 2022 【Reporting Session】 Presentation</p>	<p>February 28, 2022 【Reporting Session】 Group photo</p>

3. Voices from Participants (excerpt)

◆ Undergraduate Student

The Host Town lecture was fun and informative. I love nature, and I felt so satisfied after seeing the scenery of the city in the video. I learned so much from the lecturer about the charms of the region.

◆ High school Student

During the theme related lecture, I was able to learn about the magnitude of the damage caused by the earthquake, and how the Japanese government is handling the disaster recovery process.

◆ Undergraduate Student

The lecture was encouraging and I learned much, especially about disaster prevention. I feel humbled to have heard directly from someone who had experienced the 3.11 tsunami. I remember hearing about the tsunami on the news and worrying about all the people there.

◆ Working Youth

I learned many new things after hearing about Ishinomaki City's experience of the magnitude 9

earthquake and the following tsunami. I felt that what Ishinomaki City experienced, will be the most reliable cornerstone of how we should prepare and act when we encounter unexpected natural disasters in the future.

◆ Undergraduate Student

The online program was a great place for enlightenment especially about Japan's culture and society. It gave me the opportunity to reflect on what I can do to improve the situation of my community in terms of disaster risk preparedness. Overall, the program was a success, very effective, and helpful. I suggest to implement the program in a face-to-face session, but if not possible, I suggest that the participants may be given more access and opportunity to interact with the Japanese students and citizens in such a way that they could still be able to communicate even after the program ends, also the scripts of the translated messages from certain individuals may be prepared ahead of time if possible. Nonetheless, it was a well prepared and well-organized program. Thank you and congratulations to all the team who made the online program successfully!

◆ Graduate Student

One good impression left on me is really the organization and professionalism of the JICE coordinating team. It is not easy to interpret everything in English, more so to handle different nationalities but it was smooth and rich. I would say you can improve on the number of participants and more publication materials so others can experience it that I did. I still believe you could elevate your marketing if you really want the program to be more sensationalized in the mainstream. It deserves to get experienced by many.

◆ Participating University

The online program was very good and it was a good opportunity for me to get out of my comfort zone and meet new people. I especially liked day 3, talking to the students. I would have wished that I joined the house-visit, but due to conflict of events, unfortunately I couldn't go. I guess my suggestion would be to have more topics and maybe a tour of some places in Japan to really have a front side view of what it looks like in the country - in rural and urban areas.

4. Voice from Japanese Locals (excerpt)

◆ Receiving Municipality

This was the first online exchange for Isahaya City, but thanks to all the support, we were not worried in the least. Thank you.

◆ Visited Location

This was our first time participating in this program. We were very grateful for this opportunity, as we had been developing our exchange-based business before the spread of COVID-19. In particular,

face-to-face homestays in the City of Rikuzentakata were just beginning to take root when the pandemic began, causing the momentum for such activities to wane. Through this exchange, albeit online, the local host families also commented that it was the first time in a long time that they had felt excited and that they had a lot of fun. Many also commented that they were nervous because the participants were from overseas, but after talking to them, they felt that they were no different from Japanese students and that their understanding of other cultures had deepened.

◆ **Host Family**

There were some questions that I didn't exactly know the answer to. They asked things like why we ring a bell at the butsudan, and the meaning of hina dolls, and this made me realize that they are no different from children in Japan.

◆ **School Exchange Participating Student**

I listened to the presentation by the overseas participants. It was a very interesting introduction of the Philippines to Japanese students, and although I felt the cultural differences between Japan and the Philippines, the presentation also gave me a good insight on how I myself could introduce Japan to other people. The introduction spurred many topics of conversation, and I felt that the exchange was a success.

◆ **School Exchange Participating Student**

The introduction of each country before the group discussions was interesting. I also liked the format and how they quizzed the Japanese students.

5. Dissemination by the participants

<p>February 25, 2021</p>	<p>February 25, 2021</p>

About the lecture on the theme (Facebook)
Japan-Philippines Host Town: ISAHAYA CITY'

For those who didn't know, Isahaya City will be hosting the athletes from the Philippines in the upcoming Tokyo Olympics. Our athletes will surely have a great experience staying there given that the city has great and big sports facilities and is taking extra precautionary measures regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic.

It was such a great experience to attend this very informative program. Isahaya is such a great place to visit, and what makes me want to visit it more are their famous Unagi & Fruit bus stops that can only be seen around the city I'm looking forward to visit Isahaya City soon!

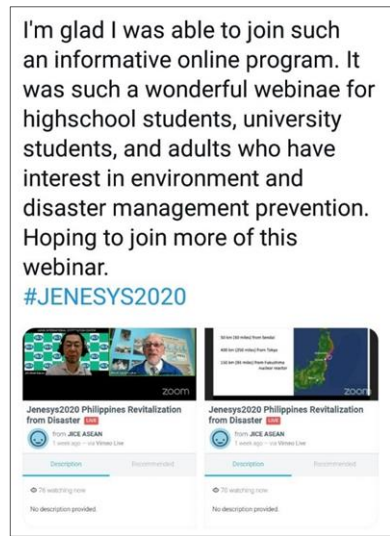
About the lecture on the theme (Facebook)

Japan-PH host town online program! You know, the top cities that are visible on the internet are Tokyo & Osaka so learning the Isahaya City and its culture is a mind opener knowing its unique fruit shaped bus stops, unagi-udon, cultural properties and many more!



May 28, 2021

About the lecture on the theme(Facebook)
Japan is really a good place full of disciplined

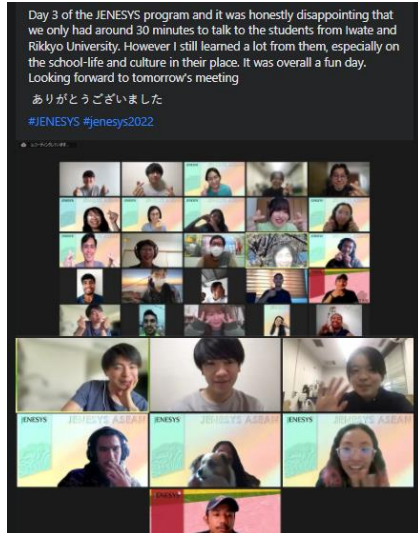


May 28, 2021

About the lecture on the theme(Facebook)
I'm glad I was able to join such an informative online

people who are really committed to follow the rules. They respect the opinion of other people and they love to preserve nature too. Soon, if Covid is gone, I hope I can visit there and see some of my students if ever our paths cross again.

program. It was such a wonderful webinar for high school students, university students, and adults who have interest in environment and disaster management prevention. Hoping to join more of this webinar.



Day 2-Yesterday (2/23/22)
 JENESYS Online Exchange Program
 Main Theme: Revitalization from Disaster
 The second day is all about the Disaster virtual tour in the City of Rikuzentakata, Iwate Prefecture
 Even though it is evident that the scars of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami still remains, the people of Rikuzentakata moves forward to tackle the challenges of rehabilitation, and regional Revitalization.
 Due to the disaster, massive deforestation and depopulation occurred. Nonetheless they are steadfast to reconstruct what was lost and now is currently in 70-80% rehabilitation. As a guy that witnessed multiple devastating disaster hit the Philippines, there is a lot to learn from the Japanese specially when it comes to post-response process, disaster proof infrastructure, and effective community participation to better understand disaster mitigation.
 #JENESYS
 (Photo taken from JENESYS ASEAN Facebook Group)



February 26, 2022 (Facebook)
 Day 3 of the JENESYS program and it was honestly disappointing that we only had around 30 minutes to talk to the students from Iwate and Rikkyo University. However, I still learned a lot from them, especially on the school-life and culture in their place. It was overall a fun day. Looking forward to tomorrow's meeting.

February 24, 2022 (Facebook)
 The second day is all about the Disaster virtual tour in the City of Rikuzentakata, Iwate Prefecture.
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February 23, 2022 (Cooperating organization's Facebook post)

【Day1 in Rikuzentakata –Online exchange with the Philippines and Timor-Leste-】

Good evening everyone. Furuya here from Marugoto Rikuzentakata!

For the next three days (starting today), we will be conducting an online exchange program with students from the Philippines and Timor-Leste through the Japan International Cooperation Center!

This is part of the "Japan's Friendship Ties Programs" promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, in which Japan is introduced online to students who would normally be invited to Japan for homestays.

Today, the first day of the program, we broadcasted live from Takatamatsubara Memorial Park to share with the students about the Great East Japan Earthquake and the reconstruction efforts.

About 40 students participated in the program.

Participating students asked questions about the reconstruction, such as "How much progress has been made?" and "Did the construction work start immediately?" One also asked, "How about instead of pine trees, you plant mangroves with strong roots?", and it made me realize the differences in our cultures.

Tomorrow, we will conduct the "exchange with families in Rikuzentakata" and the day after tomorrow, the "exchange with undergraduate students."

This will be our first time to conduct exchanges online with families and students, and we can't wait!

We hope that the participants will learn about various aspects, other than the earthquake, of not only Rikuzentakata, but Japan as a whole.



6. Action plan presentations at the final reporting session

<p style="text-align: center;">Our Action Plan (Group A Batch# 29)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">After the program, implement the Action Plan!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">○ Title: #BOUSAI: Adapting Japanese Practices For Disaster Risk Reduction Preparedness</p> <p>WHY : (Reasons to do it)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disseminate information on disaster-risk preparedness among the youth 2. Share the good infrastructure plans and rehabilitation plans of Japan among the youth 3. Promote the importance of benchmarking in disaster preparedness among the youth 4. Conduct workshop on disaster preparedness among the youth <p>WHEN : (Please write the period within 3 months after the program)</p> <p>May 13-15, 2022 Friday-Sunday respectively 3-Day Workshop</p> <p>WHO : (Who will do it?)</p> <p>JENESYS 2022 participants NDRRMIC Officer JICE Officer</p> <p>WHO : (To whom?)</p> <p>The target audience will be the youth interested in disaster revitalization adapting certain Japanese practices on disaster control.</p>	<p>The target audience will be the youth interested in disaster revitalization adapting certain Japanese practices on disaster control.</p> <p>Conduct a 3-day workshop with the goal of informing the youth on disaster risk preparedness and disaster risk management. The workshop will include an interactive program, such as creating publication materials of what was learned throughout the sessions.</p> <p>1st Month (March) - PLANNING STAGE: Coordinate with the JENESYS 2022 participants as well as the resource speakers</p> <p>2nd Month (April) - PREPARATION STAGE: Start the preparation of resources, committee meetings and the like</p> <p>3rd Month (May) – EXECUTION AND EVALUATION STAGE: Conduct the workshop on disaster preparedness adapting the Japanese practices on disaster control, feedbacking and evaluation.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Our Action Plan (Group A Batch# 29)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">After the program, implement the Action Plan!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">○ Title: #BOUSAI: Adapting Japanese Practices For Disaster Risk Reduction Preparedness</p> <p>WHY : (Reasons to do it)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disseminate information on disaster-risk preparedness among the youth 2. Share the good infrastructure plans and rehabilitation plans of Japan among the youth 3. Promote the importance of benchmarking in disaster preparedness among the youth 4. Conduct workshop on disaster preparedness among the youth <p>WHEN : (Please write the period within 3 months after the program)</p> <p>May 13-15, 2022 Friday-Sunday respectively 3-Day Workshop</p> <p>WHO : (Who will do it?)</p> <p>JENESYS 2022 participants NDRRMIC Officer JICE Officer</p> <p>WHO : (To whom?)</p> <p>The target audience will be the youth interested in disaster revitalization adapting certain Japanese practices on disaster control.</p>	

Implementation agency : Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)