



**JENESYS2020 Japan-Singapore Online Exchange
(Japanese Communication/Japanese Culture
(Subtopic: Tourism/Japanese Cuisine)) Reports**

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 This program was conducted with the main purpose to improve mutual understanding and strengthen friendly relations between Japan and Singapore. Japanese language learners from Singapore attended webinars, virtual tours and exchange programs with Japanese people on the theme of Tourism and Japanese Cuisine. They gained a deeper understanding of Japanese history, society, and culture, and shared their fascination with many people.

【Participants】 Total: 128 students and faculty members from Singaporean technical schools

【Location】 Tokyo, Iwate Pref., Osaka

【Program Schedule】

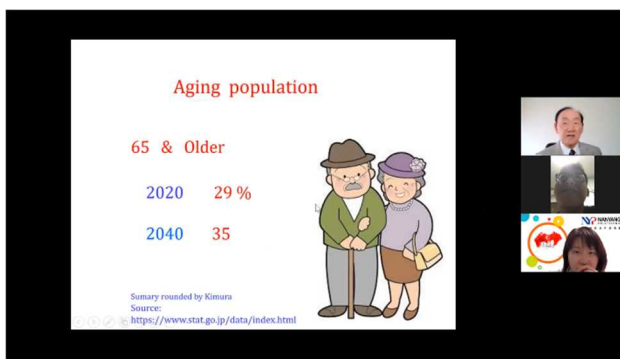
This program was conducted jointly with JENESYS2020 Japan-Singapore Exchange (Japanese Communication / Japanese Culture (Subtopic: Japanese Food, Science and Technology) program.

Date	Program contents	Participants' questions and reactions
June 18, 2021 Tokyo	【Webinar, Q&A Session】 65 students and faculty members from Singaporean technical schools 1. Lecture “Japan Today” Lecturer: Mr. KIMURA Hideo, Executive Managing Director, Strategic International Management Associates (SIMA) 2. Q&A session	After the lecture, covering a wide range of fields such as history, economy, social welfare, and culture, participants asked questions from about the wildlife in Japan, to the economic impact holding the Olympic Games amidst COVID-19 had on Japan. When asked about Japan's immigration policy, the lecturer answered in detail, comparing examples from Singapore, intriguing the participants.
June 25, 2021 City of Rikuzent akata, Iwate	【Webinar, Q&A Session】 53 students and faculty members from Singaporean technical schools 1. Lecture “Introduction to Host Town efforts and local attractions by Iwate	With the lecturer being from Singapore, many questions were asked after the lecture. Participants showed interest toward Host Town, asking questions such as about the traditional foods and products of the City of Rikuzentakata, the lifestyles, and if people

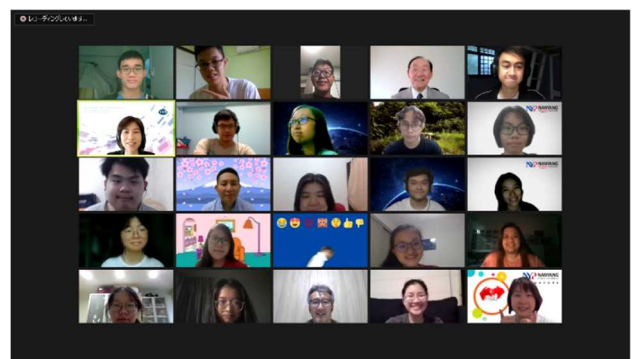
Pref.	<p>Prefecture's City of Rikuzentakata, "Arigato' Host Towns for Supporting Reconstruction' member and Host Town to Singapore"</p> <p>Lecturer: Ms. Sarah CHU, Coordinator for International Relations, City of Rikuzentakata, Iwate Prefecture</p> <p>2. Q&A session</p>	<p>could understand English. Unlike the lecture held on June 18, the participants were able to deepen their understanding of Japan from a different point of view, hearing about Japan and the City of Rikuzentakata from the perspective of a non-Japanese citizen living in Japan.</p>
<p>Number of participants during the following 6 days: 10</p>		
February 2~, 2022	<p>【Video Viewing】</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome Address 2. Overview/Mission 3. Lecture on Japan 4. Study Japanese culture in Kyoto 5. Virtual Home Visit 6. Learning Japanese 	<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 9, 2022 Tokyo	<p>【Orientation】 【Webinar, Q&A Session】</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Orientation (in groups) 2. Japanese language and culture lesson 3. Webinar, Q&A session "Lecture on Japanese culture and posting on social media" Lecturer: Ms. NAKAJIMA Yuko, Representative ,TOKYO Influencer Academy 4. Exchanges in groups 	<p>In the "Japanese language and culture lesson," the participants seemed to enjoy the interaction with the lecturer. In the "Lecture on Japanese culture and posting on social media," many participants commented on the places they would like to visit, their favorite Japanese foods, places they are interested in, and so on. In the exchanges in groups, the participants shared their expectations for the program, such as that they would like to study in Japan as a scholarship student in the future, and that they would like to make Japanese friends.</p>
February 10, 2022 Osaka	<p>【Webinar, Observation】</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lecture "Meet Future Kansai, Osaka" Lecturer: Ms. HIDAKA Chihiro Osaka Global Student Support Association Head Office, Osaka Convention and Tourism Bureau 	<p>Participants proactively responded to the lecturer's questions. When the lecturer asked them where they would like to visit in Kansai, they gave specific answers such as "I want to visit Kyoto and compare it with the traditional culture of my own country," "I want to enjoy the illuminations on Midosuji Avenue in Osaka with my family," "I want to feed the</p>

	2. Q&A session	deer in Nara," and so on.
February 11, 2022 Morioka City, Iwate Pref.	【Home Visit, Exchange】 1. Opening, Agenda overview 2. Introduction of Morioka City, Iwate Pref. by Mr. TAKAHASHI Kazuhisa, Director, IGR Tourist 3. Host families' introduction 4. Exchange with the host family in groups 5. Impressions by both the host family and participants 6. Closing	The host family gave a tour of their home, starting with the snow and snowman in the yard, and the entrance and inside of their home, followed by an introduction of the family's daily life, work, Osechi cooking, calligraphy, tea ceremony, etc. An international student who is staying with the family long-term also participated, using videos and photos to their perspective as an international student. The participants were asked about how they celebrate the New Year in their own countries, and this allowed for the exchange to be more engaging for everyone. It was a meaningful exchange event where participants were able to learn not only about the lives of ordinary Japanese people, but also about life with snow and how a country with many disasters stays prepared. Participants also commented that they would definitely like to visit Japan in person.
February 14, 2022 Tokyo	【Workshop】 1. Reflection on the program 2. Action plan formulation and presentation preparation	Divided into groups, the participants developed action plans based on their learning throughout the program and prepared presentations for the reporting session.
February 15, 2022 Tokyo	【Reporting Session】 1. Presentations by the participants 2. Review	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



January 18, 2021 【Webinar, Q&A Session】



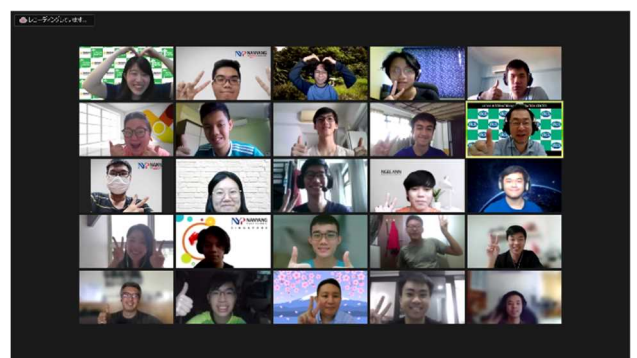
January 18, 2021 【Webinar, Q&A Session】

Arigato Host Town for Supporting Reconstruction

- Municipalities from Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Prefecture
- Become host towns to show gratitude to countries that supported them
- Allows athletes/people from these countries to see how reconstruction efforts are going along
- Allows local citizens to interact with people from these countries

Extracted from Light up HOST TOWN Project's homepage and Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' homepage

January 25, 2021 【Webinar, Q&A Session】



January 25, 2021 【Webinar, Q&A Session】

“My name is XXX.”

Watashi no Namae wa XXX desu.
My name is (Copula to add politeness.)

February 9, 2022 【Orientation】 The participants repeating after the teacher in Japanese

able to try like a game

1 Stories able to communicate with followers

able to casually make and view posts

remain on your instagram

2 Post able to search with #hashtag

able to reach new people

February 9, 2022 【Webinar, Q&A Session】 Lecture

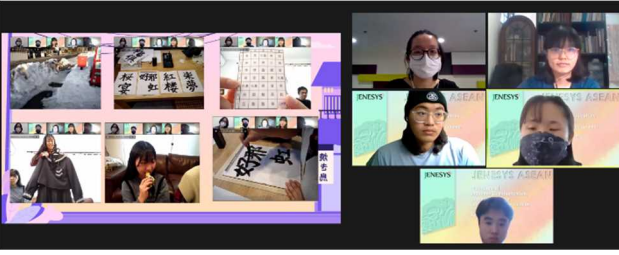

Quiz No.9

Which place would you like to visit the most in Kansai?

February 10, 2022 【Webinar, Observation】 “Meet Future Kansai, Osaka” Participants being



February 11, 2022 【Home Visit, Exchange】 Host family giving a calligraphy demonstration

quizzed by the lecturer	
	
February 15, 2022 【Reporting Session】 Participants looking back on the program	February 15, 2022 【Reporting Session】 Commemorative photo

3. Voices from Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student

I really enjoyed learning more about Japan and Japanese culture. It was an insightful sharing as there were many things that I did not know about Japan prior to the programme. From this sharing, I was able to gain a better understanding of what makes Japan unique and this has interest me to visit Japan in the future.

◆ High School Student

The teacher was so passionate during the introduction of Rikuzentakata City, and it was very interesting to listen to. My interest in the Japan countryside has been stirred thanks to this online program.

◆ High School Student

It is really interesting to hear a Singaporean's experience living in Japan. I have learnt a lot about Japan food and sites.

◆ Undergraduate Student

I think that this was a really well-done zoom meeting. I had learned lots of stuff about Japan and created some friendships during the home visit.

◆ Undergraduate student

It was enjoyable! I hope to participate in this again :)

4. Voice from Japanese Locals (excerpt)

◆ Lecturer from the Accepting Local Government

It was very enjoyable. I hope to participate again if the opportunity appears.

◆ Host Family

On the day of the event, we were sometimes at a loss as to what to do, but the interpreter/coordinator was very helpful and supported our family in many situations that we could not have handled on our own. Thanks to the interpreter/coordinator, the visit went well. Thank you so much. It was also great that we were able to interact with several Singaporean students even if it was only for a short amount of time. I had no connection with Singapore until now, but as we talked about various things, I felt closer to Singapore and my view of the world was broadened. It was my first online exchange experience, and although I had to think on my feet more than I would have if this was held in person at home, being able to try something new was a great experience for me and my family.

◆ **Organization that Coordinated the Home Visit**

The program was very well received by the host family that participated. We hope to conduct PR activities so that more people in the community can experience this program as well.

5. Dissemination by the participants

<p>いいね! : 他</p> <p>JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) 2020 [Singapore] - "Japanese Communication, Japanese Culture" Online Program</p> <p>June 18, 2021</p> <p>Lecture "Japan Today"</p> <p>Part 1 of reflection</p> <p>I found the lecture useful as it gives me insight on Japanese Society, Politics, History, Economics, and Culture and all these aspects are what makes up Japan as a country today. As a student currently studying Japanese language, it is also important for me to understand and learn Japanese culture. Understanding Japanese culture is</p>	<p>いいね! : 他</p> <p>JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) 2020 [Singapore] - "Japanese Communication, Japanese Culture" Online Program</p> <p>June 18, 2021</p> <p>Lecture "Japan Today"</p> <p>Part 2 of reflection</p> <p>I am inspired to learn Japanese language and culture through my exposure of Japanese culture by my Father. Since young, I was exposed to Japanese culture through television variety shows showcasing Japanese's tourist destination, music and food culture. I was amazed by the unique and rich culture Japan has and the ability to preserve many of these cultures passing it down from generation to generation despite western influence. Hence, I was motivated to learn and understand Japan.</p> <p>The duration of this lecture was just right in giving me an overview of Japan's identity – Japanese history, culture, development. In terms of culture, I was hoping the talk would also cover Japanese's food culture. As I am currently studying Food Science & Nutrition course in polytechnic, I have strong interest in understanding and learning Japanese's food culture such as the significance of each Japanese dish and the diet of Japanese which is known to be one of the reasons contributing a longer lifespan and healthy lifestyle.</p>

June 18, 2021(Instagram)

I found the lecture useful as it gives me insight on Japanese Society, Politics, History, Economics, and Culture and all these aspects are what makes up Japan as a country today. As a student currently studying Japanese language, it is also important for me to understand and learn Japanese culture. Understanding Japanese culture is important as it introduces me the type of interaction Japanese had among each other and their mentality which will help to form a closer interaction with native Japanese speakers rather than just learning the language and vocabulary.

I was introduced the timeline of Japan's history which begins more than 2600 years ago and some of the major historical events of Japan. I have also learnt the major activities which contribute to today Japan's prosperous economy, such as the production of steel, automobile, Boeing 787, fluorescent silk and how Japan develops to become one of the first world developed countries especially in the area of technology.

My favorite topic of this lecture was Japan's technology.

My background knowledge on Japan's technology is that Japan is one of the countries in the world with invention of many successful technology and semiconductor. In this lecture, I was introduced several successful technologies of Japan such as the innovation of shinkansen which is widely known for its speed and efficiency, as it uses magnetic levitation over guideways and move without making any contact with the ground.

June 18, 2021(Instagram)

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#jenesys_sns #JENESYS_ASEAN ##JENESYS
Day 2 JENESYS Program

Got to know more about Southern part of Japan, the Kansai region. The speaker introduced various parts of the Kansai region such as Maishima Incineration Plant and the Cup Noodle Museum in Osaka. But I would like to visit Fushimi Inari Taisha Temple the most. I've seen it in animes and mangas, so it definitely piqued my interests. Once I save enough money, I will definitely travel there!

Photo from:
<https://www.kanpai.fr/kyoto/fushimi-inari-taisha>



Osaka (大阪市) is recognized as one of the most multicultural and cosmopolitan cities in Japan



Famous landmarks in the city include Osaka Castle, Osaka Aquarium Kaiyukan

OSAKA



February 10, 2022 (Facebook)

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February 10, 2022 (Facebook)

Osaka is recognized as one of the most multicultural and cosmopolitan cities in Japan. Famous landmarks in the city includes Osaka Castle, Osaka Aquarium Kaiyukan.



February 12, 2022 (Instagram) (*Post by staff from the same organization as the lecturer)

The other day, I participated in a very nice event as a staff member.

(omit)

This event is held every year, inviting people to Japan from overseas to share with them the attractions of Japan.

Not being able to invite participants to Japan last fiscal year due to COVID-19, the attractions of Japan were shared with the participants online.

This time, people from Malaysia, Singapore, and Timor-Leste participated in the event, and the lecturer was none other than the representative of TOKYO Influencer Academy, Yuko Nakajima.

The topic of the lecture was social media.

Being a travel influencer and Instagram teacher herself, Yuko Nakajima was the best teacher for the lecture.

She talked about the attractions of Japan as a whole, including the charms, culture, seasons, and festivals of local regions. While talking about the many attractions, she gave a lecture on how to use Instagram to share and disseminate these attractions, including her own know-how.

The conversations using the Chat function were also interesting, covering topics such as where the participants want to visit in Japan, what they want to eat, and what they can disseminate about Japan. The students overseas seemed to be enjoying themselves.

As a Japanese person, I was filled with great joy to be part of this exchange with people from overseas as I could feel their love for Japan and their desire to visit. Nowadays, it's not easy to go abroad. Everyone feels frustrated, but that is why we can't wait to be able to travel overseas like before and visit countries around the world in person. I am sure that people all over the world feel the same way.

The objective of this lecture is to have the participants disseminate information about Japan in their own way, hash tagging their posts with #jenesys_sns, and then having Yuko Nakajima choose the best post.

It may be difficult to talk about a place you have never been, but just sharing what you have learned or how much you want to go to a certain place is also a good form of output. This event made me reappraise the charms of Japan. I hope that the day that people around the world can once again travel freely will come.

6. Action plan presentations at the final reporting session

Group 1	
<p>WHY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our goal is to spread awareness and promote tourism in Japan ● We appreciate the Japanese Culture and wish to let more people know about Japan. ● This gives people who were not able to have the opportunity like us to also get to know Japanese culture. <p>HOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Through different social media (Insta, facebook, etc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pictures from our host family ○ Online Short articles, food ● Keep in touch with Chiba Family and regularly ask them about their life in Japan through Instagram 	<p>WHY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our goal is to spread awareness and promote tourism in Japan ● We appreciate the Japanese Culture and wish to let more people know about Japan. ● This gives people who were not able to have the opportunity like us to also get to know Japanese culture. <p>WHEN:</p> <p>During the period of March to April</p> <p>HOW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Through different social media (Instagram, Facebook, etc.) ○ Pictures from our host family ○ Online Short articles, food ● Keep in touch with Chiba Family and regularly ask them about their life in Japan through Instagram
Group 2	
<p>Our Action Plan (Group E Batch# 26)</p> <p>© Title: Japanese Experience Opportunity Plan</p> <p>WHY : (Reasons to do it)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To give other people the chance to experience and love Japanese Culture ● To spread knowledge and appreciation for the Japanese language and culture <p>WHEN : (Please write the period within 3 months after the program)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March-April <p>WHO : (Who will do it?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Group E members <p>WHO : (To whom?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students/juniors in our school - Ngee Ann Polytechnic <p>WHAT : (What are you planning to do?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage our juniors to participate in future events ● Motivate them to visit Japan or pick up Japanese in school <p>HOW : (How will you implement your plan?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Get help from our school's Japanese Culture Club to spread the word - collaborate with them ● Spread word or doing talks etc through them 	<p>WHY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To give other people the chance to experience and love Japanese Culture -To spread knowledge and appreciation for the Japanese language and culture <p>WHEN: March - April</p> <p>WHO: Group E Members</p> <p>WHO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students/Junior in our school ▪ Encourage our juniors to participate in future events ▪ Motivate them to visit Japan or pick up Japanese in school <p>HOW:(How will you implement your plan?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Get help from our school's Japanese Culture Club to spread the word - collaborate with them ▪ Spread word or doing talks etc. through them

Implementation agency : Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)