



**Juntos!! Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange
Inbound Program Report (SICA and Cuba Group)
Theme: Renewable Energy**

1. Program Overview

【Objectives】 In addition to learning about Japan's initiatives for renewable energy, this program was conducted with the objective of having the participants know about the cases of the Japanese central and local governments. The participants learned about and experienced the connections between Japan and Latin America and the Caribbean, and gained an opportunity to utilize this knowledge and experience for environmental protection and global warming countermeasures in their home countries.

【Participants】 Total: 32 working youth and graduate students from 7 member countries of the Central American Integration System (Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana / SICA)* and from Cuba (including 1 from the FLACSO Secretariat in Costa Rica)

*Note: 7 SICA member countries are Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama (in alphabetical order).

【Location】 Tokyo and Hokkaido (Obihiro City)

2. Program Schedule

■ Pre-study Program

Thursday, February 2 【Orientation】 Prior explanation on the Inbound Program

Set period 【Video Viewing】 “Lecture on Japan,” “Learning Japanese”

■ Inbound Program

Tuesday, February 7 Arrival in Haneda Airport and Narita International Airport

Wednesday, February 8 【Orientation】

 【Lecture and Q&A Session】 Program briefing

Mr. SHIMIZU Chitaru, Director, Mexico, Central America and Caribbean Division, Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Bureau, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Japan

 【Reception (Luncheon)】

Remarks from Ms. KOBAYASHI, Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Bureau; Mr. Alexander Salas Araya, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Costa Rica in Japan; exchange among the participants; and remarks from the participant representative

【Courtesy Call】 Mr. TAKEI Shunsuke, State Minister for Foreign Affairs

Thursday, February 9 【Lecture and Q&A Session】 “Renewable Energy Policy” Lecturer: Mr. HIRAOKA Yuichiro, General Manager, New and Renewable Energy Division, Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Department, Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

【Observation】 The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan)

Traveling from Tokyo to Hokkaido (Obihiro City)

Friday, February 10 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. MARUYAMA Akinori, Deputy Mayor of Ashoro Town Municipality (Obihiro City in Hokkaido)

【Exchange】 Hokkaido Ashoro High School

【Observation】 Ashoro Town Next Generation Energy Park

Saturday, February 11 【Observation】 Obihiro Centennial City Museum, Ainu Culture Information Center

【Exchange】 With local residents and relevant parties, demonstration and experience of traditional Ainu dance

Sunday, February 12 Traveling from Hokkaido (Obihiro City) to Tokyo

【Workshop】 Preparations for the reporting session

Monday, February 13 【Observation, Cultural Experience】 Asakusa (Senso-ji Temple: Denboin / Emado (special hall for *ema* (horse picture) votive tablets), and Hanayashiki amusement park)

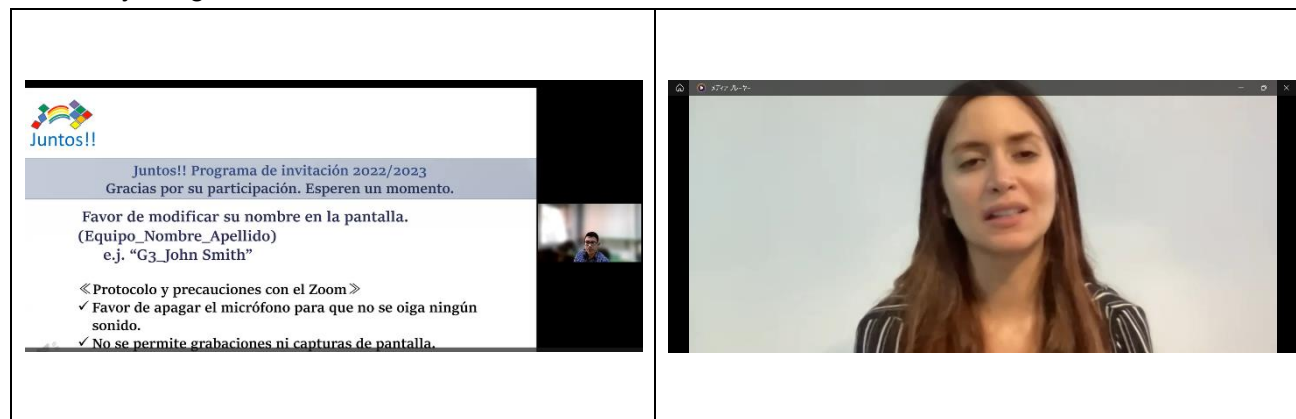
【Exchange】 Opinion exchange with Mr. TSUJI Kiyoto, Member of the House of Representatives

【Reporting Session】

Departure from Haneda Airport and Narita International Airport

3. Program Photos

Pre-study Program



February 2 【Orientation】 Overview of Juntos!! Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Program	February 2 【Orientation】 Self-introductions
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Inbound Program

	
February 8 【Orientation】 Self-introductions	February 8 【Lecture】 “Program Briefing” by Mr. SHIMIZU Chitaru, Director, Mexico, Central America and Caribbean Division, Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Bureau, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Japan
	
February 8 【Reception (Luncheon)】 Reception hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	February 8 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. TAKEI, State Minister for Foreign Affairs
	

<p>February 9 【Lecture and Q&A Session】 “Renewable Energy Policy”</p>	<p>February 10 【Courtesy Call】 Ashoro Town Municipality</p>
	
<p>February 10 【School Tour】 Hokkaido Ashoro High School</p>	<p>February 10 【Observation】 Ashoro Town Next Generation Energy Park</p>
	
<p>February 11 【Observation】 Obihiro Centennial City Museum, Ainu Culture Information Center</p>	<p>February 11 【Exchange】 With local residents and relevant parties, demonstration and experience of traditional Ainu dance</p>
	
<p>February 11 【Exchange】 Demonstration and experience of traditional Ainu dance in Obihiro City</p>	<p>February 12 【Workshop】 Preparations for the reporting session</p>



February 13 【Observation】 Curator explains *ema* at Senso-ji Emado.



February 13 【Exchange】 Opinion exchange with Mr. TSUJI Kiyoto, Member of the House of Representatives



February 13 【Reporting Session】 Presentation of results



February 13 【Reporting Session】 Group photo

4. Voices from Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth (El Salvador)

The various types of traditional dishes surprised me. I was happy to get out of our Latin American cooking routine. It was great to be exposed to different climates. I had never touched snow or been in a place with such a low temperature, so it was a lifelong memory. I really liked visiting the temple. Learning about their beliefs and religion was incredible.

◆ Working Youth (Panama)

It was a wonderful program, not only for the many observations, but also for the cultural exchanges with Japanese society and exchanges with other participants.

◆ Working Youth (Cuba)

Visits to facilities in line with program themes and observation of historically important sites were good.

◆ Working Youth (Cuba)

Through various experiences, I was able to clearly understand Japan in a short period of time.

5. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Cooperating Organization

We, as the whole of Asakusa, sympathized with the planning and implementation of JICE, and each organization welcomed the group members of visiting Japan. This was unexpectedly difficult, but extremely important. We would be happy to cooperate with JICE again if requested.

6. Disseminations by the participants, News reports

	<p>February 14, 2023 (Instagram)</p> <p>To say “goodbye” to the incredible team that welcomed us and fostered our friendship was the only “sad” part of our experience.</p>
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February 14 (Tokachi Mainichi Newspaper)

Learn the usefulness of wooden pellets

Latin American working youth observe Ashoro

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The visit is part of the “Juntos!! Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Program,” which is hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and commissioned to the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE). This program invites and dispatches human resources who have the ability to communicate externally and lead the future between Japan and countries and regions in Asia, North America, Europe, and Latin America. During the covid pandemic, the program was held online, and this is the first face-to-face exchange since 2019.

This is the first visit to Tokachi area in 7 years since the visit to Ashoro Town in 2016. The delegation arrived in Japan on the 7th and entered Tokachi on the night of the 9th. In FY2012, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry designated Ashoro Town, which engages in the production of wood pellets using unused wood, as a “Next Generation Energy Park” as municipalities promoting the use of renewable energy.

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“I was impressed with the facilities that utilize forest resources in Ashoro Town for heating. It’s a great Japanese culture. I wish it could be applied in Cuba,” said Mr. Christian Carreras Casas, a 27-year-old renewable energy specialist who works for a Cuban electric company.



February 15, 2023 (Tokyo Shimbun Newspaper Web edition)

32 people from Latin America observe Asakusa “Such a traditional town, even in modern Tokyo!”

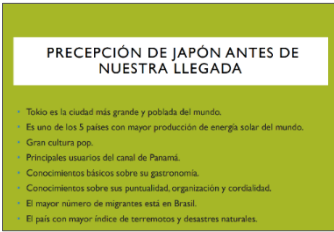
A total of 32 people from eight Latin American countries went to Asakusa, Taito Ward, in Tokyo, on the 13th to visit Senso-ji Temple and Hanayashiki amusement park under the “Juntos!! Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Program,” a program promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, encouraging young people from overseas to convey and disseminate the attractiveness of Japan.

The group included 23–38-year-old employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and newspaper reporters from Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Cuba. They arrived in Japan on the 7th to learn about the current state of renewable energy use in Japan through a program organized by the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) based in Shinjuku Ward. Visitors attended a lecture at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and toured Next Generation Energy Park in Ashoro Town in Hokkaido and other places.

On this day, the participants visited Senso-ji Temple and toured the Emado, which is located on the west side of the Five-Storied Pagoda and not open to the public. They discussed their impressions and took pictures while looking at large *ema* (horse picture) votive tablets and sculptures. “It was a special experience. Such a traditional town, even in modern Tokyo!” said Mr. Nicole Palacios, 27, who is in charge Japanese culture for a Nicaraguan television station, in surprise.

	<p>February 14, 2023 (Official Twitter of Mr. TSUJI Kiyoto, Member of the House of Representatives)</p> <p>Yesterday, as part of the international “Juntos!! Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Program,” young administrators from seven member countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and Cuba visited Japan and exchanged opinions at Asakusa Senso-ji Temple. I explained that I was in charge of Latin America when I was a parliamentary secretary, and also explained the need to build a wide-ranging cooperative relationship with Japan.</p>
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7. Action Plans Presented at the Final Reporting Session (excerpt)

Panama

<p>All Panama Group members will deliver Japanese culture, food, and customs as well as the Juntos!! Experience not only to our families, friends, and acquaintances, but also all Panamanians so that they will be interested in our disseminations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Member 1 (Second Secretary, International Cooperation Bureau, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs): I would like to strengthen cooperation between the Japanese Embassy in Panama and the Panamanian Embassy in Tokyo in organizing and coordinating cultural and sports activities. ● Member 2 (Engineer, Power Generation Division, National Energy Agency): I would like to not only verbally convey the experiences and lessons learned from this program to Japan, but also spread the content on social networks to a wider audience. ● Member 3 (Producing national broadcast programs and radio personality): I want to spread Japanese culture through the media. As an example, I created a video titled “Five Wonders of Japan.” I will disseminate information as a person who has experience through Juntos!!

Guatemala

4. Plan de acción



Redes sociales

- Publicaciones de experiencias personales en Japón
 - Culturales
 - Aprendizajes
 - Experiencias
 - Energía renovable en Japón
 - Gastronomía



Página web

- Publicación en páginas oficiales de las instituciones.



■ Purpose

- 1 Have people know of JICE's international exchange programs.
- 2 Disseminate to the people of Guatemala and make them aware of Japanese culture, Japanese food, customs, and the direction of Japan's renewable energy policy that we have learned through the Juntos!! program
- 3 We will share information with family members, close friends, colleagues at work, and the workplace of each participant. We will also disseminate information through our social media followers.

■ How

Posted on the official websites of the organizations that the participants belong to such as the Ministry of Energy and Mines of Guatemala, the Guatemalan Chemical Technology Agency, the National Electric Power Corporation, and University of The Valley of Guatemala (UVG).

- What's included: It's natural to disseminate information about Japanese culture, and we'd like to give people an opportunity to think about the proper use of renewable resources.

Costa Rica



- Each participant will implement the following action plan.
 - As an internet media “Delfino.cor” reporter and editor, I will share with viewers Japanese culture and social manners in a three-month series as a story of the Juntos!! program experience.
 - As chair of the School of International Relations at the National University of Costa Rica, I will share and disseminate my experiences with students. I will also work to promote international relations and cooperation with the Japanese Embassy in Costa Rica.
 - As a person belonging to FLASCO, I will disseminate information about the Juntos!! program and publish a column on renewable energy on the official FLASCO website.
 - As a person in charge of environmental management at the San Pablo City Government, I will share information about my experience and the training courses at Juntos!! with local residents as well as the wider public on social media.
 - As the administrative officer of the Environmental and Sustainable Development Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I will share my experiences within my division and deepen ties of international cooperation with Japan in the future.

■ What is to be disseminated (experience and awareness in Japan)

Ainu culture; the difference in climate between Obihiro City, Hokkaido, and Tokyo; diverse gourmet tastes; the education system, the club activities and career paths after graduation, all of which were taught by high school students; convenient, safe, and modern mobility; Japan’s renewable energy policy and the efforts of Ashoro Town; and the fact that it was hard to find a garbage can in the city yet there was no litter on the streets. Smoking areas are separately established, which shows consideration for children and non-smokers, social order, high sense of morality, etc.

Implementation agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)