



**Juntos!! Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Outbound Program
(Dominican Republic) Report
Theme: Environmental Conservation**

1. Program Overview

【Objectives】 This program was implemented with the aim of building friendly relations between Japan and the Dominican Republic by dispatching Japanese undergraduate and graduate students to the Dominican Republic and having them actively disseminate the attractions of both countries. The participants deepened their understanding of the differences in cultures and lifestyles between Japan and the Dominican Republic through a school exchange with students attending a local Japanese language school and home visits, in addition to observation programs and lectures on environmental conservation.

【Participants】 Total: 10 Japanese undergraduate students and graduate students

【Location】 Dominican Republic

2. Program Schedule

■ Pre-study Program (online):

Thursday, January 19 【Orientation】 Pre-departure orientation and overview of the program
【Exchange】 Self-introductions

■ Inbound Program

Tuesday, February 7 Departure from Narita International Airport

Wednesday, February 8 Arrival in the Dominican Republic from Las Americas International Airport
(Santo Domingo)
【Orientation】

Thursday, February 9 【Courtesy Call】 The official residence of the Japanese Ambassador to the Dominican Republic

【Courtesy Call】 Ministry of Youth

【Courtesy Call】 Ministry of Environment

【Observation】 National Museum of Natural History

Friday, February 10 【Observation】Azua City Hall

【Observation】Azua City Garbage Disposal Site

【Observation】The site of the Azua City Drainage Development Project

【Observation】Azua City Coast

【Exchange】Dinner with young Japanese Dominicans

Saturday, February 11 【School Exchange】 Japan-Dominica Cultural Center
 【Home Visit】 Exchange with host families

Sunday, February 12 【Lecture】 "JICA Project in the Dominican Republic" Lecturer: Mr. SASAKI Kenta, Deputy Manager, JICA Dominican Republic Office
 【Exchange】 JICA's JOCV
 【Workshop】 Preparations for the reporting session

Monday, February 13 【Observation】 Cathedral of Santa Maria la Menor, National Park of Los Tres Ojos
 【Observation】 Hiroshima Toyo Carp Academy of baseball
 【Reception/Reporting Session】 Embassy of Japan in the Dominican Republic

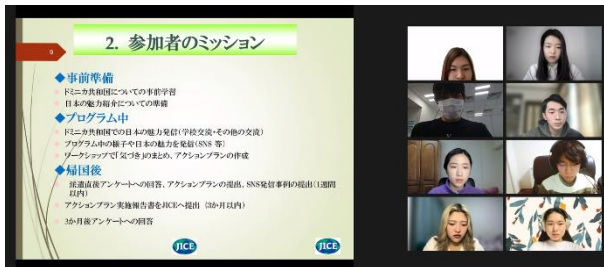
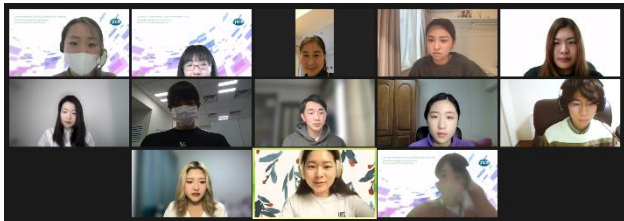
Tuesday, February 14 Departure from Las Americas International Airport (Santo Domingo)

Thursday, February 16 Arrival at Narita International Airport

Wednesday, February 22 【Reporting Session after Returning Home】 【Courtesy Call】 Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Japan (in person and online)

3. Program Photos

Pre-departure Orientation

	
January 19 【Orientation】	January 19 【Exchange】 Self-introductions

Outbound Program

	
February 9 【Courtesy Call】 Embassy of Japan in the Dominican Republic	February 9 【Courtesy Call】 Ministry of Youth



February 9 【Courtesy Call】 Ministry of Environment



February 10 【ODA Site Observation】 Azua City Hall



February 10 【ODA Site Lecture/Observation】 Azua City Drainage Development Project



February 10 【Exchange】 Dinner with young Japanese Dominicans



February 11 【School Exchange】 Japan-Dominica Cultural Center



February 12 【Exchange】 JICA's JOCV



February 13 【 Observation 】 Hiroshima Toyo Carp Academy of baseball



February 13 【Reporting Session】

Reporting Session after Returning Home



February 22 【Reporting Session after Returning Home】 Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Japan



February 22 【Courtesy Call】 Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Japan

4. Voices from Participants (excerpt)

◆ Undergraduate Student

I thought I had learned about the Dominican Republic in preparation for my presentation about Japan's biofuel production technology and how to use the technology. However, during the visit to the Ministry of Environment and observation of a garbage disposal site in Azua City, I gained new insight into what Dominicans are proud of and see as challenges in their country, which became an opportunity to rethink how Japan can provide support.

◆ Undergraduate Student

We had a very good time dancing Bachata after presentations at the Japan-Dominica Cultural Center school exchange. I think it was good that we made presentations on the cultures of each other's countries, as well as danced together. It was also very nice to have dinner with the people involved after the visit. Rather than ending just in a formal setting, I was able to communicate in an informal, relaxing setting that gave me a deeper understanding of the culture and national character of the Dominican Republic.

◆ Undergraduate Student



At the Japanese language school, I met people from the Dominican Republic who were studying Japanese. I think it was a really good opportunity for us to introduce the attractions of both countries. I was especially impressed by the dance exchange with the students. I came to love the Dominican Republic.



5. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)



◆ Exchange School

It was a great Saturday for all the participants and the students of the Japan-Dominica Cultural Center, thanks to a great exchange program.

6. Disseminations by the participants, News reports, etc.

	
<p>February 9, 2023 (Instagram)</p> <p>【Courtesy Call】 Ministry of Environment</p> <p>I learned that they are making various efforts and innovations to improve the environment of the Dominican Republic. It showed the importance of the environment, as tourism is the main economic resource in the country!</p> <p>"The goal is to use less carbon and develop the country!"</p>	<p>February 9, 2023 (Instagram)</p> <p>2nd day in the Dominican Republic (2/9Thu)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courtesy visit to the Embassy of Japan in DR • Courtesy visit to the Ministry of Youth • Courtesy visit to the Ministry of Environment • Visit to Natural History Museum <p>Today's Word: Public diplomacy · humanism diplomacy</p> <p>Today's Awareness & Thoughts</p> <p>○ The power of Youth under politics with a Focus on Ministry of Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was shocked at the fact that Mr. Rafael Feliz García, the president of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, is only 26 years old...

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was very frank and we had lunch together + I even took 2 shots with him. • I was surprised to hear that Dominicans start political activities in their teens from a young person's perspective. • I think Japan should learn from them in terms of political participation of young people. <p>○High level of nature-conservation awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was impressed by the high level of ecotourism incorporation (*1.9 million people participate in tours annually). <p>○Unique dance is a part of the DR's culture and for that matter, the DR's symbol!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance music, such as bachata and merengue, can be heard outside the hotel every night!! • Bachata is really really cool!!! I would like to play bachata especially bachata de Fukuoka with piano. <p>○Paintings for sale everywhere!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art is So close to people in DR. I love that culture...
 <p>February 9, 2023 (Instagram) Japanese student Ministry of Environment Dominican Republic has endangered species</p>	 <p>February 10, 2023 (Instagram) Japanese student At 9:00 a.m., a lecture at Azua City Hall</p>

<p>and a lot of nature. They have to protect them. However, since tourism is a major source of income, tourism development must be carried out. In the future, in order to maintain the beautiful sea, forest, and nature as tourism resources, they must maintain or improve the situation. I understood that policies of the Ministry of Environment are based on the tourism. I was able to understand that because I listened to various stories throughout the entire program.</p>	<p>I learned about technical cooperation projects, volunteer activities, and activities to improve the environment of Azua City.</p> <p>How important the environment is to Azua, a city famous for its agricultural industry! "How can we reduce littering...?" They were very interested in the culture of Japanese children cleaning the school themselves. We were able to discuss the importance of education. I was also able to learn about environmental education methods.</p>
	
<p>February 10, 2023 (Instagram)</p> <p>I met Nikkei Dominicans! It was an opportunity to understand each other's culture and think about how we can spread interest in Nikkei in the future!</p>	<p>February 11, 2023 (Instagram)</p> <p>It was a short visit, but they welcomed me like a real family member and taught me a lot about Dominican culture and food!</p>

	
<p>February 11, 2023 (Instagram) Account for participant PR</p> <p>After enjoying our time with the students, we went to a place where host families, who cooperated with the home visit program, were waiting!</p> <p>Each participant was assigned one family. The program was designed such that participants spend half a day at a host family's house and gain a deeper understanding of local life. There weren't many opportunities to enjoy the sea in the Dominican Republic in this program, so the host families took us to the beach near the capital!</p> <p>We ate at home together and went out, which was a great opportunity to learn the culture and customs. Thank you for your warm welcome!</p> <p>My time with my host family is an important treasure during this program.</p>	<p>February 18, 2023 (Facebook of Japanese Dominican Association)</p> <p>Dominican Republic</p> <p>On February 10, I had the opportunity to interact with the participants of the first group sent to Central America and the Caribbean during their visit to the Dominican Republic for the "2022 Juntos!! Japan–Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Program" promoted by the Japanese government.</p> <p>Although the schedule was tight, as it contained many programs such as a visit to a government office of the Dominican Republic and a discussion with university students, the participants took time out in the evening to understand and exchange views on the current situation surrounding the community of Japanese Dominicans.</p> <p>We explained the latest activities of the Japanese Dominican Association as well as our aim to further strengthen the Japanese Dominican identity in Dominican society.</p> <p>I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Japanese Embassy for coordinating such a wonderful exchange program and giving consideration to Japanese Dominicans.</p>



February 12, 2023 (trending news site STRAIGHT PRESS)

Students interact with people in the Dominican Republic in “Juntos!! Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Program”

A total of 10 Japanese undergraduate and graduate students are visiting the Dominican Republic as part of the "Juntos!! Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Program" of the Japan International Cooperation Center. Through observations, lectures, and home visit programs on the theme of "environmental conservation," the participants gain a better understanding of the society, economy, culture, and history of each other's countries, and actively disseminate the attractions of Japan by interacting with local people, thereby further strengthening friendly relations between Japan and the Dominican Republic.

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March 4, 2023 (Facebook page of the Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Japan)

Ambassador Takada welcomed the young participants of the Juntos!! Program who visited the Dominican Republic a few days earlier.

Courageous and energetic students were selected from many applicants to participate in the program. In addition to reporting on their visit to the Dominican Republic, they made a presentation on the challenges of the Dominican Republic regarding its development, which they had learned about in the program.

The participants seemed satisfied with their experiences in the Dominican Republic. Ambassador Takada told them that he would like them to continue to disseminate the culture of the Dominican Republic and what they experienced, and that he would like to support them.

7. Action Plans Presented at the Reporting Session (excerpt)



■ Lessons learned and insights gained in the program

- Visit to the Ministry of Youth: Various activities are carried out to encourage young people to participate in society.
- Visit to the Ministry of Environment and Azua City: Although there are various environmental problems, including garbage disposal, protecting the environment leads to protecting the tourism industry, which is a key industry of the country, and the future of the youth.
- Home Visit: I got to see various parts of the town.
- There are many children in the Dominican Republic, but the quality of education they receive varies considerably. I learned that access to quality education is far from equal. I think that a high-quality basic education that can be provided to both the rich and the poor and the development and security of education are very important challenges.

■ Future activities

After returning to Japan, we would like to share what we have learned about the Dominican Republic through this program in classes at the university so that we can gradually give back to society. Specifically, we plan to use a social media account created jointly by the participants to disseminate information about the Dominican Republic, organize and hold exchange sessions between students, and give lectures at universities in order to actively disseminate our learning.

Implementation agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)