



Juntos!! Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Outbound Program (Argentina) Report

Theme: Promotion of Understanding of NIKKEI Community and Youth Exchange

1. Program Overview

【Objectives】 This program was implemented with the aim of building friendly relations between Japan and Argentina where Japanese undergraduate and graduate students were dispatched and actively disseminating the attractiveness of each country. The participants observed various facilities and took lectures on the themes of promoting understanding for the NIKKEI society and youth exchange, and deepened their understanding for cultural differences and the history of the NIKKEI communities through exchange with students at local Japanese language schools and NIKKEI communities.

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

【Location】 Argentina

2. Program Schedule

■ Pre-departure Orientation (Online)

Friday, March 3 【Orientation】 Orientation before leaving Japan and overview of the program
 【Exchange】 Self-introductions

■ Outbound Program

Tuesday, March 21 Departure from Narita International Airport

Wednesday, March 22 Arrival in Argentina from Ezeiza International Airport (Buenos Aires)
 【Orientation】

Thursday, March 23 【Courtesy Call】 Embassy of Japan in Argentina
 【Observation】 Floriculture Research Laboratory of National Institute of
Agriculture Technology (INTA)
 【Observation】 National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI)

Friday, March 24 【Observation】 River Plate Museum, France Square, El Ateneo Bookstore
 【Exchange】 Okinawan Center in Argentina

Saturday, March 25 【School Exchange】 Nichia Gakuin
 【Observation】 Former ESMA Museum and Site of Memory

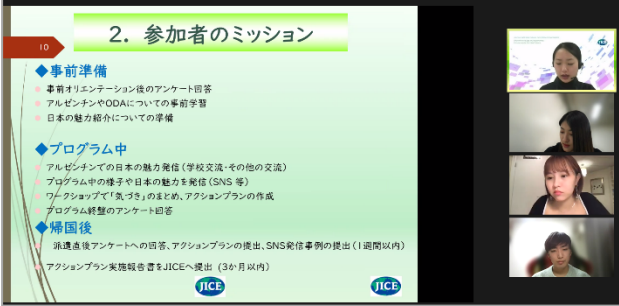

Sunday, March 26 【Workshop】 Preparations for the reporting session
 【Observation】 Plaza de Mayo, San Telmo district

Monday, March 27 【Reporting Session】 Embassy of Japan in Argentina
 【Observation】 Caminito in Boca district





【Courtesy Call】 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina
Departure from Ezeiza International Airport (Buenos Aires)

3. Program Photos

Pre-departure Orientation

	
<p>March 3 【Orientation】</p>	<p>March 3 【Exchange】 Self-introductions</p>

Outbound Program

	
<p>March 23 【Courtesy Call】 Embassy of Japan in Argentina</p>	<p>March 23 【Observation】 Floriculture Research Laboratory of National Institute of Agriculture Technology (INTA)</p>
	
<p>March 23 【Observation】 National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI)</p>	<p>March 24 【Observation】 River Plate Museum</p>



March 24 【Exchange】 Okinawan Center in Argentina



March 25 【School Exchange】 Nichia Gakuin



March 25 【Observation】 Former ESMA Museum and Site of Memory



March 26 【Workshop】 Preparations for the reporting session



March 27 【Reporting Session】



March 27 【Courtesy Call】 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina

4. Voices from Participants (excerpt)

◆ Undergraduate Student

I was able to get a grasp of the schedule from the orientation before leaving Japan, and I was able to have a concrete image of my stay. In addition, the orientation was very helpful for me to prepare for my trip because I was able to hear about some precautions and important points in

going to Argentina. We had time to introduce ourselves to all the participants and it made me feel comfortable to get to know the people I was going to be with before the program.

◆ **Undergraduate Student**

At the pre-departure orientation, I reconfirmed my mission to participate in the outbound program, and I thought I would study and prepare other things to fulfill my purpose. In addition, I was able to get to know the backgrounds and personalities of the other participants as well as the staff who operate the program, so I was able to prepare for the trip with a sense of unity.

◆ **Undergraduate Student**

Exchange with Nikkei was the most interesting. Argentina looks like a country of Spanish or Italian descent when you look at the city lightly, but because I was able to exchange with Nikkei, I was able to approach the diversity of the country.

◆ **Undergraduate Student**

I think it was a valuable experience to be able to hear the voices of the local people in a country that was just after the collapse of the military regime. That topic also gave me an opening to talk with Nikkei and students of Nichia Gakuin. In addition, even if each exchange and observation was short, the JICE staff helped me understand the characteristics of the country and people.

5. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **Host Organization**

From the Nikkei youth in Argentina, many opinions were heard that they wanted to share more time with Japanese participants. Thank you for this very valuable experience.

◆ **School Exchange**

Students from Japan introduced how to spend time in Tokyo, festivals, hot springs, and Japanese traditional sweets, and all of what they talked about was very interesting. It was very good that they made a presentation in both Spanish and Japanese. From our side, we introduced student life in Argentina, how to celebrate weddings, and how we celebrated winning the World Cup. It was a good opportunity for us to do our best to make a presentation in the Japanese language. At the party after the presentation, we were able to talk about a lot of things, and it was a great exchange.

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



March 23, 2023 (Instagram) Account for PR of participants

Hello, everyone.

(Day 1)

Today, we visited the Japanese ambassador's residence in Argentina!

Surprisingly, more than 70% of Nikkei immigrants in Argentina are believed to be from Okinawa.

Also, there is a very high level of trust in the Japanese in Argentina. This was because Nikkei contributed to Argentine society for a long time and built their reputation!

*For those who wonder what Nikkei is.

It refers to Japanese nationals and their descendants who have obtained nationality or permanent residency in countries other than Japan!



March 23, 2023 (Instagram) Ambassador Yamauchi, Embassy of Japan in Argentina

Welcome!

Today, a delegation of Japanese students who visited Argentina for the first time under the Juntos!! program organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan came to the ambassador's residence.

From now, the delegation will travel around Buenos Aires and deepen mutual understanding through exchange with the Nikkei communities.

I wish them a wonderful stay filled with new experiences.



March 23, 2023 (Instagram) Japanese undergraduate students

To improve the productivity of the Argentine



March 24, 2023 (Instagram) Account for PR of participants

(Day 2)

industry, the KAIZEN TANGO Project has been conducted based on a bilateral agreement between JICA and the Argentine Ministry of Productivity and Development, and between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and INTI. We visited the INTI (National Institute of Industrial Technology), where the KAIZEN TANGO Project is implemented.

We joined the members of the Okinawan Center in Argentina (COA)!

About 70% to 80% of Nikkei-Argentinitians have their roots in Okinawa.

COA holds classes to pass on Okinawa culture, such as the *sanshin* musical instrument and Eisa dance.

One of our members from Okinawa said, “It’s much more Okinawa than today’s Okinawa.”

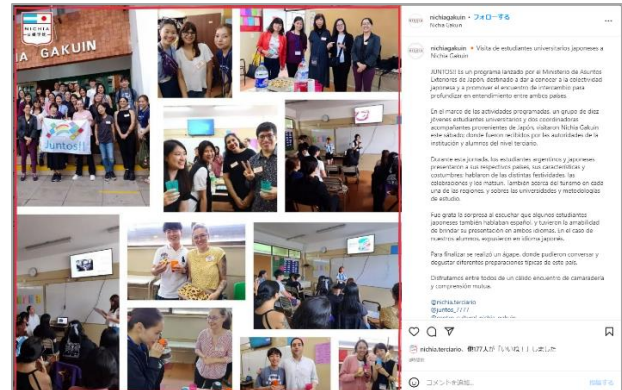
Far away from Japan, Argentina has long had a connection with Japan.

It was the day I realized that there is a heart of respect for the Nikkei society and the Japanese people in today’s Argentina, thanks to the trust that has been built by the Nikkei who have lived there.



March 24, 2023 (Facebook) Okinawa Center in Argentina

We accepted a group called the Juntos!! program consisting of 10 undergraduate students interested in learning about the Nikkei community in Argentina and the immigrants from Okinawa. We organized an exchange meeting with young people from our center (COA Youth Division, Varela, Sarmiento) RKMD, Okiryukai, Ryukyu Sapukai, and Nomura Ryu. Moreover, soccer player Ichika Egashira came with a Nikkei futsal team. COA presented the Japanese students with a Japanese book on Okinawan



March 25, 2023 (Instagram) Nichia Gakuin

Japanese undergraduate students visited Nichia Gakuin.

Juntos!! is a program implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan with the aim of deepening knowledge of Japanese people for Argentina and deepening mutual understanding between the two countries by promoting exchanges.

In the framework of the activities of the program, 10 undergraduate students and 2 coordinators who accompanied them from Japan visited Nichia Gakuin on Saturday, where school

immigrants in Argentina. While eating choripan and sandwiches, the young people interacted in a lively manner.

faculty and students from the junior and senior high schools accepted them.

During the visit, the Argentine and Japanese students gave presentations on their respective countries, characteristics, and customs, and talked about various holidays, events, and festivals. They also discussed tourism, universities, and study / research methodologies in their respective countries.

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March 25, 2023 (Instagram) Account for PR of participants

After visiting Nichia Gakuin, we went to ESMA. Originally functioning as a naval training school, ESMA also began to be used as a concentration camp from 1976, where many people (mainly young people) “disappeared.”

How did they “disappear?” According to the guide, those who were tortured and interrogated at ESMA were told they would be flown to another detention center and put on a plane. Then, they were put to sleep there with sleeping pills and dumped into the vast La Plata River and beyond into the sea. This is how large numbers of people are said to have “disappeared.”

Also, pregnant women at ESMA at the time were killed when their babies were born, and the babies were adopted into the homes of leading military figures of the time. (Of course, the

April 1, 2023 (Blog) Japanese graduate student

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There are several things that left an impression on me after participating in the program.

First of all, the fascination (interest) of Nikkei society.

I will write about this in detail under the theme.

At any rate, we had many conversations and formed a very deep bond. It's so wonderful.

Next, the visit made me think about the essence and uniqueness of Japan. Education on Japanese culture has been conducted in the Nikkei community and at Japanese language schools.

Culture is the footprint of life that people have continued to maintain. If culture is mainly passed on through letters and words, can't we also interpret culture through written words?

I don't stand for the idea of traditionalism

children didn't know that their mothers had been killed, and they believed their adoptive family was their real families.) However, the "Mother of May" movement has gained momentum, and many children born at ESMA were identified through genetic testing and other means. People who were suddenly confronted with the fact that "Your family isn't your real family, they're among the people who killed your real mother." must have been shocked beyond imagination. Through ESMA, we once again had the opportunity to learn and reflect on human cruelty and the situation under Argentina's dictatorship at the time. The disaster in Argentina at that time is not well known in Japan, but I felt I needed to relearn about other Latin American countries, including Argentina.

(everything is good if it is old). On the other hand, I thought it would be nice to have a better understanding of the Japanese culture that I had internalized and to have an idea of my inner self. Finally, the importance of dialogue. In this program, 10 undergraduate students (I was the only graduate student) with a variety of backgrounds and values participated. I talked to them a lot. We talked about our views on history and culture as well as our thoughts on the future. By speaking, I really felt my thoughts go down in my body. ...



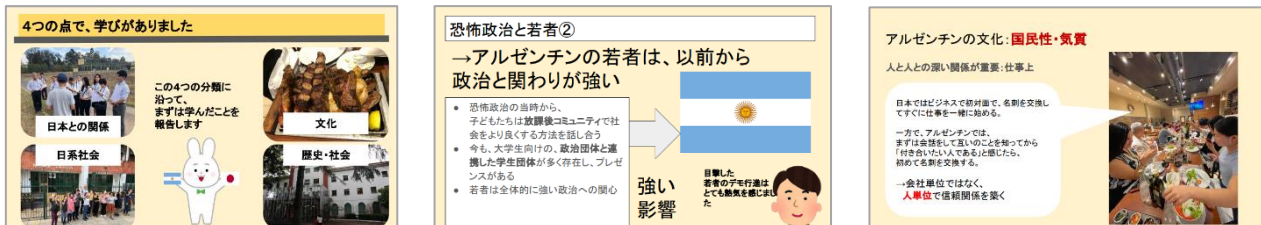
April 2, 2023 (Instagram) Japanese undergraduate student
 It was a truly intense five days, blessed with encounters with people with exceptional experiences and talents!
 I heard from the Argentine ambassador that "Argentina is an elusive country."
 Looking back, I think it is a country where a real diversity of ethnic groups coexists. I need to find out more!
 The fun atmosphere of the Spanish language made me want to learn it!
 I would love to visit Latin American countries again while studying in the U.S.

April 2, 2023 (Instagram) Japanese undergraduate student
 Travel to Argentina
 The more you know, the more you discover how interesting the country is.
 - People are friendly and warm.
 - The scars of the military regime are seen.
 - Enthusiastic about education (teachers are reshuffled every time the administration changes.)
 - Historical ties with Japan
 Hats off to everyone who could speak Spanish.
 I realized that there are doors to open by using the local language!

Next time I'll come back as a tourist.
To everyone I met, mucho gusto!

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

Promotion of Understanding of NIKKEI Community and Youth Exchange (1)



■ What I learned during the program

- Relations with Japan in terms of industry: We learned that they are seeking operational efficiency through 5S and kaizen and development of new varieties, and they have received technical support from Chiba University.
- Nikkei society: We learned that Nikkei are highly regarded and that 70% of them are from Okinawa. We also learned about the current state of Japanese culture spreading from Nichia Gakuin, etc. to non-Nikkei people.
- Culture: We learned that there are Japanese language schools in Argentina and that Japanese anime and manga are popular. We also learned about the food culture of Argentina, as well as individual-based national characteristics, temperaments, closeness of distance, the effects of inflation, and economic conditions.
- History and society: We learned about the politics of terror and the abduction of young people.

■ Action plan

Each member will make an action plan on relations with Japan, Nikkei society, culture, society, and history.

- Member A: As I am interested in teaching the heritage language in the Nikkei community, I will conduct fieldwork in Spanish classes for Nikkei around my university and also disseminate information on social media about the heritage language in the Nikkei community.
- Member B: I will disseminate how many people love Japanese culture in Argentina. I will disseminate the activities of Nichia Gakuin on social media and invite Nikkei as guests to my own radio program.
- Member C: Because I am interested in sanitation environment, health, and social security in Argentina, I will disseminate Argentina's current situation and conduct Latin American studies at the university. I will continue to maintain contact with my friends in Argentina.
- Member D: Due to my interest in Argentina's economic situation, I will set Argentina's

economy as my workshop theme. I'd like to discuss Argentine policies with my friends.

- Member E: As I'm interested in the identity of Nikkei and the politics of terror, I'm going to research and disseminate information about Nikkei around the world. I will talk about the politics of Argentina with my friends and discuss Japan's political issues with them.

The above five people will arouse young people's interest by implementing their respective action plans.

Promotion of Understanding of NIKKEI Community and Youth Exchange (2)



■ What I learned during the program

- Through my exchange with Nikkei organizations, I learned that Japanese culture is more prevalent among Nikkei people than it is in Japan, but that as generations change, it is difficult to maintain the Japanese language, and it is not easy to go to Japan, in terms of distance and economics.
- During my stay, I was able to learn about the charms of Nikkei in Argentina, which has not yet reached Japan, and activities intended to blend Japanese and Argentine cultures (*jacaranami*, or jacaranda blossom viewing).
- To become more friendly with Argentinians, I thought that the Japanese should actively adopt the idea of sharing and drinking mate tea, which is a sign of friendship in Argentina, and greetings such as hugs and kisses on the cheeks.

In addition to disseminating on social media the attractiveness of Argentina as shown above and what I have learned, each member will share such information with others in their daily lives.

Implementation agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)