



Juntos!! Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Program Online Alumni Meeting (Theme: Development Cooperation [2]) Report

1. Program Overview and Objectives

JICE conducted an online alumni event for "Juntos!! Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Program" alumni from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean who had visited Japan in the past under the same program, with the objectives of improving friendly relations between Japan and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as strengthening ties and promoting activities among alumni. The participants were given the opportunity to hear about local activities from Japanese staff members assigned to Latin America and the Caribbean as JOCVs (Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers) and exchanged views on working and living in different cultures.

【 Participants 】 Juntos!! Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Program alumni (participants from FY2015 to FY2021)




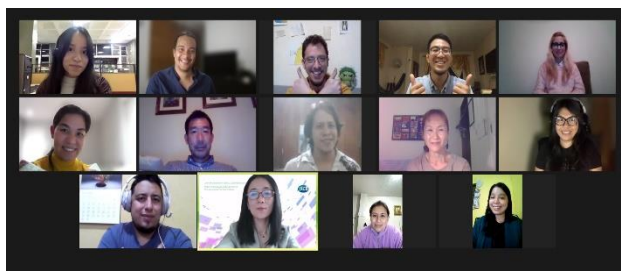
(undergraduate students, graduate students, and working youth, including alumni who had participated online, from the following countries: Argentina, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela) 13 participants

【Program Schedule】

Date Location	Program contents	Participants' questions and reactions
October 4, 2022 Ecuador, El Salvador, Dominica n Republic	1. Opening remarks 2. Video: Introduction to JICA JOCV - Video introducing JOCV with examples from Peru - Video commemorating the 30th anniversary of the JICA Ecuador Office JICA 3. JOCV introductions - SUZUKI Kanji, Youth Activities, Republic of Ecuador - MORITA Etsuko, Japanese Language Education, Republic of El Salvador - NISHIYAMA Tsuyoshi, Computer Technology, Project Management	Participants watched a video introducing JOCV and gained a deeper understanding of the program. In the exchanges in groups with the JOCVs, participants asked them questions about the difficulties and hardships they experience working for long periods of time so far away from Japan. Many participants also exchanged opinions on cultural aspects such as differences in views on time, eating habits, recreational activities, and so on. Everyone talked about a lot of different topics in Spanish, and the

	<p>Specialist, Dominican Republic</p> <p>4. Exchanges in groups with JOCVs Theme: "What can be done to strengthen relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and Japan?"</p> <p>5. General Q&A session</p> <p>6. Group photo</p> <p>7. Closing remarks</p>	<p>conversations never ended, making for a very active exchange.</p> <p>During the general Q&A session, participants asked questions such as, "Music and dance are integral to daily life in Latin America and the Caribbean, but do you feel you have benefited from this?" and "What is your favorite part of the country you've been assigned to?"</p>
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2. Program Photos

	
Self-introductions by JICA JOCVs	Q&A session with JICA JOCVs
	
Groups program - Exchange with participants	Group photo with the lecturers

3. Voices from Participants (excerpt)

◆ Vocational School Student (Ecuador)

It was a great opportunity to hear about the experiences of JOCVs. I was especially happy to learn that some of them are working in my country, Ecuador.

◆ Vocational School Student (Argentina)

Everyone was very kind and I would like to have more contact with the volunteers here in Argentina, as well as take part in courses and training with experts coming from Japan. I would also like to know if there is a possibility of cooperation with the Secretariat of Knowledge Economy

of the Ministry of Economy of Argentina, where I work as a consultant.

◆ **Undergraduate Student (Guatemala)**

The exchange with current JOCVs was enjoyable and I was able to learn about their perspectives and real-life experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean, and also learn more about Japan.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **JOCV**

It was a great experience for me to be able to hear and talk about the COVID-19 situation in each country, the relationship between each country and Japan, and how each country is involved with volunteers, all in a common language (Spanish).

◆ **JOCV**

It was a great opportunity to talk with people from other South American countries. I hope that we (JOCV) can communicate and cooperate with each other even more in the future.

5. Findings from the Exchanges in Groups (excerpt)

Theme: “What can be done to strengthen relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and Japan?”

- Expand the recruitment scope to include all kinds of people and not just alumni when gathering people for alumni events. (promote exchanges)
- Have participants share the results of their participation in the program in their respective countries to share information and have them recognize their own involvement in the program. (strengthen collaboration)
- Form a network for conducting face-to-face activities and building relationships. (strengthen collaboration)
- Conduct face-to-face activities in local cities. (promote activities)
- Conduct activities to create social connections between the general public and program participants and Japanese counterparts, as well as activities to disseminate attractive aspects of Japanese culture to the general public. (promote exchanges)
- Have participants share and disseminate their own knowledge about the activities within the alumni association. (promote exchanges)

Implementation agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)