

JENESYS2023 Singapore-Japan Social Welfare Exchange (Invitation Program for High School Students) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】The declining birthrate and aging population are problems in Singapore, just as they are in Japan. As part of this program, students from Singapore studying social welfare learned about Japan's policies toward the aging society and visited barrier-free facilities in Japan. The program also aimed to deepen students' understanding of Japan by providing them with opportunities to experience Japanese culture.

【Participants】 Total: 9 participants – 8 high school students learning social welfare and 1 school faculty member from Singapore.

【Locations and Breakdown】

- Pre-study Program (Online) : 9 to Chiba
- Inbound Program: 9 to Kanagawa, 9 to Tokyo, 9 to Okinawa

【Program Schedule】

- Pre-study Program (Online) :

Dec. 11 (Mon) **【Pre-departure Orientation】**

【Lecture】 "Attractiveness of Japan"

Lecturer: Mr. ODA Yuichi, Professor, Institute for Excellence in Educational Innovation (IEEI), Chiba University

Set Period Prior to Arrival **【Task-based Learning (VOD)】** "Virtual Home Visit", "Study Japanese Culture in Kyoto", "Peace Tour in Hiroshima", "Japanese Language", "50 Years of ASEAN-Japan Relationships", "Japan and the United Nations"

- Inbound Program:

Dec. 17 (Sun) Arrival at Narita international Airport

【Post-arrival Orientation】

Dec. 18 (Mon) **【Theme Related Observation】**

Futatsuya Elementary School (Public and special needs education)

【Theme Related Lecture】 "Initiative for a Barrier-Free Society in Japan"

Lecturer: Mr. MATSUDA Jun, Policy Bureau division Deputy Director of Policy Division for Universal Design, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

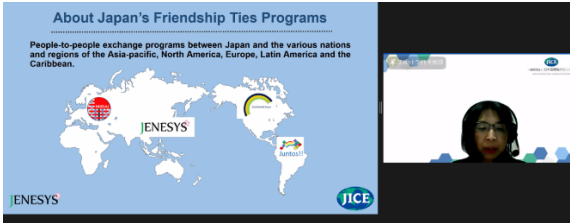
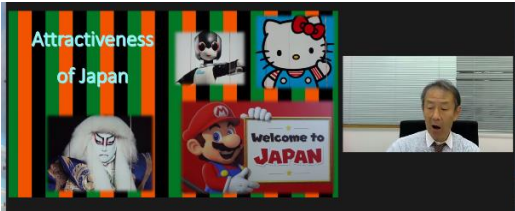
Dec. 19 (Tue) Travel from Tokyo to Okinawa

Dec. 20 (Wed)	<p>【Observation】 Shurijo Castle Park</p> <p>【Theme Related Lecture】</p> <p>“Current Situation and Issues of Social Welfare in Japan and Okinawa / Comparison with Invited Countries”</p> <p>Lecturer: Mr. CHINA Takashi, Professor, Department of Human Welfare, Okinawa International University</p> <p>【School Exchange】 Okinawa International University</p> <p>【Observation, Lecture, Experience】 Lecture and beach clean activities</p> <p>“About the coral ecosystem”</p> <p>Lecturer: Mr. HOSHIHARA Takayasu, CEO, Natural Blue Inc</p> <p>【Meeting with the Host Families, Homestay】</p>
Dec. 21 (Thu)	【Homestay】
Dec. 22 (Fri)	<p>【Farewell Party with the Host Families】</p> <p>【Theme Related Lecture】 “Ryukuan Food Culture and Health”</p> <p>Lecturer: Ms. OGIMI Kaori,</p> <p>General Incorporated Association, Total wellness project Okinawa</p> <p>【Cultural Experience】 Food education experience</p> <p>【Observation】 Zanpa Misaki and Onna no Eki</p> <p>【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)</p>
Dec. 23 (Sat)	<p>Travel from Okinawa to Tokyo</p> <p>【Reporting Session】 Presentation of program findings and action plans</p>
Dec. 24 (Sun)	Departure from Narita International Airport

*Daily programs for December 11 and from December 17 to 24 were jointly implemented with the JENESYS Malaysia-Japan Cultural Exchange Invitation Program for Japanese Language Learners

2. Program Photos

Pre-study Program (Online)

	
December 11 【Pre-departure Orientation】	December 11 【Lecture on Japan】 "Attractiveness of Japan"

Inbound Program

	
<p>December 18 【Theme Related Observation】 Futatsuya Elementary School</p>	<p>December 18 【Theme Related Lecture】 “Initiative for a Barrier-Free Society in Japan”</p>
	
<p>December 19 【Observation】 Shurijo Castle</p>	<p>December 20 【School Exchange】 Okinawa International University</p>
	
<p>December 20 【 Observation, Lecture, Experience】 Lecture and beach clean activities “About the coral ecosystem” by Natural Blue Inc</p>	<p>December 20-21 【Homestay】</p>
	
<p>December 22 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】 Commemorative photo</p>	<p>December 22 【 Cultural Experience 】 Food education</p>

	
December 23【Reporting Session】Presentations by group	December 23 【 Reporting Session 】 Commemorative photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student

I enjoyed learning about the schools in Japan (e.g. elementary school visit) and I enjoyed the visit to the university as the lecture was related to my course of study. Interacting with the university students was interesting as well and something I would want to try again.

◆ High School Student

Elementary school exchange as I got to observe how familiar Singapore and Japan's education systems are like.

Most impressive was also the homestay as I get to try out Okinawa traditional costume, went to a sweet shop to get Okinawa souvenirs, and learn about dining etiquettes. Lastly, exchange conversations learning about each other's culture was really amazing.

◆ High School Student



Any interaction regarding food is delicious and interesting-especially knowing the culture and history behind the food.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Lecturer


The participants showed great interest in Japan's barrier-free efforts and asked many questions during the Q&A session, which meant a lot to us. If there is another opportunity like this, I will gladly prepare explanations and materials to make the participants more interested in the topic.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

	
<p>December 19, 2023 (Instagram)</p> <p>It was definitely an eye-opening experience to see the similarities and differences of education in Japan compared to Singapore. As a student studying Early Childhood Education and Development, it was very heartwarming to see how they pursued an inclusive classroom environment for special needs children. Also, I really admire the teachers in the school as they teach all the subjects.</p> <p>Overall, I really enjoyed the experience being able to interact with some of the children and educators.</p>	<p>December 22, 2023 (Instagram)</p> <p>Had a lot of fun learning the different types of Okinawa food and the history behind it. Also had an amazing hands-on session in trying to make our own Hanabouru!</p>

6. Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plan at the Reporting Session (excerpt)

Locations: Tokyo, Kanagawa, Okinawa (Presentations by 2 groups. Examples below)

	
<p>【What we Learned】</p> <p>One of the few things we learned in Japan during this trip was the unique dining styles and practices.</p> <p>Greetings are said before and after meals. Both</p>	<p>【What we Learned】</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Table Setting: Place mats on the table and floor in a culturally appropriate manner based on each meal. 2. Etiquette:

<p>greetings are to thank and show appreciation for the food prepared.</p> <p>[Japanese and Local Okinawa Dialect]</p> <p>Itadakimasu / Kwatchisabira</p> <p>Gochisosama / Kwatchiisabiitan</p> <p>【Theme Related Learning (Singapore-Japan Social Welfare Exchange)】</p> <p>Observation at Futasuya Elementary School</p> <p>1. One-on-one sessions with children with additional needs</p> <p>2. Accommodations in environment for children with additional needs</p> <p>3. Chalk used for writing and tracing the courtyard.</p> <p>【Action Plan】</p> <p>We will organize a gallery walk for students around February/March 2024. We will display photos we took during the program (Okinawan beaches, barrier-free policy course, Japanese food etiquette course, etc.).</p> <p>We will also organize a stamp rally. During the gallery walk, participants will select a photo of their choice and receive a stamp that matches the photo. The organizer will explain the origin of the stamps and help participants understand Japanese culture. The stamp card will also be turned into a ticket for a photo booth featuring Okinawan beaches.</p>	<p>Greetings before and after meals. There was a difference in Tokyo and Okinawa in terms of dialect.</p> <p>【Theme Related Learning (Singapore-Japan Social Welfare Exchange)】</p> <p>1. Education:</p> <p>Staff-to-child ratio was different in Japan from Singapore. Less students to each teacher in Japan than in Singapore.</p> <p>2. Barrier Free:</p> <p>We learned that there is an intense amount of planning, databases are set up, and opinions and feedback are collected.</p> <p>3. General:</p> <p>-Low and declining birth rate in Japan.</p> <p>-Subsidies are provided for low-income families.</p> <p>【Action Plan】</p> <p>On February 13, 2024, we will hold a hands-on exhibit at our school that captures the eyes and hearts of students, giving them a deeper dive into the rich food culture within Okinawa.</p> <p>1. Table Setting Game</p> <p>Brief summary: Participants are given a set of Japanese cutlery and they have to guess the placement of the cutleries within 20 seconds.</p> <p>Purpose: To give an immersive experience that educates participants on the basic dining etiquette of the Japanese.</p> <p>2. SHARING OF FOOD RECIPES</p> <p>We will hand out recipes with pictures on how to make Goya Hirayachi, Taco rice, Okinawa donuts, and Okinawa's braised Pork Belly.</p> <p>3. Showing the culture & history of the cuisines using an A3 board.</p> <p>4. Video collage of students preparing the dishes.</p>
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)