

JENESYS Malaysia-Japan Cultural Exchange (Invitation Program for Japanese Language Learners) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 Japanese language learners from Malaysia visited Japan to experience Japan more deeply through various experiences. The program also aimed to further increase the participants' interest in Japan and their desire to learn Japanese through exchanges with Japanese people, thereby creating human resources who will one day serve as bridges between our two countries.

【Participants】 Total: 10 Undergraduate students involved in Japanese language study, research, and education in Malaysia.

【Locations and Breakdown】

- Pre-study Program (Online) : 10 to Chiba
- Inbound Program: 10 to Kanagawa, 10 to Tokyo, 10 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

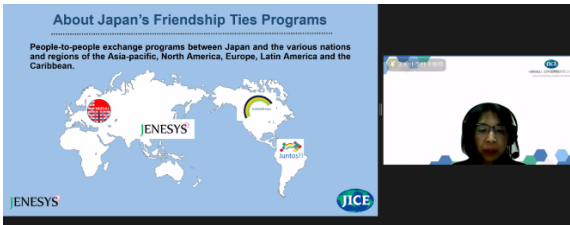
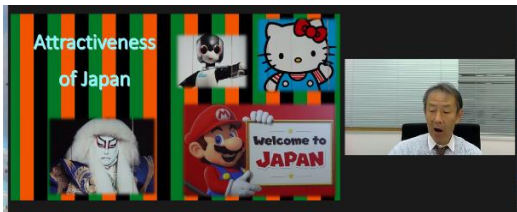
 【Observation】 Shuri Castle Park

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

*Daily programs for December 11 and from December 17 to 24 were jointly implemented with the JENESYS2023 Singapore-Japan Social Welfare Exchange Invitation Program for High School Students.

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 【Theme Related Lecture】 “Ryukuan Food Culture and Health”</p>

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

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Undergraduate Student

During the observation to the elementary school, the most impressive part is how they display all the activities and works to not only focus on their academic achievements, but also the children's character development. Plus, when a student sees their efforts displayed for all to see, it acts as tangible evidence of their hard work and dedication. This recognition can boost their self-esteem and confidence, creating a positive cycle of motivation for continued academic and creative pursuits.

◆ Undergraduate Student

The most impressive part in this program is the lecture on Japan's free barrier initiative. It was an eye-opening session as it provides insightful knowledge on Japan's professional system on inclusivity. Although this initiative does exist in other countries, Japan is much more thorough with it, as the procedures are very functional and systematic.

◆ Undergraduate Student



The most impressive part of the program was my stay with Japanese local residents. I was fascinated by their unique lifestyle, which is entirely different from Malaysia. In Japan, I observed that people consume more vegetables and fish compared to chicken and other meats. Additionally, I enjoyed learning about the distinct Japanese plants, like the Yellow Potato, Purple Potato, and Orange Potato, which we don't have in Malaysia. I had the chance to make Mochi using ingredients from my host family's farm, and it turned out delicious. I hope to have this opportunity again.

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>YOMITAN POTTERY VILLAGE</p> <p>Masaki, Japan So, today we cooked our first meal together with the host family, and it turned out really good 🍴</p> <p>Special mention to google translate for translating our conversation throughout new experience, new family</p>	 <p>Japan 🇯🇵</p> <p>Look how packing of rice are different</p> <p>Malaysia 🇲🇾</p>
<p>December 21, 2023 (Instagram)</p> <p>So, today we cooked our first meal together with the host family, and it turned out really good.</p> <p>Special mention to google translate for translating our conversation throughout new experience, new family.</p>	<p>December 21, 2023 (Instagram)</p> <p>Look how packing of rice are different: Japan and Malaysia</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>We learned about trash distribution, 3R application, leftover food, SDGs, and Barrier-free mindset.</p> <p>【Learnings about Education】</p> <p>We learned about environment education and inclusive education.</p> <p>【Action Plan】</p> <p>"Green, Let's go! "</p> <p>We will implement a tree plantation programme</p>	<p>【What we Learned】</p> <p>We learned about the barrier-free policy, marine environment, and culinary culture and health in Okinawa.</p> <p>【Learnings about Education】</p> <p>Learned extensively (about education) through the elementary school observation and exchange with Okinawa International School.</p> <p>【Action Plan】</p> <p>"The Art of Japanese Multicourse Meal"</p>

following a small lecture on SDGs at respective campuses on February 9, 2024, targeting 30 students each.	We will conduct a workshop at respective campuses in January 2024, targeting 100 to 1,100 students. A small booklet on Japanese multicourse meals and table manners will be created, printed, and given to each participant in the workshop.
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)