

**JENESYS The Philippines-Japan Cultural Exchange for High School Students
(Invitation Program for Japanese Language Learners)
JENESYS2023 The Philippines-Japan Cultural Exchange for High School Students
(Invitation Program for Japanese Language Learners) Report**

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 This program was held for Filipino high school students studying the Japanese language, primarily with the aim of deepening their understanding of Japan and strengthening their motivation to learn the Japanese language by providing an experience to use Japanese and the opportunity to learn about Japanese culture.

【Participants】 Total: 15 participants from the Philippines, including 13 high school students and 2 chaperones

【Locations】 Tokyo (15), and Iwate (15)

【Program Schedule】

■ Pre-study Program (Online)

Oct. 10 (Tue) 【Pre-departure Orientation】 Pre-study Program and network building
Opening remarks: Ms. Alicia Nicole CRUS, Embassy of Japan in the Philippines

Set Period Prior to Arrival 【Task-based Learning (Video Viewing)】 “Peace Tour in Hiroshima,” “Virtual Home Visit,” “Message from Minamisanriku,” “Study Japanese Culture in Kyoto,” “Japanese Language,” “Japan and the United Nations,” “50 years of ASEAN-Japan relationships”

■ Inbound Program

Oct. 16 (Mon) Arrival at Narita International Airport

Oct. 17 (Tue) 【Pre-departure Orientation】

【Lecture on Japan】 “Japanese Society and Culture”

Lecturer: Ms. Hisami ANDRADE, Lecturer for the Lecture on Japan, JICE

【Lecture on Japanese language】 Lecturer: Ms. OISHI Yasuko, Japanese Language Instructor

【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine and Harajuku


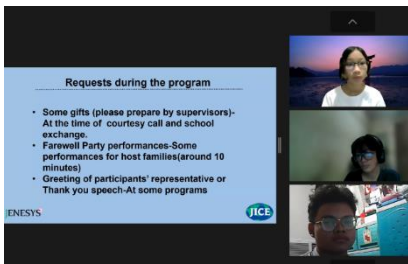
Oct. 18 (Wed) 【Japanese Cultural Experience】 Making small tatami mats

Lecturer: Mr. TSUNEKAWA Taihei, Sixth-generation Owner of Takaokaya

	Tsunekawa Tatami Shop
	【School Exchange】 Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
Oct. 19 (Thu)	Travel from Tokyo to Iwate
	【Courtesy Call】
	Mr. SAWASATO Mitsuo, Deputy Mayor of Kuji City,
	Mr. TAIZAKI Tsutomu, Executive Director of Industry and Economics Department
	【Lecture】 WELCOME TO KUJI CITY
	Lecturer: Ms. GAMANO Yuko, Kuji City Department of General Affairs, Coordinator for International Relations
	【Courtesy Call】
Oct. 20 (Fri)	【School Exchange】 Kuji High School
	【Observation】 Floats of Autumn Festival (DOFUKAN)
	【Culture Experience】 Amber shavings (Museum of amber)
	【Meeting with the Host Families】 【Homestay】 Kuji City
Oct. 21 (Sat)	【Homestay】 Including Japanese cultural experiences
Oct. 22 (Sun)	【Homestay】 Culture experiences, Mochi-tsuki (Pounding rice)
	【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (Summarizing program findings and preparation of action plans)
	【 Farewell Party with Host Family 】 Speech in Japanese (Presenting impressions of the homestay in Japanese)
Oct. 23 (Mon)	【Observation】 White-birch forest walking,
	Travel back to Tokyo by Shinkansen
	【Reporting Session】
Oct. 24 (Tue)	Departure from Narita International Airport

2. Program Photos

Pre-study Program (Online)

	
October 10 【Pre-departure Orientation】 Opening remarks	October 10 【Pre-departure Orientation】

Inbound Program

	
<p>October 17 【Post-arrival Orientation】</p>	<p>October 17 【Lecture on Japan】 ” Japanese Society and Culture”</p>
	
<p>October 17 【Lecture on Japanese language】 Lecturer: Ms. Oishi Yasuko</p>	<p>October 18 【Japanese Cultural Experience】 Making small tatami mat</p>
	
<p>October 18 【School Exchange】 Tokyo University of Foreign Studies</p>	<p>October 19 【Courtesy Call】 Kuji City</p>
	
<p>October 20 【School Exchange】 Kuji High School 【Meeting with the Host Families】</p>	<p>October 20 【Observation】 Floats of Autumn Festival (DOFUKAN)</p>

	
October 20 【 Culture Experience 】 Amber shavings (Museum of amber)	October 20 - 22 【Homestay】
	
October 22 【Culture Experience】 Mochi-tsuki (Pounding rice)	October 22 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session
	
October 22 【Farewell Party with Host Family】 Speech in Japanese (Presenting impressions of the homestay in Japanese)	October 23 【Observation】 White-birch forest walking
	
October 23 【Reporting Session】	October 23 【 Reporting Session 】 Commemorative photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student

Personally, it doesn't get more memorable for me than the visit to Kuji High School. It was fascinating, because I saw just how vastly different people can be depending on the culture taught

to them even if they are of a similar age.

◆ **High School Student**

The most impressive part of the exchange was definitely the cleanliness and politeness of the Japanese residents in all places, from Tokyo to Iwate, and from the streets to schools. Everyone is extremely polite, kind, and nice.

◆ **High School Student**

I really loved how kind the host families were, and how the host families and local residents greeted us so warmly. It was something that made me realize how beautiful the culture is and helped me feel comfortable with Japan.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **Teacher from the School Exchange**

I particularly noticed how the participants engaged in communication using multiple languages. Considering that some Japanese students made Filipino friends for the first time, I feel that the program has provided a good motivation for their future studies, including foreign language learning.

◆ **Participant in the School Exchange**

The Filipino students were full of curiosity about things that I had never noticed while living in Japan, so it was interesting to gain new perspectives.

◆ **Participant in the School Exchange**

The English that the Filipino students speak differs from the English we usually speak in class in terms of accent. This made me realize that there are regional differences even in English. I knew that Japanese songs and anime are popular in the Philippines, but when I found that actors are also popular, I was happy to discover we have many common interests.

◆ **Participant in the School Exchange**

I was surprised to learn that the national fruit of the Philippines is not the banana but the mango. It was nice that the Filipino students tried very hard to speak in Japanese. It strengthened my resolve to study English harder.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt), Articles, etc.

 <p>My journey as a foreign student in Japan took an exciting turn when I had the opportunity to visit Kuji High School and experience life with a local household for two days in the picturesque prefecture of Iwate.</p> <p>We rode the legendary shinkansen train on the way to Kuji and with a top speed of over 300 kilometers an hour we reached Iwate in no time. Kuji is a town located in Iwate. Specifically, it is part of the Tohoku region in the northeastern part of the country. Kuji is known for its natural beauty and scenic landscapes.</p> <p>Kuji High School is nestled in a charming coastal town that seemed to blend seamlessly with nature. The air was filled with the salty sea breeze, and the surroundings exuded a serene simplicity that was a world away from the bustling city life I had come to know. The city is engulfed by mountains that remind me of Baguio city except for one important detail, which is that it's MUCH colder here. The temperature in the early morning can drop as low as 5 degrees Celsius—much, much colder than anywhere I</p>	 <p>Another day, another blessing!</p> <p>Did you know we learned a lot?! Yes, we learned a lot! We first experienced a culture of Japan. That is, making Tatami mats.</p> <p>The Tatami mat is made of Japanese rush grass with a double layered top for extra protection. Inside it, it has a baked dried rice straw fill for strength and durability. The Tatami mat is like a banig in the Philippines, but the difference between these two are their thickness and texture. In the Philippines, the banig is thinner than the Tatami mat, which is thick and smooth. Actually, there are also thinner mats, but the thinner ones are cheaper and the thicker ones are more expensive.</p> <p>Finally, we went to Tokyo University of Foreign Studies to interact with the students there and experience their campus life. We had a group activity talking about our favourite foods, hobbies, and our future with our Senpais. We shared things about ourselves with each other, got to know each other, and became friends. I really had fun communicating and interacting</p>
<p>October 21, 2023 (Instagram)</p> <p>My journey as a foreign student in Japan took an exciting turn when I had the opportunity to visit Kuji High School and experience life with a local household for two days in the picturesque prefecture of Iwate.</p> <p>We rode the legendary shinkansen train on the way to Kuji, and with a top speed of over 300 kilometers an hour we reached Iwate in no time. Kuji is a town located in Iwate. Specifically, it is an area in the Tohoku region in the northeastern part of the country. Kuji is known for its natural beauty and scenic landscapes.</p> <p>Kuji High School was nestled in a charming coastal town that seemed to blend seamlessly with nature. The air was filled with a salty sea breeze, and the surroundings exuded a serene simplicity that was a world away from the bustling city life I had come to know. The city is engulfed by mountains that remind me of Baguio city except for one important detail, which is that it's MUCH colder here. The temperature in the early morning can drop as low as 5 degrees Celsius—much, much colder than anywhere I</p>	<p>October 21, 2023 (Instagram)</p> <p>Another day, another blessing!</p> <p>Did you know we learned a lot?! Yes, we learned a lot! We first experienced a culture of Japan. That is, making Tatami mats.</p> <p>The Tatami mat is made of Japanese rush grass with a double layered top for extra protection. Inside it, it has a baked dried rice straw fill for strength and durability. The Tatami mat is like a banig in the Philippines, but the difference between these two are their thickness and texture. In the Philippines, the banig is thinner than the Tatami mat, which is thick and smooth. Actually, there are also thinner mats, but the thinner ones are cheaper and the thicker ones are more expensive.</p> <p>Finally, we went to Tokyo University of Foreign Studies to interact with the students there and experience their campus life. We had a group activity talking about our favourite foods, hobbies, and our future with our Senpais. We shared things about ourselves with each other, got to know each other, and became friends. I really had fun communicating and interacting</p>

<p>have ever been.</p> <p>The school itself was a revelation. Its modern architecture was juxtaposed with traditional Japanese elements. I was greeted by warm and friendly students who had a genuine curiosity about my background and culture. We shared our pre-prepared presentations during our short yet meaningful time together, bridging the gap between our worlds.</p> <p>The highlight of my visit was the homestay experience. I was warmly welcomed by a local family who lived about an hour to the school. Their traditional Japanese home was a serene oasis filled with tatami mats, shoji screens, and traditional paper walls. I couldn't have asked for a more culturally immersive experience.</p> <p>The family's warmth and hospitality were beyond words. They introduced me to authentic local cuisine, including fresh seafood caught along the Sanriku coast. The rugged beauty of the cliffs and the soothing sound of the wind rustling around the blood-red leaves left an indelible mark on my heart. It was here that I truly understood the deep connection the locals have with their natural surroundings.</p> <p>Leaving my host family and Kuji High School was bittersweet. I have gained not just cultural insights but lifelong friendships. The two days have been a rich tapestry of experiences, from the bustling high school life to the tranquil homestay and the vibrant local culture.</p> <p>My journey through Iwate has shown me the true essence of Japan - a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity, a deep connection to nature, and a warm and welcoming spirit. It was an experience I would carry with me, a testament to the power of cultural exchange and the beauty of discovering the world beyond textbooks and guidebooks.</p>	<p>with them. They were all really nice and attractive. After interacting with them, we went to the library, which was surprisingly big! It has 4 floors, and each floor has a different theme or topic of books.</p> <p>The day has been "super duper" fun. I enjoyed the new places that we visited, and especially Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. It was a very exhausting day, but I enjoyed every second that God gave us!</p> <p>See you tomorrow, everyone!</p>
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フィリピンの高校生が久慈市訪問 県立久慈高校で交流

10月20日 18時11分



海外の学生などを対象とした日本への関心や理解を深めてもらおうというプログラムの参加者が、19日から久慈市を訪れています。

久慈市を訪れたのはフィリピンの高校生13人です。

国が日本に親しみを持つ海外の人を増やそうと取り組んでいる「対日理解促進交流プログラム」の参加者で、20日は、はじめに県立久慈高校を訪問して、交流会で久慈高校の生徒から日本語のあいさつなどを教わりました。

一行はこのあと1年生の教室に移動し、久慈市の文化やフィリピンでも人気のある日本のアニメの話などをして交流を深めました。

1年生の中野桂李さんは「はじめは緊張しましたが、今までの英語の練習の成果が出てよかった」と話していました。

このあと一行は日本有数の産地として知られる「こはく」の採掘場がある「久慈琥珀博物館」を訪れ、こはくを使ったまがたま作りにも挑戦しました。

フィリピンの高校生は「海外の学生と会ったのが初めてで言葉の問題もありましたが、とても楽しかった」とか、「フィリピンに戻ったら、この経験を家族や友達に伝えたい」などと感想を話していました。



沢里充男副市長にお土産を手渡す訪問団

比高校生 地域文化を体感

久慈 日本語を学ぶフィリピンの高校生13人は、おままでの口開、久慈市に滞在し、農林漁家への民泊を通して交流を深めている。

一行18日、市役所を訪問。アール・トワソンさん15は「できる限り多くの人とコミュニケーションを取りたい。久慈で最高の経験ができることを楽しみにしている」と期待を高めた。

13人、農林漁家に民泊

同国の学生などを受け取った沢里充男副市長は「久慈は太平洋と山に囲まれ、人々が自然と共に暮らしてきた土地。積極的に交流を深め、異国や文化人柄に触れてほしい」と歓迎した。

政府が推進する対日理解促進交流プログラムの一環、久慈高の生徒との交流や琥珀作り体験、ホームステイなどを通して、地域文化を体感する。

October 20, 2023 (NHK Iwate NEWS WEB)

High School Students from the Philippines Visit Kuji and Hold an Exchange at Kuji High School

Kuji received a visit from 13 high school students from the Philippines. They were participants of the government's "Japan's Friendship Ties Program," which aims to increase the number of people overseas who feel an affinity with Japan. On Oct. 20, they first visited Kuji High School and held an exchange meeting in which they learned Japanese words of greeting from the students of the school.

The group then visited Kuji Amber Museum, located in a site that is home to the largest amber quarry in Japan. Here they experienced making Magatama beads with amber.

The Filipino students reflected on their visit, saying how it was fun, despite that it was the first time for them to meet with foreign students and they initially faced a language barrier, and that they wished to share their experience with family and friends after returning to their country.

October 22, 2023 (Iwate Nippo)



Filipino High School Students Experience Japanese Regional Culture

Thirteen Filipino high school students who are studying Japanese are enjoying a five-day stay in Kuji until October 23, deepening exchanges with local residents via homestays at the homes of farmers, foresters, and fishermen.

The group paid a courtesy call on the city office on October 19. Receiving a gift of Filipino treats, Deputy Mayor SAWASATO Mitsuo welcomed the students, saying "Kuji is bounded by the Pacific Ocean and mountains, and is home to people who have long cohabited harmoniously with nature. Through active and deep exchanges, please, by all means, experience our customs, culture, and people."

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

Location : Tokyo, Iwate

	
<p>【What we Learned】 The Japanese people are polite, punctual, and clean. They are also very respectful, considerate, and kind.</p> <p>【Learnings about the theme】</p> <p>Japan and the Philippines' differences are: Seasons: 4 seasons in Japan (winter, summer, spring, autumn), 2 seasons in the Philippines (dry and rainy)</p> <p>【Action Plan】</p> <p>With some of the discoveries and learnings we've gained, we would like to tell you about our action plan called "Come on, let's go GREEN."</p> <p>(Why) This action plan aims to lessen the use of plastic in schools to help reduce waste coming from our schools and to enhance students' discipline regarding the use of plastic.</p> <p>This activity will be implemented for the whole 2nd Quarter. Every Wednesday of the week, a monitoring report will be submitted after class.</p> <p>Selected students in every building will participate with the help of our Prefect of Discipline.</p> <p>This program is formed for the benefit of teachers, students, as well as school staff.</p> <p>We plan to implement a 50%-70% eco-friendly school. We will help to lessen the use of plastic waste by encouraging students to use</p>	<p>【What we Learned】 Japan is known for its warm hospitality, and the people here are incredibly respectful and polite.</p> <p>【Learnings about the theme】 The concept of "wa," or harmony, is significant in Japanese culture, and it reflects in their communication style and group-oriented approach to problem-solving.</p> <p>【Action Plan】</p> <p>-We will implement "Project Nappu" as a group by December 31. We want to teach Japanese language to students, because some have an interest in Japanese but are not lucky enough to join the Nihongo class.</p> <p>We will organize an activity based on our experience and make a video as well.</p> <p>-"Project koko" will be implemented by Nihongo club students by December 31. This is a plan to share the culture of Japan, to make our student life easier and better by adopting Japanese culture in the classroom.</p>

<p>alternative products instead of plastics in our school.</p> <p>During our experience with our host families, we saw that our families try to reuse their plastics. They washed used water bottles so they can still be used. We also saw that schools in Japan are very clean, and that's why we thought of a way to lessen plastic wastes that would help keep our school clean. We also would like to develop a sense of discipline when it comes to using and disposing wastes. This is all because of the disciplined way of disposing trash here in Japan.</p> <p>Steps: The steps in implementing this program are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -We will propose this as a club activity during the whole second quarter and an activity in our school's Nihongo month. -We will give tasks to selected class officers to facilitate the activity on all floors and to report the results in every building. -Those who are uncooperative will do community service. 	
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)