

JENESYS2023**Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program for JENESYS ASEAN Alumni Program Report
(Themes: Population Problem, Environment / Disaster Prevention)****1. Program Overview**

【Overview and Objectives】 This program was conducted from August 7 to August 17 2023 (9 days in total) for alumni from the ASEAN region who have visited Japan under the JENESYS. Through webinars, virtual tours, discussions with experts, inter-participant discussions and exchange programmes specialising in "Population Problems" and "Environment / Disaster Prevention", the programme aimed to (1) further promote understanding of Japan, (2) strengthen networking and (3) stimulate activities by alumni contributing to friendship and cooperation between ASEAN and Japan.

【Participants】 Total: 111 alumni from ASEAN Member States (AMS) and Timor-Leste
(Participants from FY2015 to FY2022)
(Breakdown) AMS: 8 from Brunei, 9 from Cambodia, 16 from Indonesia, 12 from Lao PDR, 4 from Malaysia, 11 from Myanmar, 15 from the Philippines, 3 from Singapore, 9 from Thailand, 13 from Viet Nam: 13, and 11 from Timor-Leste

【Locations (Number of participants)】 All Groups: Tokyo (111)
Group 1 "Population Problem": Hyogo, Hokkaido, Osaka (50)
Group 2 "Environment / Disaster Prevention": Yamaguchi, Okinawa, Miyagi (61)

【Schedule】

Mon. August 7 **【Orientation】** , **【Address by MOFA】** Mr. TAKAMIZU, Hidero, Director, Regional Cooperation Division, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, **【Interaction among participants】** Self-introductions, verification
Mon. August 7 ~ Sat. August 16 Group-based programs were implemented.

Group 1 "Population Problem"**【Visit, Lecture, Q&A】**

- 1) "Population issues in Japan and South-Eastern Asia"
Lecturer: Ms. HAYASHI Reiko
Deputy Director-General, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research
- 2) "Child care support provided by Kobekko Land" Kobe City Council of Social Welfare
Lecturer: Ms. OHSUMI Reiko, Kobekko Land Director, Kobe General Children's Center
- 3) "Sarabetsu Super Village Project"
Lecturer: Mr. KONNO Masahiro, Manager, Super Village Promotion Office,
Planning and Policy Section, Hokkaido Councilor, Sarabetsu Village

【Observation of Nursing care robots】 MULBERRY Co. Ltd. (in Hokkaido)

【School Exchange, Exchange of views on fertility decline】 Osaka Metropolitan University, Kindai University, Tokai University, 【Workshop】 Exchange of opinions on Population problem in the participants' respective countries in different countries

Group 2 “Environment / Disaster Prevention”

【Visit, Lecture, Q&A】

1) “Environmental issues and disasters in Japan”

Lecturer: Prof. SEKINE Masahiko, Graduate School of Sciences and Technology for Innovation, Yamaguchi University Japan

2) “2011 Great East Japan Earthquake - From First Response to Recovery and Restoration, and Lessons Learned- “ Lecturer: Mr. SAITO Shigenori

Deputy Director-General of the Disaster Prevention and Relief Department, Tohoku Regional Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

3) “About Coral Ecosystems and Marine Environmental Conservation” Zanpa Beach and Ino (reef lagoons) Lecturer: Mr. HOSHIHARA Takayasu, Natural Blue Co., Ltd.

4) “Human Capacity Building that supports Community Disaster Management”

Lecturer: Mr. FUJISHIMA Hiroshi Senior Officer, Disaster-Resilient and Environmentally-Friendly City Promotion Office, City of Sendai

5) “Self-help, mutual assistance and public help”

Lecturer: Mr. HAYASAKA Masato, Advisor for Disaster Prevention and Disaster Risk Reduction/Senior Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction Promotion Section, Crisis Management Bureau, City of Sendai

【Workshop】 Exchange of opinions on environment / disaster prevention in the participants' respective countries, 【Home Visit】 Yomitan Village, Okinawa

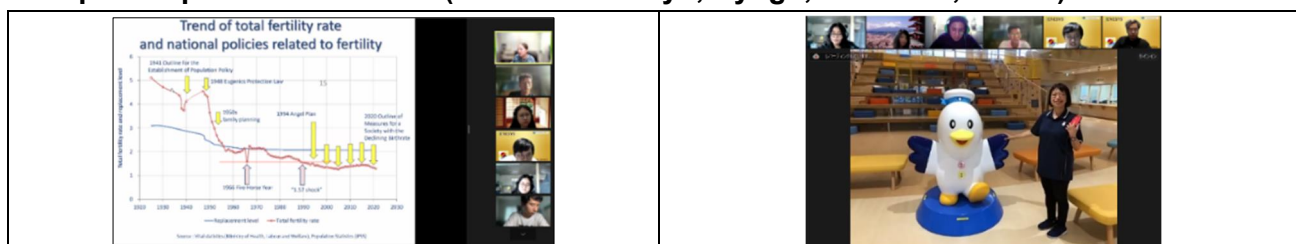
Sat. August 12 Group joint program

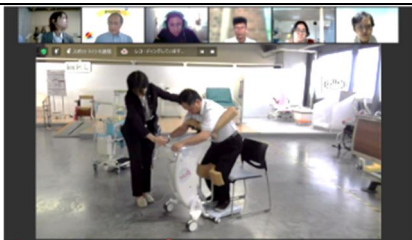


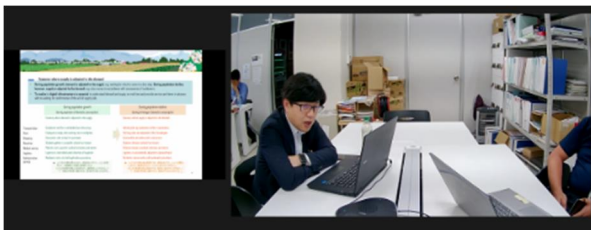
【Japanese Cultural Experience】 "Origami" & "Wadaiko" (In Tokyo) (In cooperation with True Japan Tours Co. and Traditional Japanese instruments performance team “MUSASHI”)

Thurs. August 17 【Reporting Session】 , 【Address by MOFA】 Mr. TAKAMIZU, Hidero, Director, Regional Cooperation Division, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

2. Program Photos


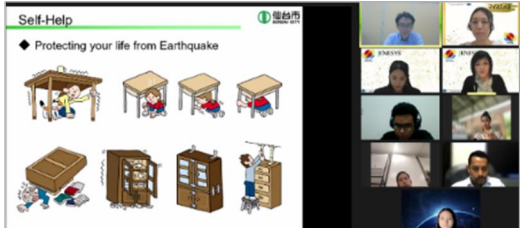

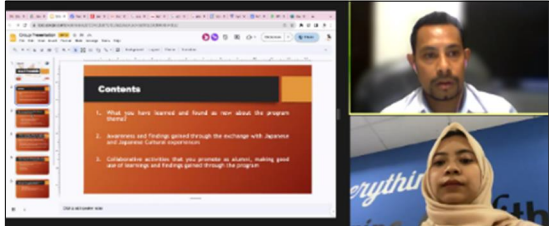

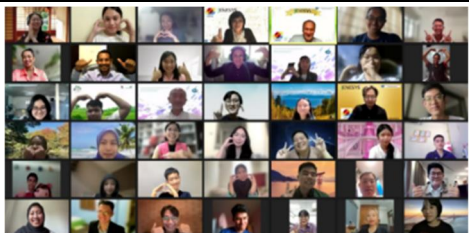
Group 1 “Population Problem” (Locations: Tokyo, Hyogo, Hokkaido, Osaka)



August 7 【Lecture】 “Population issues in Japan and South-Eastern Asia”	August 8 【Visit】 Kobekko Land
	
August 9 【Observation of Care Robots】 MULBERRY Co. Ltd.	August 10 【School Exchange】 Osaka Metropolitan University, Kindai University, Tokai University
	
August 11 【Exchange among Participants】 Exchange of opinions on the population problem of each country	August 15 【Visit to Local Government, Lecture】 “Sarabetsu Super Village Project” in Sarabetsu Village, Hokkaido

Group 2 “Environment/Disaster Prevention” (Locations: Tokyo, Yamaguchi, Okinawa, Miyagi)

	
August 7 【Lecture】 “Environmental issues and disasters in Japan”	August 8 Exchange of Opinion on environment / disaster prevention in each country
	
August 9 【Home Visit】 Yomitan Village, Okinawa	August 10 【Lecture, Q&A】 Tohoku Regional Bureau

	
<p>August 11 【Observation and Q&A Session】 “About Coral Ecosystems and Marine Environmental Conservation”</p>	<p>August 15 【Visit to Local Government, Lecture】 “Self-help, mutual assistance and public help” Sendai City, Miyagi</p>
	
<p>August 12 【Japanese Cultural Experience】 Origami, Wadaiko</p>	<p>August 16 【Workshop】</p>
<p>Common Programs (Groups 1 and 2)</p>	
	
<p>August 17 【Reporting Session】</p>	<p>August 17 【Reporting Session】 Commemorative Photo</p>

3. Voices from Participants (excerpt)

“Population Problem”

◆ Youth (Lao PDR)

I am amazed that even Japan faces a population problem; however, adapts technology by using AI and big data productively, and I even more impressed when Mr. Konno says they provide training course for the elderly, allowing them to adapt in modern society.

“Environment / Disaster Prevention”

◆ Working Youth (Viet Nam)

It has been a great virtual exchange time in this Alumni Program as I learnt and understood deeper about Japanese culture, people as well as knowledge and experience shared in the theme of Environment and Disaster Prevention that I attended. Also, we as Alumni could do networking and, exchange knowledge and foster mutual understanding about Japan - ASEAN.

◆ Youth (Cambodia)

I am grateful to understand how Japanese faced so many environmental and natural disaster

such as air pollution, water pollution, declining of wildlife and loss of biodiversity, marine plastic issues, global warming and nuclear accidents, earthquakes, and tsunamis and so on. The countermeasures were a great reflection on how Japan learned from previous experiences and implement the countermeasures and solution that is efficient, effective, and timely to help revert the damages.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)


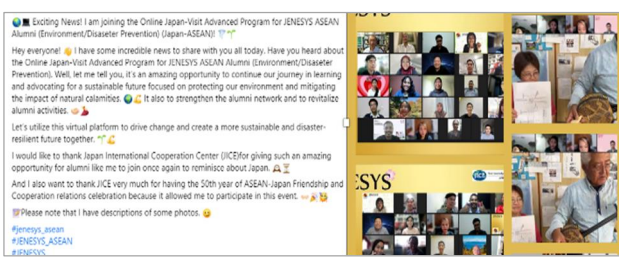
◆ Lecturer

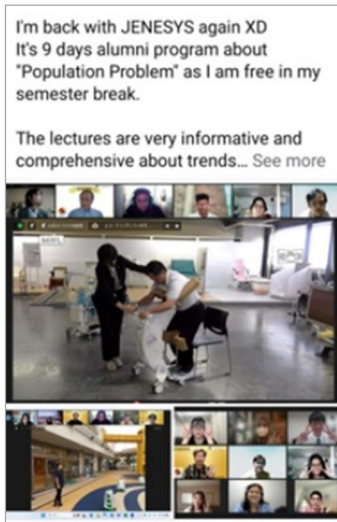
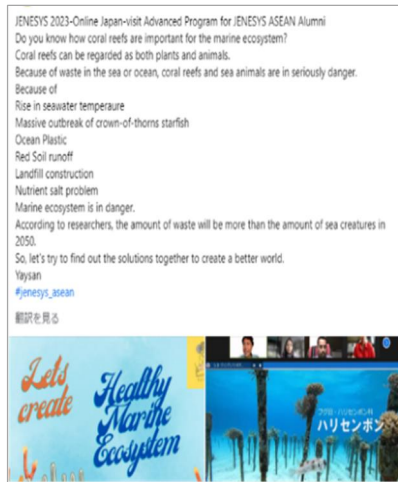
It was a very valuable experience and an honor. I received many questions from all of the participants, and it was great to see how pleased they were. I truly felt how important this activity was. This also encouraged me to look towards Asian countries more than ever before, and to seek out ways in which we can work together to make a positive difference in the world.

◆ Cooperating Organization

I'm sure that when countries in Southeast Asia think of Japan, they have strong impressions of Tokyo, the cutting-edge city, Kyoto, the atmospheric ancient capital, and Hokkaido, the snow-covered prefecture. But I'm sure that through the home visit here in Yomitan Village, Okinawa, the participants were able to sense and understand that Japan has not only the large and well-known cities, but also unique local cultures and foods similar to those in their countries.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

	
<p>August 10, 2023 (Facebook)</p> <p>I can say that JENESYS is a people-to-people exchange program that offers the young generation to build friendship and cooperation between Japan and the Asia Pacific Region. It also encourages an awareness of Japan's economy, culture, society, history, politics and diplomatic relations.</p>	<p>August 10, 2023 (Facebook)</p> <p>Hey Everyone, I have some incredible news to share with you all today. Have you heard about Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program for JENESYS ASEAN Alumni (Environment / Disaster Prevention). It's an amazing opportunity to continue our journey in learning and advocacy for a sustainable future focused on protecting our environment and mitigating the impact of natural calamities. It's also to strengthen the alumni network and to revitalize alumni activities. Let's utilize this virtual platform</p>

	to drive change and create a more sustainable and disaster resilient future together. I am grateful to have been able to participate in the 50th year of ASEAN Japan Friendship and Cooperation relations celebration event.
	
<p>August 11, 2023 (Facebook)</p> <p>I'm back with JENESYS again XD</p> <p>It's 9 days alumni program about "Population Problem" as I am free in my semester break.</p> <p>The lectures are very informative and comprehensive about trends surrounding recent population problems and I was able to learn a lot and gain many ideas.</p>	<p>August 13, 2023 (Facebook)</p> <p>Do you know how coral Reefs are important for the marine system? Coral Reefs can be regarded to both plants and animals. Because of waste in the sea or ocean, coral reefs and sea animals are seriously in danger because of the rise in seawater temperature, ocean plastics, red soil runoff, landfill construction, and nutrient salt problem, the marine ecosystem is in danger. So, let's try to find out the solutions together to create a better world.</p>



6. Results and Action Plans Presented at the Reporting Session (excerpt)

Group 1 “Population Problem” (Locations: Tokyo, Hyogo, Hokkaido, Osaka)

	
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<p>【What we Learned】</p> <p>Significant factors causing population problems: financial issues, kindergarten labor, and LGBTQ. Japan and ASEAN countries is not far different in LGBTQ issues. We have substitute technologies to increase the birth rate, such as ART. For Wadaiko, it was a great performance, and everyone seem to have so much mesmerizing and fun time together</p> <p>【Learnings about Population Problem】</p> <p>Kobekko Land supports children's growth by offering free services and childcare support. Nursing care robots are a very impressive technology. Modern technologies and digitization help solve issues of aging society and lack of human resources.</p> <p>【Action Plan】</p> <p>We will conduct a workshop to share and reapply policies/measures between Japan and ASEAN countries. Those alumni with government ties can help identify which of those policies/measures can be reapplied to some extent to their localities.</p> <p>We will also be the representatives of our home countries to share about populations issues happening in our country at own work, on social media, online, and offline through workshops. But at the same time, sharing findings and advancements about Japan's work will be valued and discussed.</p>	<p>【What we Learned】</p> <p>Challenges arising from aging populations and declining birth rates in both ASEAN and Japan. Wadaiko and Origami have illuminated their cultural significance and historical roles: Wadaiko's use on the battlefield and cultural events, and Origami's traditional art of paper folding with symbolic offerings to deities.</p> <p>【Learnings about Population Problem】</p> <p>The combination of the Sarabetsu Village's Super City Project's technological innovation, along with Kobekko Land's emphasis on early childhood education and holistic development, as well as MULBERRY's nursing robots catering to the needs of the elderly, collectively addresses Japan's population crisis. These initiatives provide comprehensive solutions.</p> <p>【Action Plan】</p> <p>As program alumni, we're inspired to promote collaborative activities leveraging the knowledge and experiences gained. By disseminating information about innovative solutions, like the use of technology and the success stories of programs like Kobekko Land, we can facilitate cross-border knowledge exchange. This would foster international collaboration, attract investors, and contribute to addressing population-related challenges.</p>
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Group 2 “Environment/Disaster Prevention” (Locations: Tokyo, Yamaguchi, Okinawa, Miyagi)
Excerpts from each of the five groups’ presentations

	
<p>【What we Learned】</p> <p>We were impressed by the beauty of origami and taiko drumming in Japanese culture, and learned about the importance of policy making, disaster prevention frameworks, and government funding as governance. We were also enlightened on environmental issues.</p> <p>【Learnings about Environment/Disaster Prevention】</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -dissemination and awareness of information to locals -innovation of technology in infrastructure and disaster prevention -prepared and skilled citizens which are taught from the government -need for funding towards disaster management , prevention and rehabilitation <p>【Action Plan】</p> <p>We will use social media to disseminate information on the importance of environmental conservation activities and disaster prevention measures, and hold hybrid offline and in-person events. We also intend to conduct joint activities with similar organizations in each country.</p>	<p>【What we Learned】</p> <p>Origami is usually done as a family activity to improve communication and brain activity. Cranes represent longevity and prosperity. Auspicious colours; Red, White and Gold papers</p> <p>【Learnings about Environment/Disaster Prevention】</p> <p>We learned that there are many factors behind catastrophes and problems, and how they can affect each other. For examples, earthquakes can cause tsunamis, global warming increases the frequency of typhoons, etc., and microplastics in the ocean are killing marine life. We also learned about the scale and response to the Great East Japan Earthquake.</p> <p>【Action Plan】</p> <p>We will organize sharing sessions to raise awareness of Environmental Disasters and think about how to prepare for such situations. Specifically speaking, we hope to provide an opportunity where people can learn more about how Japan weathered disasters (e.g. 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami) on the national, regional, and public levels.</p>

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)