

JENESYS2024 Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program for ASEAN Alumni Report (Theme: Japanese Language and Culture)

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】 This program was conducted from March 5 to 14, an 8-day online for JENESYS Program alumni from ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste. The program aimed to further promote past JENESYS participant's understanding of Japan, strengthen networks through opinion exchanges, and bolster alumni activities by introducing Japanese companies, organizations, and groups that are expanding overseas.

【Participants】 Total: 33 alumni from ASEAN Member States (AMS) ^(Note) and Timor-Leste (participants from FY2015 to FY2023)

(Breakdown) Cambodia 3, Indonesia 3, Lao PDR 1, Malaysia 5, Myanmar 1, the Philippines 12, Thailand 3, Timor-Leste 3, Viet Nam 2

(Note) ASEAN Member States: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam

【Schedule】

This program was partially conducted in joint with the JENESYS2024 Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program for ASEAN Alumni (Theme: Agriculture and Food Systems).


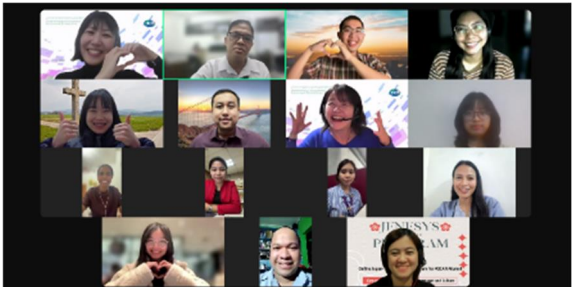
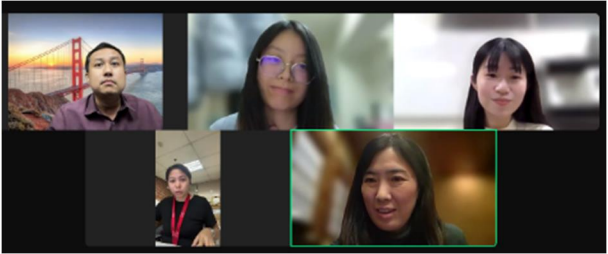


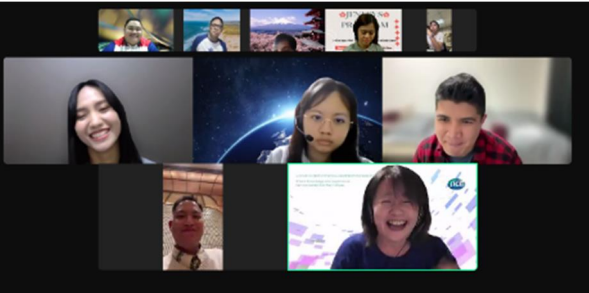
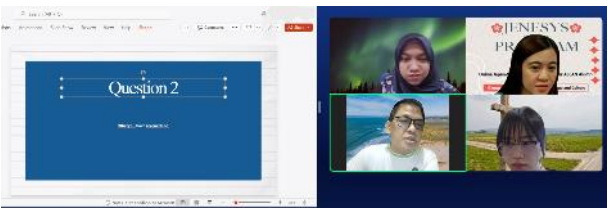
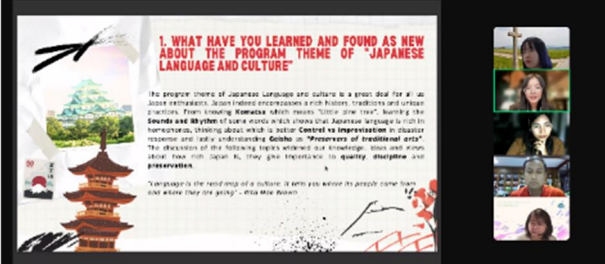
■ Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program:

Mar. 5 (Wed)	<p>【Address】 Mr. TAKAMIZU Hidero, Director, Regional Cooperation Division, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan</p> <p>【Orientation】</p> <p>【Theme Related Lecture】 “Japanese Culture in Komatsu”</p> <p>Lecturer: Ms. HOSHI Mami Ph.D., Associate Professor, International Exchange Center, Komatsu University</p> <p>【Exchange among Participants】</p>
Mar. 6 (Thu)	<p>【Japanese Language Lesson】 “Enjoying the Sounds and Rhythm of Japanese”</p> <p>Lecturer: Ms. NITANI Sayaka, Japanese Language Instructor, Japanese Language Education Division, Intercultural Integration Department, Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)</p>
Mar. 7 (Fri)	<p>【Lecture, School Exchange】</p> <p>“From the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake to Our Future—through disaster volunteers”</p> <p>Lecturer: Professor ATSUMI Tomohide, Osaka University, Graduate School of</p>

	Human Sciences, Students from Osaka University, Kwansei Gakuin University, Ritsumeikan University and Ryukoku University
	School Exchange: Students from The University of Osaka, Kwansei Gakuin University, Ritsumeikan University, and Ryukoku University
Mar. 10 (Mon)	<p>【Cultural Experience】 Nihon Buyo (Japanese dance) and Shamisen (three-stringed Japanese lute)</p> <p>Lecturer: Mukojima Geisha Chikage</p>
Mar. 11 (Tue)	<p>【Exchange among Participants】</p> <p>Discussion topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Memories during participation in JENESYS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The most impressive visit and experience, failure story ▪ Change in yourself after returning home ▪ What you want to try when having a chance to visit Japan in the near future 2. Japanese Language and Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Japanese learning environment and methods in your county ▪ Your own Japanese learning experiences and methods ▪ What aspects of Japanese language and culture you want to explore more in the future
Mar. 12 (Wed)	<p>【Introduction of Alumni Activities】 Panel discussion by JENESYS alumni residing in Japan</p> <p>Discussion topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Self- introduction by panelists 2. How did you start working/studying in Japan? 3. Is there anything you should have done to prepare for coming to Japan? 4. Has your impression of Japan changed before and after living in Japan? 5. Message for all JENESYS participants <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JENESYS 2018 participant Ms. Myat Kay Khaing Zaw Kay (Myanmar, Graduate Student) ● JENESYS 2022 participant Mr. DHANYAJARATH-BHORN, Ratchakith (Thailand, Graduate Student) ● JENESYS 2019 participant Mr. Harraz Irfan (Malaysia, Graduate Student) ● JENESYS 2016 participant Ms. AYODYA PARAMA PUTRIE (Indonesia, Working Youth)
Mar. 13 (Thu)	【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)
Mar. 14 (Fri)	【Reporting Session】 Presentation of program findings and action plans

2. Program Photos

Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program

	
<p>March 5, 2025 【Theme Related Lecture】 “Japanese Culture in Komatsu”</p>	<p>March 6, 2025 【Japanese Language Lesson】 “Enjoying the Sounds and Rhythm of Japanese” Group photo</p>
	
<p>March 7, 2025 【Lecture, School Exchange】 Discussions with Japanese students</p>	<p>March 10, 2025 【Cultural Experience】 Nihon Buyo (Japanese dance) and Shamisen (three-stringed Japanese lute) Participants joined in and danced with their hands</p>
	
<p>March 11, 2025 【Exchange among Participants】</p>	<p>March 12, 2025 【Introduction of Alumni Activities】 Panel discussion by JENESYS alumni residing in Japan</p>
	
<p>March 13, 2025 【Workshop】</p>	<p>March 14, 2025 【Reporting Session】</p>

3. Participants' Inquiries and Interests (excerpt)

◆ Regarding: 【Theme Related Lecture】 “Japanese Culture in Komatsu”

- Why is kabuki performed only by men?
- How does having an annual festival where children perform kabuki affect Komatsu City as a whole?
- I have been to Kanazawa but never made it to Komatsu. Next time I come to Japan, I would like to visit Komatsu too.

◆ Regarding: 【Japanese Language Lesson】 “Enjoying the Sounds and Rhythm of Japanese”

- How many kanji must students learn in Japan?
- One participant in the reporting session created an English version of a haiku, inspired by the “Enjoying the Sounds and Rhythm of Japanese” lecture.

◆ Regarding: 【Introduction of Alumni Activities】 Panel discussion

- How could I find a job in Japan?

4. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth (the Philippines)

I was deeply impressed by the rich culture of Komatsu, particularly its strong connection to Kabuki. It is remarkable to see how the Japanese people deeply value their cultural heritage, ensuring its continued presence in modern society. Notably, despite the passage of time and societal changes, Komatsu remains committed to preserving its traditions by integrating historical lessons into education and celebrating them through festivals. Given the opportunity, I would be honored to visit Komatsu, witness its cultural richness firsthand, and immerse myself in its vibrant festivities.

◆ Undergraduate Student (Viet Nam)

I love learning Japanese and reading Japanese literature, so today's lesson was such an amazing session for me. It's really fun to know some (Japanese onomatopoeia) words to describe different types of rain and heavy rain because we have quite a few words with similar structures in Vietnamese. I also find it fascinating to learn about the 5-7-5 rhythm rules in the Haiku. I will learn more Japanese and read more Haiku from now on.

◆ Working Youth (the Philippines)

Through the discussions with Japanese students, I was reminded of the importance of being prepared and having a spirit of volunteerism. Some natural disasters are unpredictable, and some man-made disasters are foreseeable, but for both we can learn about them in advance, plan, and take action to prevent or mitigate damage. The people behind these efforts are very important, and I felt that volunteerism represents kindness, love, and compassion.

◆ Undergraduate Student (Malaysia)

The culture and history of geisha was very interesting. The singing, dancing, and playing of musical instruments was mesmerizing.

◆ Working Youth (the Philippines)

I am so glad to have met online with JENESYS alumni living in Japan through the panel discussion. It was clear that their experiences at JENESYS opened doors and many opportunities for them to

study and work in Japan. I myself find Japan attractive as a place to work and further my studies, so I was able to learn how to prepare and find my way to study and work in Japan. I was also reminded of the importance of staying connected and maintaining relationships with my JENESYS colleagues.

◆ **Undergraduate Student (Thailand)**

As an ASEAN alum, I would like to learn more about Japan, especially about its culture and traditions.

◆ **Working Youth (the Philippines)**

I'm really grateful for this opportunity. I was able to listen to great lecturers of this organization. I will keep all the learnings and ideas that you have all imparted to us. I'm looking forward to more activities and programs.

◆ **Graduate Student (Lao PDR)**

I learned all the best things from this program and if I have a chance in the future, I would like to participate in it again.

5. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **Lecturer**

It is a very important asset for Japan to have young participants who are interested in Japan and enthusiastic about participating in the program. This was the first time I learned that the JENESYS Program has an ongoing program for alumni, and I think it is a very meaningful program that will nurture the next generation. At our university, we have been conducting educational activities with the aim of internationalizing university education, but through this program, we have reconfirmed the value that can be gained through human exchanges. We would like to take this opportunity to educate our Japanese students to look outside of Japan, while actively accepting international students and using cultural content to teach languages.


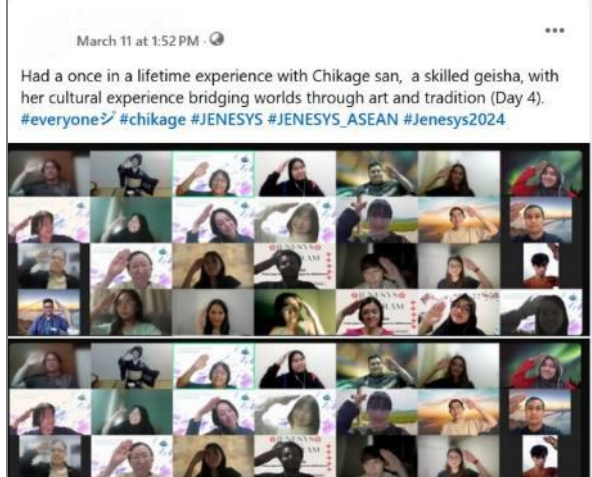
◆ **Lecturer**

The enthusiastic reactions from the ASEAN members were very encouraging. They took the presentation very seriously, and the group discussions that followed were very lively. I hope that this will be a good opportunity for the students to continue to build connections with the people of ASEAN.

◆ **Exchange School Student**

It was interesting to hear so many different opinions about the disastrous situations in different countries. Even though there were differences of opinion within the group, everyone was willing to try to understand each other, and the discussion was very productive.

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

 <p>Day 2 I can introduce myself in Japanese!!! I also learnt about the sound and rhythm of the Japanese. Even though the words are the same but different pitch for saying the words presented different meaning. Next, I also get know about Japanese poem. #jenesys_asean</p>	
<p>March 6, 2025 (Instagram etc.) Undergraduate Student (Malaysia) Day2 I can introduce myself in Japanese. I also learnt about the sound and rhythm of the Japanese. Even though the words are the same but different pitch for saying the word present different meanings. Next, I also got to know about Japanese poem.</p>	<p>March 7, 2025 (Instagram, etc.) Working Youth (the Philippines) Through the interactions with the Japanese students, I found out that they are aware of societal issues around them. They knew a lot about disaster preparedness in times of calamities. As the future leaders of Japan, they showed the JENESYS alumni that they are responsible and willing to take action in case of an environmental catastrophe. The spirit of volunteerism is in all of them.</p>
 <p>March 11 at 1:52 PM · 🌐</p> <p>Had a once in a lifetime experience with Chikage san, a skilled geisha, with her cultural experience bridging worlds through art and tradition (Day 4). #everyone👏 #chikage #JENESYS #JENESYS_ASEAN #Jenesys2024</p>	 <p>I have some incredible news to share with you all today. Have you heard about the Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program for JENESYS ASEAN Alumni? Well, let me tell you, it's an amazing opportunity to continue our journey in learning and advocating for Japanese language and Japanese culture. It also to strengthen the alumni network and to revitalize alumni activities. Let's utilize this virtual platform to drive change and create a more learning. I would like to thank Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) for giving such an amazing opportunity for alumni like me to join once again to reminisce about Japan. 🇯🇵 #JICE #JENESYS #JENESYS_ASEAN</p>
<p>March 11, 2025 (Facebook) Working Youth (the Philippines) Had a once in a lifetime experience with Chikage-san, a skilled geisha, with her cultural experience bridging worlds through art and tradition (Day 4).</p>	<p>March 14, 2025 (Facebook) Working Youth (Thailand) March 14, 2025 (Facebook) Working Youth (Thailand) I have some incredible news to share with you all today. Have you heard about the Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program for JENESYS ASEAN Alumni? Well, let me tell you, it's an amazing</p>

	<p>opportunity to continue our journey in learning and advocating for Japanese language and Japanese culture. It is also to strengthen the alumni network and to revitalize alumni activities. Let's utilize this virtual platform to drive change and create more learning. I would like to express my gratitude for this amazing opportunity for alumni like me to join once again to reminisce about Japan.</p>
<div data-bbox="159 1037 786 1458"> <p>国際交流センター星摩美准教授が外務省の対日理解促進交流プログラム「JENESYS2024 ASEAN同窓生のオンライン訪日プログラム」にて講義を行いました</p> <hr/> <p>ニュース 2025年3月11日</p> <p>3月5日（水）、ASEAN諸国及び東ティモールの高校生から社会人を対象とした外務省の対日理解促進交流プログラムである「JENESYS2024 ASEAN同窓生のオンライン訪日プログラム」が実施され、国際交流センターの星摩美准教授が「Japanese Culture in Komatsu」というタイトルで小松市における歌舞伎をテーマに講義を行いました。参加者は、ASEAN及び東ティモールから26名（内訳：フィリピン8名、マレーシア4名、タイ3名、東ティモール3名、インドネシア3名、カンボジア2名、ラオス、ミャンマー、ベトナム各1名）となりました。講義では小松市のイメージキャラクター「カブッキー」を取り上げ、歌舞伎と小松市の関係を考える活動をグループに分かれて実施しました。</p> </div>	<p>March 11, 2025 (Komatsu University's website)</p> <p>“Associate Professor HOSHI Mami Ph.D. of the International Exchange Center gave a lecture for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Japan's Friendship Ties Program ‘JENESYS2024 Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program for ASEAN Alumni’”</p> <p>On Wednesday, March 5, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Japan's Friendship Ties Program “JENESYS2024 Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program for ASEAN Alumni” for high school students to working youths from ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste was conducted, and Associate Professor HOSHI Mami Ph.D. of the International Exchange Center gave a lecture titled “Japanese Culture in Komatsu”.</p> <p>...</p> <p>The lecture featured “Kabukki,” the image character of Komatsu City, and participants were divided into groups to think about the relationship between kabuki and Komatsu City.</p> <p>Participants commented that “Kabuki and Komatsu City's ‘Otabi Festival’ left a strong impression on us,” “We were able to understand how traditional things exist in our lives today,” and “We want to experience real kabuki when we visit Komatsu.” It seems that the participants got the opportunity to become interested in the culture of Komatsu City.</p>

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

Streaming locations: Tokyo, Niigata, Osaka, Okayama – Presentation by a total of 3 groups

Group A1/A2



【Results of the Program】

◆ WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED AND FOUND AS NEW ABOUT THE PROGRAM THEME OF "JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE"

We were reminded of the richness of Japanese culture by learning about Komatsu City's efforts, the rhythm of the Japanese language, the richness of homonyms, the existence of geisha who protect the traditional performing arts, and so much more. The program also gave us an opportunity to consider whether it is better to follow the rules when volunteering in times of disaster, or whether we should be flexible and adapt to the situation at hand.

◆ AWARENESS AND FINDINGS GAINED THROUGH THE EXCHANGE WITH JAPANESE PEOPLE AND JAPANESE CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

“From a JENESYS2016 participant”

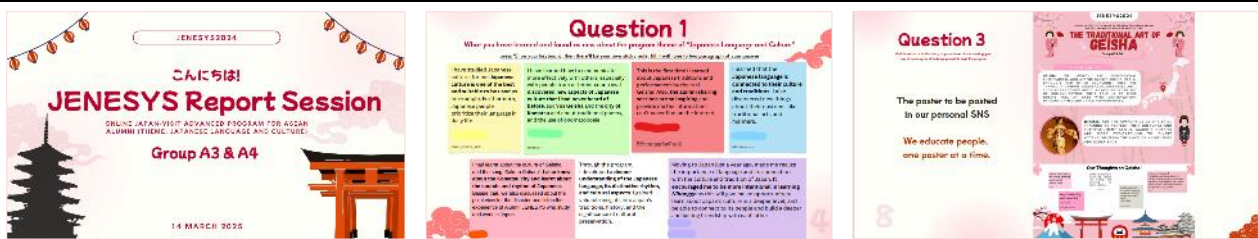
I observed classes during a school visit. The ingenious teaching methods I saw are of great use to me as a teacher now. During my homestay, I went to a beautiful highland, and they cooked homemade food for me. I will never forget the gratitude I have for their warm hospitality.

【Action Plan】

We will work to strengthen ASEAN-Japan ties and mutual cultural understanding in a sustainable manner, for example, through social networking campaigns and online exchanges. Specifically, we will focus on the following four points:

1. Promote cross-cultural understanding by sharing insights on Japanese traditions, language, and etiquette through social media, and encourage language exchange programs with Japanese learners.
2. Strengthening ASEAN-Japan ties by collaborating with JENESYS alumni for online and offline events and use social media to promote mutual understanding and appreciation of Japanese culture.
3. Promote sustainable cultural exchange initiatives by initiating virtual dialogues between ASEAN and Japanese youth and proposing online storytelling sessions about ASEAN-Japan cultural similarities.
4. Share experiences and knowledge about Japanese culture using personal social media accounts as social media campaigns, and also launch hashtag campaigns like #JENESYSCulture and #JENESYS_ASEAN

Group A3/A4



【Results of the Program】

◆ WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED AND FOUND AS NEW ABOUT THE PROGRAM THEME OF "JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE"

We learned that the Japanese language is connected to their culture and traditions. Learning Nihongo gave us an opportunity to learn about Japan's culture in a deeper level. The alumni sharing sessions were so inspiring and provided us with information we can never find on the internet. We discovered new aspects of Japanese culture that I had never heard of before, such as Geisha and the city of Komatsu and about traditional poems, and the use of onomatopoeia.

◆ AWARENESS AND FINDINGS GAINED THROUGH THE EXCHANGE WITH JAPANESE PEOPLE AND JAPANESE CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

We realized that there are many efforts from the Japanese government to promote the culture that exists in Japan as a focus in the tourism industry and thus preserve the culture from extinction. We also learned new perspectives on disaster volunteer activities and learned that Japan is making efforts to mitigate disasters through advanced warning systems, regular evacuation drills, and other measures.

【Action Plan】

Each participant will introduce the JENESYS program and Japanese culture in their respective capacities. Students will present to their classmates and friends, and teachers will introduce the program to their students. Through these activities, we will work to raise awareness of JENESYS. We will also make social media posts to introduce Japanese culture (e.g. Geisha/Maiko).

Group A5



【Results of the Program】

◆ WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED AND FOUND AS NEW ABOUT THE PROGRAM THEME OF "JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE"

Not only did we gain a deeper understanding of the Japanese language and its culture, but we also learned about the spirit of volunteerism and community resilience in disaster-stricken areas. We learned that preservation of national culture and traditions and active participation of local communities play an important role in shaping national identity.

◆ AWARENESS AND FINDINGS GAINED THROUGH THE EXCHANGE WITH JAPANESE PEOPLE AND JAPANESE CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

We were able to deepen our insight on Japanese culture. We learned the importance of fostering cultural leaders in the community and incorporating traditional culture into education in order to preserve and pass on traditional culture.

【Action Plan】

We will continue to learn Japanese and deepen our understanding of Japanese culture while strengthening the ties between ASEAN and Japan. To do this, social media will play an important role in networking. We will do our best to maintain connections not only with the participants of this program, but also with JENESYS alumni in Japan. We will also teach students about this initiative in our own countries.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)