

## JENESYS2024 Malaysia-Japan Marine related Exchange (Invitation Program) Report

### 1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】 From February 18 to 25, sixteen young Malaysian professionals from media, academic, and marine-related sectors paid a visit to Japan. During their stay in Tokyo and Fukui, they acquired a broad and multifaceted understanding of Japan through both exchanges with experts and stakeholders and on-site visits. These initiatives served to enhance their interest in Japan and contributed to the establishment of professional networks between the two countries in their respective fields.

【Participants】 Total: 16 participants (4 young maritime professionals, 3 media representatives, and 9 university representatives from Malaysia)

【Locations】 Tokyo 16, Kanagawa 4, Fukui 16

#### 【Schedule】

This program was held jointly in part with “JENESYS2024 Indonesia-Japan Marine related Exchange for Young Diplomats and Governmental Officials (Invitation Program)”

#### ■ Online Pre-study Program :

Feb. 12 (Wed)                   【Pre-departure Orientation】

Set Period Prior to Arrival   【Task-based Learning (VOD)】 “Overview/Mission”, “Lecture on Japan”, “Study Japanese Culture in Kyoto”, “Learning Japanese”

#### ■ Invitation Program :

Feb. 18 (Tue)                   Arrival at Narita International Airport

                                  【Post-arrival Orientation】

- Maritime Professionals Group

                                  【Theme Related Lecture】 “Overall for Japan Coast Guard”

Lecturer: Mr. IWASHITA Ryusuke, Section Chief of Planning Section, International Strategy Division, Japan Coast Guard

- Media and University Group

                                  【Observation】 Tokyo National Museum

- Maritime Professionals Group

                                  【Theme Related Observation】

Fisheries Agency's Fisheries Research Vessel “Kaiyo Maru”

                                  【Theme Related Observation】 Japan Coast Guard Museum YOKOHAMA

- Media and University Group

                                  【Theme Related Observation】 “About KYODO NEWS”

	Lecturer: Mr. ARAI Takuya, Deputy Managing Director, International Department, Kyodo News 【Theme Related Observation, Exchange】 International Christian University
Feb. 20 (Thu)	Travel from Tokyo to Fukui 【Courtesy Call, Lecture】 "Making Japan More Fun! Changing Japan, starting with Fukui" Lecturer: Mr. UWAFUJI Masazumi, Director, International Affairs and Economics Division, Department of Business Industry, and Labor, Fukui Prefectural Government 【Observation】 Maruoka Castle
Feb. 21 (Fri)	【Observation, Cultural Experience】Eiheiji (Zazen (Zen meditation) experience) 【Observation, Opinion Exchange】 Masunaga Optical Mfg. Co., Ltd. (including an exchange with a Malaysian employee) 【Meeting with the Host Families, Homestay】 Echizen City
Feb. 22 (Sat)	【Homestay】
Feb. 23 (Sun)	【Homestay】 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, confirming social media posts, preparation of action plans)
Feb. 24 (Mon)	Travel from Fukui to Tokyo 【Reporting Session】Presentation of program findings and action plans
Feb. 25 (Tue)	Departure from Narita International Airport

## 2. Program Photos

### Invitation Program

	
February 18, 2025 【Post-arrival Orientation】	February 18, 2025 【Lecture】 "Overall for Japan Coast Guard" (Maritime Professionals Group)

	
<p>February 18, 2025 【Observation】 Tokyo National Museum (Media and University Group)</p>	<p>February 19, 2025 【Theme Related Observation】 Fisheries Agency's Fisheries Research Vessel "Kaiyo Maru" (Maritime Professionals Group)</p>
	
<p>February 19, 2025 【Theme Related Observation】 Japan Coast Guard Museum YOKOHAMA (Maritime Professionals Group)</p>	<p>February 19, 2025 【Theme Related Observation】 "About KYODO NEWS" (Media and University Group)</p>
	
<p>February 19, 2025 【Theme Related Observation, Exchange】 International Christian University (Media and University Group)</p>	<p>February 19, 2025 【Theme Related Observation, Exchange】 International Christian University (Media and University Group)</p>

	
<p>February 20, 2025 【Courtesy Call, Lecture】 Mr. UWAFUJI Masazumi, Director, International Affairs and Economics Division, Department of Business Industry, and Labor, Fukui Prefectural Government</p>	<p>February 20, 2025 【Observation】 Maruoka Castle</p>
	
<p>February 21, 2025 【Observation, Cultural Experience】 Eiheiji (Zazen (Zen meditation) experience)</p>	<p>February 21, 2025 【Observation, Opinion Exchange】 Masunaga Optical Mfg. Co., Ltd. (Including an exchange with a Malaysian employee)</p>
	
<p>February 22, 2025 【Homestay】</p>	<p>February 23, 2025 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】</p>

	
February 24, 2025 【Reporting Session】	February 24, 2025 【Reporting Session】 Group photo

### 3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

#### ◆ Working Youth (Malaysia)

Japanese cultures reach beyond technology. As impressed as I am with technologies, I am impressed at how Japanese people are meticulous at their jobs, punctual, forgiving and cute at the same time. How I wish I could speak Japanese rather than using online translate service every time, so that I can be closer to them.

#### ◆ Working Youth (Malaysia)

The programme with the Fukui prefecture and community was the most amazing experience I would say because we were able to gain more understanding about Japanese culture, its policies, how Japanese people work and a few other things. Also, as a media practitioner, there was much I learned from the Kyodo News visit too. Thank you.

#### ◆ Working Youth (Malaysia)

One of the most impressive parts of my exchange program was my experience with my host family. They were incredibly helpful, always ensuring that I felt comfortable and welcomed. Their manners and hospitality made a huge difference in my overall experience. I was able to learn a lot about the local culture, and they took the time to share their traditions with me, making me feel like part of their family. This warm connection helped me adjust and enjoy my stay even more, and I will always be grateful for their kindness and support throughout the program.

### 4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

#### ◆ Lecturer

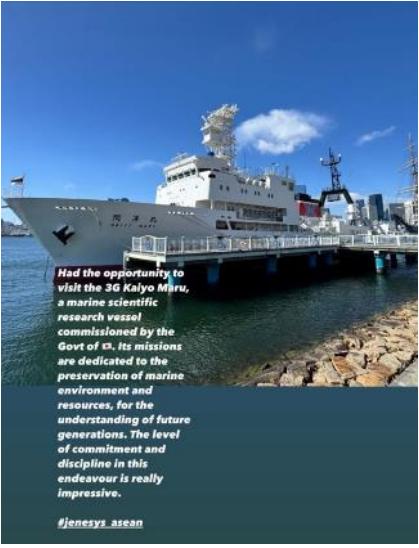
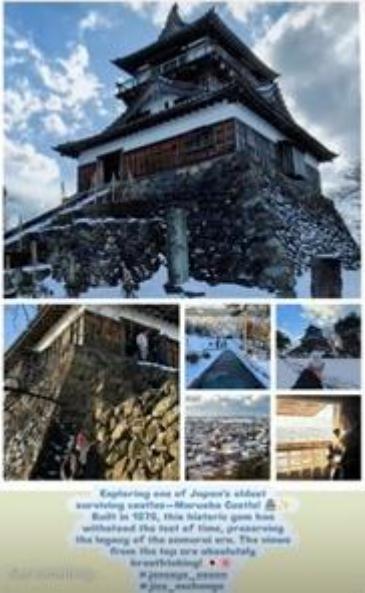
It was my great pleasure to receive a Media batch from Malaysia. I was so happy to hear that the visitors from Malaysia were satisfied with my lecture. I believe such efforts will support the growth of Friends of Japan in the future and I am more than willing to cooperate with this project again.

#### ◆ Host Family

There were many things that made me anxious, making the three days fly by. Watching everyone play in the snow like children and seeing their smiles during various experiences made us feel happy as well. Out of the 16 participants, we are now in contact with 7 of them through Facebook and Messenger. I hope we can continue to maintain good relationships in the future.

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

<p>February 19, 2025 (Facebook) Working Youth (Malaysia)</p> <p>Day 2 at Kyodo News was truly inspiring! Grateful for the insightful and interactive lecture by the Deputy Managing Director. So much to learn and reflect on. Kyodo News, Japan's leading news agency since 1945, continues to set the standard for accurate and timely journalism.</p>	<p>February 20, 2025 (Instagram) Working Youth (Malaysia)</p> <p>As a member of the media fraternity it is always a pleasure to see how the job is done outside of Malaysia. Many things are similar; and others completely foreign. Kyodo News, an agency that I have held personal dealings with during my coverage of the Kim Jong Nam assassination case, is such a powerhouse in news and to be there in person was an absolute honour. Plenty to take home, more so to digest as I continue in this career. #jenesys_asean #onassignment</p>

	
<p>February 20, 2025 (Instagram) Working Youth (Malaysia)</p> <p>Had the opportunity to visit the 3G Kaiyo Maru, a marine scientific research vessel commissioned by the Government of Japan. Its missions are dedicated to the preservation of marine environment and resources, for the understanding of future generations. The level of commitment and discipline in this endeavor is really impressive.</p>	<p>February 20, 2025 (Instagram) Working Youth (Malaysia)</p> <p>Exploring one of Japan's oldest surviving castles – Maruoka Castle! Built in 1576, this historic gem has withstood the test of time, preserving the legacy of the samurai era. The views from the top are absolutely breathtaking!</p>
	
<p>February 6, 2025 (NNA Asia Economic News) “16 young professionals visited Japan under JENESYS”</p>	<p>February 6, 2025 (YAHOO! JAPAN News introducing the NNA article on the left) “16 young professionals from Malaysia visited Japan under JENESYS”</p>

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

Locations: Tokyo, Kanagawa, Fukui (Presentations by a total of 2 groups)

### Maritime Professionals Group



#### 【Learnings from the Program】

##### ◆ Learnings about Japan:

Our prior impression of Japan was that it has advanced technologies, people are punctual and disciplined and has great anime and manga. We also knew of its history during WW2 and that Japan has excellent waste management facilities.

After coming to Japan, we learned more about its culture and religions (Shintoism and Buddhism, how Japanese people are very humble and reliable, and that thanks to its good economic performance Japan has a very safe environment.

##### ◆ Learnings about "Marine Related"

Japan has creative ways in how it conducts business, and the local governments work close with both Japanese nationals and the international community. We also learned that Japan does not have a military, but the self-defense forces. The Japan Coast Guard is allocated with significantly higher manpower and financial resources, and the maritime scientific research for the Japan Fisheries Agency is very advanced.

#### 【Action Plan】

1. To organize Japanese language classes for colleagues
2. To convene Division/Department meetings to explain Japanese work ethics and propose for such practices (being punctual, meticulous, responsible, responsive, creative and collective)
3. To educate family about the importance of taking care of each other. (the elder siblings take care of the younger ones, etc.)

## Media and University Group



### 【Learnings from the Program】

#### ◆ Learnings about Japan:

We noticed a lot of similarities and at the same time differences between Japan and Malaysia.

Weather: Malaysia has a rainy and hot season while Japan has 4 seasons.

Architecture: (Homes in) Malaysia largely uses spaces with empty spaces, while Japan separates rooms and compactly uses every space.

Culture: People in Malaysia are flexible with time and are casual in formal settings, while Japan is very punctual and respectful, especially to people with seniority, using polite/formal Japanese instead of casual Japanese.

Food: Malaysia uses many spices and has strong flavors, while Japan eats healthier dishes with clear flavors.

### 【Action Plan】

Media: News coverage to disseminate information to the general Malaysian public about Japan and program. Employ Japanese journalistic ethics and standards in everyday reporting duties.

We hope that we can improve visibility of lesser-known prefectures such as Fukui and attract tourists away from more known areas to diversity tourist density.

University: Conducting knowledge sharing sessions in and out of respective departments. Report and write articles. Regular postings to reinforce and strengthen ties made (with Japan). Improve current policies with Japanese work culture. By sharing what we know to those around us, we hope to promote Japan as not only a tourist destination, but also as a location for employment. We also hope that by introducing Japanese culture and ethics, graduates can become more prepared to join the workforce.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)