

JENESYS2024 Indonesia-Japan Life and Culture Exchange (Dispatch Program of Japanese High School Students) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】 Six Japanese high school students and one teacher visited Jakarta, Indonesia, from December 3 to 10 with the main objective of deepening mutual understanding between Japan and Indonesia under the theme of life and culture. The group gave presentations and workshops to introduce Japanese culture and attractions at local high schools, and experienced local family life through homestays, experiencing firsthand the differences in life, culture, and customs. Through a courtesy call on the Embassy of Japan in Indonesia and a visit to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Indonesia office, the participants learned more about the relationship between the two countries and Japan's development assistance. The participants also actively used social media to share what they learned through these experiences and the appeal of Japan.

【Participants】 Total: 7 participants (high school students and chaperone from Japan)
(Breakdown) 6 students and 1 chaperone from Fukusho High School

【Location】 Jakarta, Indonesia 7

【Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program:

Aug. 27 (Tue)	【Orientation】 First Joint Orientation 【Alumni Insights】 Alumni of FY2023 JENESYS ASEAN outbound programs 【Lecture】 “Welcome to ASEAN-JAPAN Centre” Joint implementation with FY2024 JENESYS ASEAN outbound programs Lecturer: Mr. WATANABE Mitsuo, Tourism Exchange Team, ASEAN Promotion Centre on Trade, Investment and Tourism (ASEAN-Japan Centre)
Oct. 25 (Fri)	【Lecture】 Lecture on the Dispatch Country “Overview of Indonesia” Lecturer: Mr. FUJIMOTO Jin, Program Officer, THE SASAKAWA PEACE FOUNDATION Peacebuilding Program
Nov. 21 (Thu)	【Participant Briefing】 Fukusho High School





■ Dispatch Program:

Dec. 3 (Tue)	【Pre-departure orientation】 Departure from Fukuoka Airport Arrival at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport
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Dec. 4 (Wed)	【Courtesy Call】 Mr. ISHIDA Tomohiko, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Indonesia 【Courtesy Call】 The Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Indonesia 【Observation】 Istiqlal Mosque, Cathedral, Pasar Baru (market)
Dec. 5 (Thu)	【School Exchange】 SMA Labschool Kebayoran 【Lecture】 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Indonesia Office
Dec. 6 (Fri)	【School Exchange】 SMKN 37 Jakarta 【Homestay】
Dec. 7 (Sat)	【Homestay】
Dec. 8 (Sun)	【Interactive Experience】 Batik Workshop (Museum Tekstil Jakarta) 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)
Dec. 9 (Mon)	【Reporting Session】 Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans Departure from Soekarno-Hatta International Airport
Dec. 10 (Tue)	Arrival at Fukuoka Airport

2. Program Photos

Online Pre-study Program

	
August 27, 2024 【Lecture】 “Welcome to ASEAN-JAPAN Centre”	August 27, 2024 【Lecture】 Group photo
	
October 25, 2024 【Lecture】 Lecture on the Dispatch Country “Overview of Indonesia”	November 21, 2024 【Participant Briefing】

Dispatch Program



December 4, 2024 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. ISHIDA Tomohiko, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Indonesia



December 4, 2024 【Courtesy Call】 The Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Indonesia



December 4, 2024 【Observation】 Istiqlal Mosque





December 5, 2024 【School Exchange】 SMA Labschool kebyoran – Presentation introducing Japan



December 5, 2024 【Observation】 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Indonesia Office



December 6, 2024 【School Exchange】 SMKN37 Jakarta (calligraphy experience)

	
<p>December 7, 2024 【Homestay】</p>	<p>December 8, 2024 【Interactive Experience】 Batik Workshop (Museum Tekstil Jakarta)</p>
	
<p>December 9, 2024 【Reporting Session】</p>	<p>December 9, 2024 【Reporting Session】 Group photo</p>

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

Online Pre-study Program

◆ High School Student

It was good to learn more about the history of Indonesia and its connection with Japan. About 90% of the population in Indonesia is Muslim, so I was able to learn again what I should not do and what rules I should be aware of when I actually visit the country. I would also like to learn not only English but also simple Indonesian words such as greetings and proactively communicate with people in Indonesia.

Dispatch Program

◆ High School Student

I was so touched by the high regard in which Japan is held in Indonesia. I believe this could only be because many Japanese people have built up trust in Indonesia over the years. I would also like to actively try to let more people know about Japan. There are many wonderful cultures and things in Indonesia, but there were also times when I felt some inconveniences. This experience made me realize once again how wonderful and convenient Japan is.

◆ **High School Student**

I was moved by the kindness of the people of Indonesia. There were many occasions in which they approached me when I was in trouble and exchanged greetings and smiles with people they did not even know. When I thought about why they are so kind, I felt that it is because Indonesian people have the courage to do what they believe in and can immediately take action without assuming the worst. Furthermore, Indonesians are confident, and I was impressed by the way they post selfies on social media and actively use other languages. I felt that this is because Indonesia has a culture of praising each other and recognizing diverse values. I was amazed to see that the 'cherishing oneself by cherishing those around you' mindset has taken root in the people of Indonesia.

◆ **High School Student**

I was amazed by how many Japanese companies have established operations in Indonesia and are contributing to the country's development, such as with the construction of the subway system. Coming into contact with the streets of Indonesia, its unique culture, and the warmth of its people, I found it to be a very enjoyable and wonderful place, and I would love to visit again. Through this exchange, I learned that the Internet can only teach you so much. Only by going to Indonesia could I have realized the local qualities and attractions. I realized the importance of face-to-face exchanges and taking the extra step to learn, and I want to continue to be proactive in the future.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **Exchange School Student**

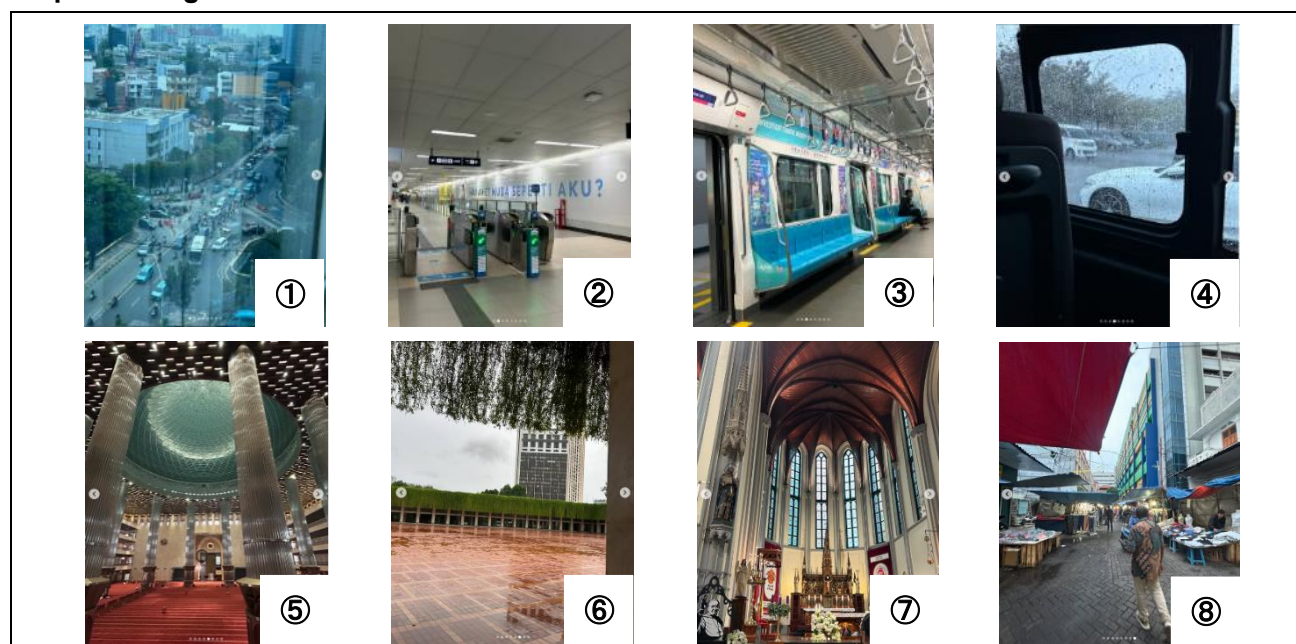
I really enjoyed talking with everyone during the lunch break. It is so memorable, and I can make some trend-videos and know more about each other. I hope I can meet them again in the future

◆ **Exchange School Faculty**

I, on behalf of the school, would like to thank you very much for the opportunity for our school to be involved in this extraordinary moment. My students are also very happy to be able to interact with Fukusho students. Hopefully this relationship does not end here and will continue in the next events.

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

Dispatch Program



December 4, 2024 (Action Plan / Participants' shared Instagram)

Today we went to the Embassy, took the MRT, visited the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and went to the Cathedral, mosque, and market.

The first picture is a view from the hotel in the morning. There was so much traffic in the morning. I heard that Indonesian students are up and active from 6:30 in the morning.

The second and third pictures are of the MRT, Jakarta's subway system that Japan helped develop.

The fourth picture was taken when it rained before going to the mosque. It rained a lot in a short time.

The fifth and sixth pictures are of the mosque. The size of the floor tiles in the sixth picture are made to be big enough for praying, and some people pray outside. Everyone has a carpet to match the size of these tiles. Also, the Koran is apparently written in Arabic.

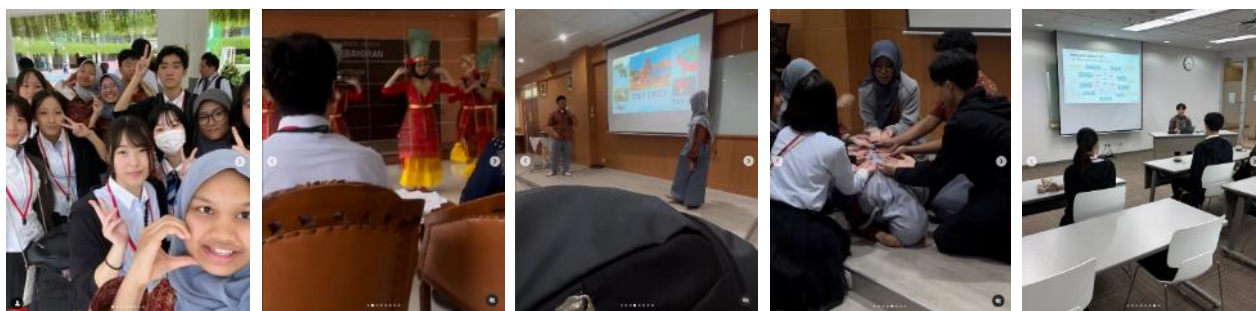
The seventh picture is of the Cathedral. It was very quiet inside, and the structure was magnificent and very impressive.

The eighth picture is of the market. It is called the new market, but in fact it apparently is the oldest market in the city. I was surprised to see that it was normal for motorcycles to be driven on the sidewalks.

Although there is no picture, we were taught a lot about Indonesia at the embassy. We learned a lot from the locals, and their perspectives were different from the information we had seen on social media.

It is said that Indonesia's GDP will surpass Japan and become the fourth largest in the world by 2050.

Tomorrow, we have a school exchange. I will do my best to make it an opportunity for all of us to understand and respect each other's culture.



December 5, 2024 (Action Plan / Participants' shared Instagram)

We visited SMA Labschool Kebayoran and the JICA Indonesia Office.

◆ SMA Labschool Kebayoran

We were shown a traditional Indonesian dance. The outfits and dances were so beautiful that I could have watched them forever. We were then given a tour of the school and were able to join in a game of basketball. The students who taught us were kind and friendly, and we had a lot of fun.

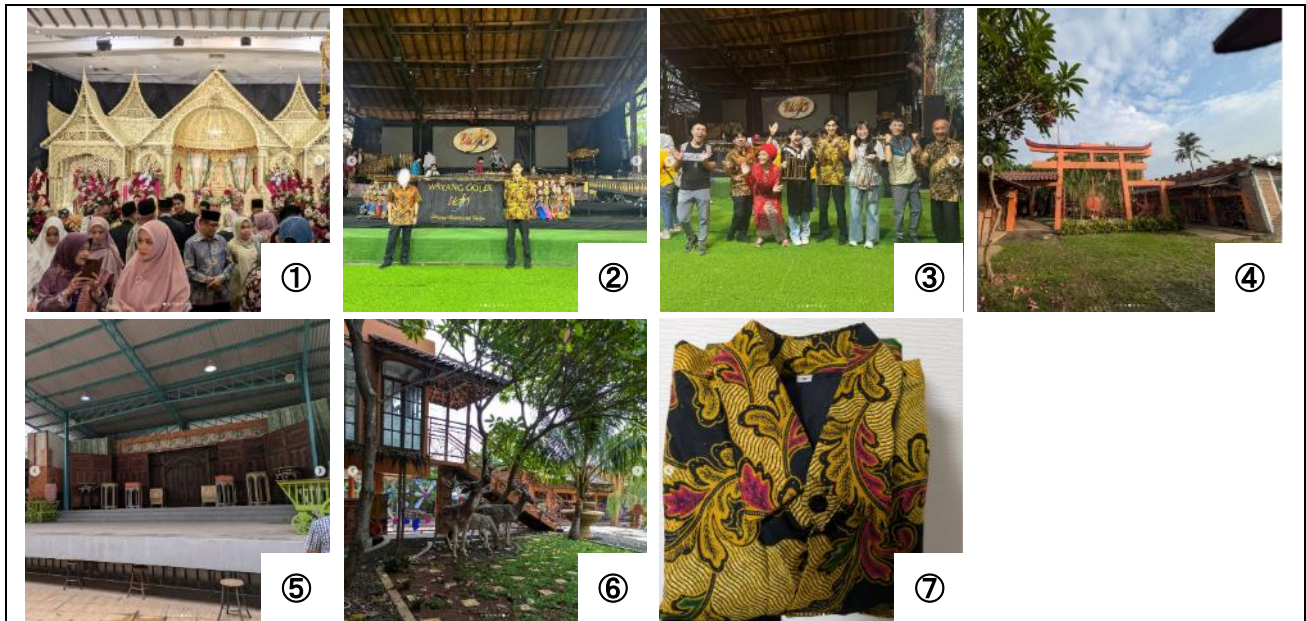
We also gave a presentation about Japan, and the students from the school gave a presentation to us. I was very surprised that their presentation was in Japanese, which I didn't expect. What was even more surprising was that they hardly ever looked at the script, and the content was very informative and wonderful. During the presentation, they also introduced some traditional Indonesian games, which I tried out and had a lot of fun with. We also had the opportunity to interact with many other students, and it was a very enjoyable and fulfilling day.

◆ JICA Indonesia Office

I now know what kind of activities JICA is engaged in. JICA is working to improve transportation systems in Indonesia, and they are currently in the process of constructing railway tracks to expand the area where trains can be used. They say it will take some time to complete all the areas, but I was surprised to see such an initiative being undertaken.

During the introduction of the activities of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, we also heard about what kind of support they are providing and how it affects the local communities. In the explanation, we were told that "everyone is working hard for happiness," which I feel broadened my horizons a little. The person who gave the explanation was also very cheerful, and I liked how I felt after hearing about their activities.

Everyone I came in touch with was kind and very outgoing. I felt more confident in myself, and I believe that there will be positive changes in my day-to-day life from here on out.



December 8, 2024 (Action Plan / Participants' shared Instagram)

On the 5th day of the JENESYS program, we had a homestay.

Picture 1: The first place we went to was a wedding hall. Apparently, it was the wedding day of my host family's relative. Unlike Japanese weddings, there was a mosque-like building in the back.

Picture 2: After a two-hour car ride, the next place we went to was Bandung. There I saw an angklung (a musical instrument made of bamboo) performance. The angklung was registered as a World Cultural Heritage in 2010. The first performance was a puppet show called wayang golek. Two puppets were controlled by one person with gamelan music in the background. The performer's voice inflections were funny, and the puppet show was very comical.

The next performance was a variety of dances, with many children dancing and parading in front of us. They were very cute. The next performance was an angklung performance and a chorus of "Cho-Cho" (butterfly song in Japanese) by small children. The MC asked us to sing along, but I couldn't because I had forgotten the lyrics...

Next, we got to try out the angklung. Each angklung had a number from 1 to 7 written on it, with 1 being Do and 7 being Ti. The instrument consisted of two thick bamboos and one thin bamboo. The tone was a gentle, round sound.

Picture 3: A photo of the university students from Taiwan with whom we became good friends. They were very frank and nice people. A truly once-in-a-lifetime encounter.

Pictures 4, 5, and 6: This is the home of my host family. The gate to the house was a torii gate, and already at this point, I could tell that it was going to be a mansion. Beyond the torii gate was a deer figurine, which was surprisingly large. Beyond that, there was a stage large enough for a small play. I think it was bigger than the stage in my high school gym. The house had about 13 rooms, and it was truly an amazing mansion.

It used to be like a restaurant, and there were pictures on Instagram of many people gathering there.

Picture 7: This is an expensive-looking batik jacket that the host family gave me. It was perfect to wear in Indonesia. However, it is winter in Japan right now, so the next time I wear it will be in the summer. Until then, I will keep it in my closet for safekeeping. I had an amazing time.

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

Presentation by 1 group

	<p>What I realised in Indonesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are many people who can speak Japanese and English• Recognition and understand each other's religion• There are many young people• Everyone is kind and actively talks to me even when we meet for the first time.	<p>① Use sns to spread the word about your activities</p> 
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【Results of the Program】

One of the attractions of Japan that we recognized after coming to Indonesia is that traffic is well organized and there are few traffic jams, cut-ins, or horn honking. There are many traffic lights, and people can cross the street safely. Sidewalks and roadways are separated, and pedestrians are given priority, so you can walk without feeling worried.

Smoking areas are also well maintained, and smoking is prohibited in most buildings. This is to prevent second-hand smoking. In Japan, there are few people who walk and smoke at the same time, and I felt that the rules against smoking are very strict.

Roads in Japan are flat, well maintained, and easy to walk on. In Indonesia, on the other hand, the roads are bumpy and have potholes.

One of the attractions of Indonesia is that there are many people who can speak Japanese and English. During the school visit and homestay, we were surprised at how many students could speak Japanese, and we realized the depth of the connection between Indonesia and Japan.

The next great thing is the mutual recognition and understanding of various religions. It was refreshing to see the Istiqlal Mosque and the Cathedral facing each other, showing their openness toward different religions. During our school visit, we were taught the Islamic way of praying, which deepened our understanding of religion.

Moreover, the average age of people in Indonesia is 29 years old, and in Jakarta, many young people are creating a vibrant city. We felt that this youthfulness will greatly contribute to the future development of the country.

Finally, Indonesian people are very kind and willing to talk to you even when you meet them for the first time. During the school visit, we were able to quickly get to know each other thanks to the students' immediate willingness to talk to us. The responsiveness, kindness, and gentleness of the students truly stood out to us when they were asked questions during the presentation.

【Action Plan】

First, we have a shared Instagram account, on which we are posting about our activities. However, since people in Japan do not often see the contents of accounts they do not follow, we would like to use as many social media platforms as possible, such as TikTok and short videos on YouTube, to spread the word about this activity.

Next, we would like to talk about the attractions of Indonesia and the activities of local high school students at our school's next grade assembly. For students in other grades who wouldn't be able to hear the presentation in person, we will post QR codes to access the social media posts on bulletin boards or distribute them to reach more people. In addition to the QR codes, we would also like to add photos to draw more attention.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)