



**JENESYS2024 The Philippines-Japan Cultural Exchange for High School Students
(Invitation Program for Japanese Language Learners)
JENESYS2024 Timor-Leste - Japan Cultural Exchange
(Invitation Program for Japanese Language Learners) Report**

1. Program Overview

【Objective and Overview】 High school students, undergraduate students, and working youths from Timor-Leste and the Philippines with a high interest in Japanese culture and studying the Japanese language visited Japan from Oct. 22 to 29. The main objective of the program was to increase their interest in learning Japanese and to foster a familiarity with Japan through exchanges with Japanese people. The group visited Tokyo and Hiroshima, where they participated in site visits, school exchanges, homestays, and other activities, and shared their learnings and insights into Japanese culture and language on social media and other platforms.

【Participants】 Total: 10 participants

Undergraduate students and working youths from Timor-Leste / High school students and chaperone from the Philippines

【Locations】 Tokyo 10, Hiroshima 10

【Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program:

Oct. 15 (Tue) 【Pre-departure Orientation】

 【Lecture on Japan】 “Japanese Society and Culture”

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

Set Period Prior to Arrival 【Task-based Learning (VOD)】 “Pre-departure Orientation”, “Lecture on Japan”, “Virtual Home Visit”, “Message from Minamisanriku”, “Study Japanese Culture in Kyoto”, “Hiroshima Peace Tour”, “Learning Japanese”

■ Invitation Program:

Oct. 21 (Mon) Arrival at Haneda Airport (from the Philippines)

Oct. 22 (Tue) Arrival at Narita International Airport (from Timor-Leste)

 【Post-arrival Orientation】

 【Observation】 Sensoji Temple

Oct. 23 (Wed) 【Theme Related Observation】

amps International ANIME school (Pioneer Production)


 【Theme Related Lecture】 “Japanese language lesson”

Lecturer: Ms. NITANI Sayaka, Japanese Language Instructor, Japanese Language Education Division, Intercultural Integration Department, Japan

	International Cooperation Center (JICE)
Oct. 24 (Thu)	Travel from Tokyo to Hiroshima 【School Exchange】 Hijiya University & Hijiya Junior College 【 Theme Related Observation 】 Pop Culture Hiroshima Secretariat, Cosquerade 【Observation】 Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park
Oct. 25 (Fri)	【Courtesy Call】 Mr. Masanori Hatada, Kitahiroshima Town Deputy Mayor 【Meeting with the Host Families, Homestay】
Oct. 26 (Sat)	【Homestay】 Homestay and cultural experience
Oct. 27 (Sun)	【Homestay】 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】 【Observation】 Miyajima (Itsukushima Shrine) 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing the program, confirming social media posts, creating action plans)
Oct. 28 (Mon)	Travel from Hiroshima to Tokyo 【Reporting Session】 Presentation of program findings and action plans
Oct. 29 (Tue)	Departure from Narita International Airport

2. Program Photos

Online Pre-study Program

 <p>JENESYS2024 The Philippines-Japan Cultural Exchange for High School Students & Timor-Leste - Japan Cultural Exchange 10/22~10/29, 2024</p>	 <p>Polite Bowing as an act of non-verbal communication</p> <p>Meaning and types of bowing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome - Thank you - Hello - Good-bye - Excuse me. - Show respect - I am very sorry. <p>Angle of bowing: Degree of politeness</p>
<p>October 15, 2024 【Pre-departure Orientation】</p>	<p>October 15, 2024 【Lecture on Japan】 “Japanese Society and Culture”</p>

Invitation Program



October 23, 2024 【Theme Related Observation】
amps International ANIME school (Pioneer Production)



October 23, 2024 【Theme Related Lecture】
“Japanese language lesson”



October 24, 2024 【School Exchange】
Hijiya University & Hijiya Junior College



October 24, 2024 【Theme Related Observation】
Pop Culture Hiroshima Secretariat, Cosquerade



October 26, 2024 【Homestay】



October 27, 2024 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】



October 27, 2024 【Observation】
Miyajima (Itsukushima Shrine)



October 28, 2024 【Reporting Session】
Group photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student (the Philippines)

Starting off with our tour in Tokyo, I really was impressed to see how time really goes fast in Japan as a whole. Their whole country is always on the move to different places as they honor punctuality in every aspect, thus they are always on time. Because of this, it was so nice to see them teach everyone to always be on time, and because of that I was also influenced into being a person that also cares for timeliness.

Moreover, the time we had during the school exchange program in Hijiya was really fun for me. Everybody was so nice and very caring, and I loved how they were always understanding even if I didn't understand some of the things that they were saying.

Lastly, the homestay was just something else for me. Being able to be immersed in a Japanese household was just so fun and an out of this world experience. My family was so accommodating and so caring. I for one was very impressed with how they do things in a Japanese household, on how they are able to be self-sufficient in every way, wherein they make their own vegetables, meat, milk, and so many more. While on our stay there, we were also given the chance to star gaze amongst the Kita-Hiroshima night sky, where I realized a lot of things about myself. Overall, I really was impressed with how they are here in Japan. Not only their culture and language, but also their history and lifestyle.

◆ High School Student (the Philippines)

The highlight of the exchange program for me was the school exchange experience. I was deeply impressed by the warmth and hospitality of the students; they welcomed me with open arms and genuine kindness, creating an atmosphere where I immediately felt at home. The friendships I made there truly showed me that friendship transcends boundaries, proving that differences in race or background don't matter when it comes to forming meaningful connections. Through this experience, I gained not only new friends but also a deeper understanding of unity and acceptance across cultures.

◆ Undergraduate Student (Timor-Leste)

It was a great opportunity for me to see firsthand how clean and technologically advanced Japan is. Through the exchange, I learned that Japanese education is very advanced and that Japan is a very creative country in the field of animation production. After returning to Timor-Leste, I would like to implement an action plan with all of the other participants.

◆ Undergraduate Student (Timor-Leste)

The best part of the program for me was the visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, where we were able to see different exhibits and pictures taken after the atomic bomb was dropped, which left a very strong impression on me. The cultural exchange was also great. I would like to be more proactive in sharing my experiences on social media. As for the implementation of the Action Plan, I would like to focus on encouraging people in my country not to throw trash in the streets.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Lecturer

Throughout the lesson, I could feel that all the participants were very interested in Japan and the Japanese language. Although they had only just arrived in Japan and must have been tired, they were very cheerful and actually gave us a lot of energy. I was grateful for their positive reactions to all the content of the lesson and activities. I hope that this lesson helped motivate the participants to study even harder during the program.

◆ Exchange School Faculty



It was great to see the participants taking notes with such enthusiasm. The students from our university were also more active than usual in the exchange, which was very invigorating. It was the first time for the students to have people from overseas show interest in their activities, and it seemed to have boosted their confidence. I would be very happy if we could be part of another exchange project like this in the future.

◆ Host Family

I was worried about the language barrier, but everyone spoke Japanese, so we were able to interact without using translation apps or anything. They listened to my every word while nodding their heads, which made me feel very comfortable. During the homestay, we visited a temple as an intercultural exchange. Locals visiting the temple approached us here and there, and I think we were able to have a one-of-a-kind exchange.



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

	
<p>October 24, 2024 (Facebook)</p> <p>High School Student (the Philippines)</p> <p>DAY 3</p> <p>We went to Hijiya Daigaku and were able to socialize with students as well as learn more about schools in Japan. We learned the courses they offered in the school. Speakers also taught us</p>	<p>October 22, 2024 (Facebook)</p> <p>Undergraduate Student (Timor-Leste)</p> <p>Doing my best with the program in Japan. Visit tourist in Tokyo</p>

<p>about Japanese arts like their anime and Kagura, a Shinto dance where people wear beautiful handmade costumes and masks and tell a story. Everyone in the school was so nice and I really enjoyed it. I'm glad I was able to meet everyone.</p>	
	
<p>November 5, 2024 (Embassy of Japan in the Philippines' website)</p> <p>Introducing the safe return of Filipino high school students after a 10-day visit to Japan</p>	<p>November 8, 2024 (Hijiya University & Hijiya Junior College's website)</p> <p>Participated in the Japan's Friendship Ties Program "JENESYS"</p>

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

Locations: Tokyo, Hiroshima – Presentations by a total of 2 groups

Timor-Leste	
 <p>Jenesys 2024: Pertukaran Budaya dan Bahasa Jepang</p> <p>Program Jenesys 2024 adalah program yang melibatkan studi pertukaran budaya dan bahasa antara negara Jepang dan negara lain. Timor juga berpartisipasi dalam program ini sebagai salah satu negara.</p>	 <p>Pengalaman</p> <p>Timor-Leste : mengetahui bahwa ada 2 agama yang diutamakan di Jepang yaitu dan bagaimana cara berkomunikasi dengan orang dewasa dan anak-anak. Dan kami juga mengetahui perbedaan antara bahasa Jepang formal dan informal.</p> <p>BAHASA JEPANG: kami mendapat pengalaman baru mengenai cara berkomunikasi dengan orang dewasa dan anak-anak. Dan kami juga mengetahui perbedaan antara bahasa Jepang formal dan informal.</p> <p>Mayarakat di Jepang sangat menjaga kebersihan dan sangat baik pada aturan (misalnya, aturan lalu lintas).</p>
<p>【Results of the Program】</p> <p>◆ Learnings about Japan:</p> <p>Before visiting Japan, our images of Japan were related to music, food, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, historical sites, etc. We also heard that the Japanese are very kind, disciplined, hardworking, and friendly.</p> <p>After visiting Japan, we were amazed to see that Japan is a very beautiful country and that it is very creative and technologically advanced, just as we had seen in anime and manga. In terms of education, we learned that in contrast to the theory-oriented classes in Timor-Leste, practical materials are used in Japan, and that punctuality is very important.</p>	

◆ Learnings about the Japanese Language and Culture:

Regarding the Japanese language, we learned new ways of communicating in Japanese, such as using different words depending on the situation or circumstance.

Regarding Japanese culture, we learned that Shintoism and Buddhism are the two main religions in Japan, and that Japanese people are very tidy and respect the observance of the law.

【Action Plan】

We as a whole group will conduct exchange activities from November 2024 to January 2025 to share our experiences from this program with other Japanese language learners. We will visit 1 of 10 Japanese language schools in Dili each week to present our experiences, showing them our PowerPoint presentation and photos.

The Philippines



【Results of the Program】

◆ Learnings about Japan:

Lifestyle: They had an organized and disciplined life. Additionally, they always had ways of doing things in their everyday life such as saying itadakimasu and gochisousamadeshita before and after meals.

Religion: That they have two major religions such as Buddhism and Shintoism

People: The people in Japan are punctual, disciplined, and very sincere when apologizing.

◆ Learnings about the Japanese Language and Culture:

Firstly, we were taught that speaking in Japanese is mostly done in a formal tone and complete structure. Moreover, words in Japanese are to be spoken wholly and nicely. But after the exchange program we learned that people in different places have different ways of saying things, such as how it is different from the language in Kita-Hiroshima and Tokyo City. Furthermore, we also noticed the difference in their way of talking to different ages, wherein we were taught that it should be casual when talking to younger people, but in actuality, it should also be somewhat formal.

【Action Plan】

All program participants will share their experiences and knowledge with students at their respective high schools once or twice a month for three months using the following methods:

- The participants will demonstrate and explain their experiences and knowledge in classes to immerse and explain how Japan works from the perspective of foreign students. Additionally, we hope that students will also be intrigued and become interested in learning more about Japan, its culture, and its language.
- Some participants will showcase their findings in their Japanese language clubs by creating a theme-based club booth during their club fair. They will also publish a feature article for their school paper for the whole school to be aware of what they've experienced and what Japan has to offer.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)