

## **JENESYS2025 Japan-ASEAN Online Alumni Meeting Follow-up Project Report (Theme: Japanese Culture “Minyo”)**

### **1. Program Overview**

#### **【Objectives and Overview】**

This program was conducted for alumni from Japan and the ASEAN region who had previously participated in the JENESYS program. Through an introduction to the Japan Foundation—an independent administrative institution engaged in international cultural activities—along with a cultural experience featuring “Minyo” (Japanese folk songs) and opportunities for exchange and interaction among participants, the program further deepened their understanding of Japan. It also encouraged participants to advance their own initiatives and helped strengthen their mutual networks.

**【Participants】** Total: 30 JENESYS ASEAN alumni

(Breakdown) Cambodia 2, Indonesia 6, Malaysia 4, Myanmar 1, the Philippines 10, Singapore 1, Timor-Leste 2, Viet Nam 2, Japan 2

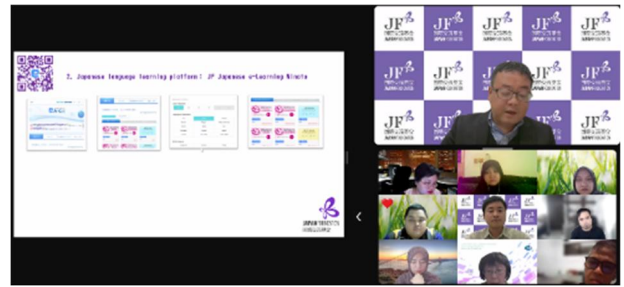
#### **【Schedule】**

- Online Alumni Meeting – March 6, 2026 (Fri)
  1. Opening Remarks
  2. **【Address】** Mr. HAYASHI Naoki, Director, Regional Cooperation Division, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  3. **【Lecture】** “Tips for Deeper Connections with Japan”  
Lecturer: The Japan Foundation  
Mr. YAMAZAKI Takaya, Assistant Director, Educational Media Development Section, The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai  
Mr. OKUBO Kazumasa, Assistant Director, International Operations Section II, Global Partnerships Department  
Ms. SHINOHARA Yukari, Assistant Director, Public Relations Division, Branding and Communication Department
  4. Q&A Session
  5. **【Cultural Experience】** “Minyo” (Japanese folk song)  
Lecturer: Mr. SATO Koki and Ms. BIHO Narukoma from Kinbikai (Japanese Folk Song & Instrumental School)
  6. Commemorative photo
  7. **【Exchange among Participants】**  
Discussion on the Lecture by The Japan Foundation and Cultural Experience “Minyo”
  8. Closing Remarks

## 2. Program Photos



【Lecture】“Tips for Deeper Connections with Japan”



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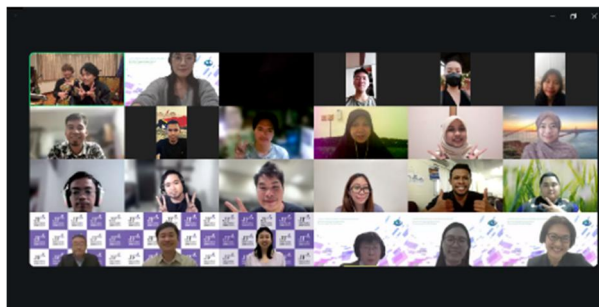
【Lecture】“Tips for Deeper Connections with Japan” (Q&A Session)



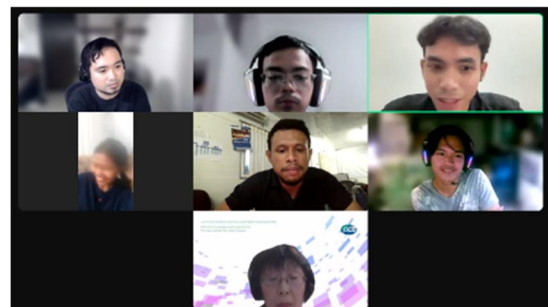
【Cultural Experience】“Minyo” (Japanese folk song) Mini Concert



【Cultural Experience】“Minyo” (Japanese folk song) Instrument Introduction



Commemorative photo



【Exchange among Participants】  
Group Discussion

### 3. Participants' Inquiries and Interests (excerpt)

#### ◆ Regarding: **[Lecture]** “Tips for Deeper Connections with Japan”

- How can I participate in the Japan Foundation’s human exchange program, “Partnership to Co-create a Future with the Next Generation: WA Project 2.0”?
- Does this project receive any assistance or funding from the Japanese government?

#### ◆ Regarding: **[Cultural Experience]** “Minyo” (Japanese folk song)

- For how long have the two of you been practicing your art?
- What instruments are essential for performing folk songs or festival music?
- What efforts are you making to ensure that folk songs are not left behind by the times?

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

#### ◆ Working Youth (the Philippines)

The program was entertaining. It's amazing how music transcends race and serves as comfort in whatever work we do. Music does really bring a community together. Learning about the folk songs of Japan made us realize we are closer to one another, bound by music.

#### ◆ Working Youth (Indonesia)

Thank you, Japan Foundation, for the lecture, now we know about the JFF theater and online language learning. Thank you for the Minyo performance, it's my first time listening to Minyo. We can even dance and sing a bit together.

#### ◆ Undergraduate Student (Japan)

Thank you very much for the precious lecture organized by the Japan Foundation, as well as for the wonderful performance and presentation by the professional artists of Japanese folk songs and traditional musical instruments. As a participant from Japan, it was a valuable opportunity for me to deepen my understanding of my own culture. I hope to take part in events like this again in the future.

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

#### ◆ Lecturer

We had the opportunity to introduce our organization to the JENESYS alumni community. We were truly happy to receive so many positive and encouraging comments. Hearing the reactions and questions about the programs made us want to explore better ways to share information moving forward.

#### ◆ Lecturer

Since many of the participants do not often have the chance to experience Japanese culture in their daily lives, the way they watched and listened to our music—Japanese folk songs—with such pure curiosity left a deep impression on us.

As we have more and more opportunities like this, we hope to make each moment more meaningful. Even within the limited time we have, we want to keep finding ways to spark interest in Japanese culture and create experiences that we can enjoy and appreciate together.

## 6. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

<p>I joined the Jenesys ASEAN Alumni Event on Friday 6th March. First we got lecture from Japan Foundation, about culture, language and social change programme. I'd like to watch movies and learn Japanese from their website 😊</p> <p>Then, we experienced live performance of Min'yo, japanese traditional music. We dance and sing a bit with the performers: Mrs. Narukoma Biho and Mr. Koki Sato. Such a happy experience.</p> <p>In the small meeting room on zoom, I met jenesys alumni from Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia.</p> <p><a href="#">#jenesys_asean</a></p> 	
<p>March 6, 2026 (Facebook) Working Youth (Indonesia)</p> <p>I joined the JENESYS ASEAN Alumni Event on Friday 6th March. First, we got lecture from Japan Foundation, about culture, language and social change program. I'd like to watch movies and learn Japanese from their website.</p> <p>Then, we experienced live performance of Minyo, Japanese traditional music. We danced and sang a bit with the performers: Mrs. Narukoma Biho and Mr. Koki Sato. Such a happy experience.</p> <p>In the small meeting room on zoom, I met JENESYS alumni from Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia.</p>	<p>March 6, 2026 (Instagram) Undergraduate Student (the Philippines)</p> <p>Japan Foundation gave a lecture on their three key fields of their activities: culture, language, and dialogue: They introduced JFF Theater, Stage Beyond Borders, and Minato to us.</p> <p>Minyo is traditional Japanese music.</p> <p>Sato Koki-san and Biho Narukoma-san performed several minyo for us!</p> <p>They also introduced traditional Japanese musical instruments: Shakuhachi, Shinobue, Shamisen, and Taiko.</p>

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)