

JENESYS2025 Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program for ASEAN Alumni Report (Theme: Social Issue and Youth Participation)

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

This program was conducted from November 25 to November 29, 2025, for ASEAN alumni who had previously visited Japan through the JENESYS Program. With the theme “Social Issue and Youth Participation,” the program aimed to deepen the alumni’s understanding of Japan, strengthen their networks, and revitalize alumni activities,

【Participants】 Total: 13 alumni from ASEAN Member States (AMS) (participants up to FY2024)
(Breakdown) Indonesia 3, the Philippines 3, Thailand 2, Timor-Leste 5

【Locations】 Tokyo 3, Iwate 11, Miyagi 6, Fukushima 5

【Schedule】

This program was partially conducted in joint with the JENESYS2025 Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program for ASEAN Alumni (Theme: Japanese Language, Tradition and Pop-culture).

■ Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program:

Nov. 25 (Tue)	【Orientation, Address】 【Theme Related Lecture】 “Regional challenges and Youth, Social Participation Together with Young people” Lecturer: Ms. UEDA Ayaka, Executive Director, NPO miraito 【Exchange among Participants】 Programs in groups, self-introductions, verification of roles, etc.
Nov. 26 (Wed)	【School Exchange, Observation】 Fukushima Prefecture Futaba Future High School School Introduction by Students, Exchange with students, Virtual school tour
Nov. 27 (Thu)	【Theme Related Lecture, Workshop】 “Shifting Scales in Local Problem-Solving: Turn National Agendas into Local Impact” Lecturer: Mr. KOBAYASHI Masayuki, CEO / Co-Founder, Rurio Inc. 【Exchange among Participants】
Nov. 28 (Fri)	【Cultural Experience】 Tokyo Bon-Odori Association Lecture: “Origin and history of Bon Odori, introduction to Bon Odori” Lecturer: Mr. NAGATA Tenho, Bon Odori Instructor, Tokyo Bon-Odori Association Interactive Experience: “Let’s dance together! Bon Odori session” 【Exchange】 Talk with JENESYS alumni residing in Japan

Mr. Aung Si Kyaw, JENESYS 2022 Participant, Graduate Student (Myanmar)
 Ms. Noudsanath CHAISAVANG, JENESYS 2016 Participant,
 Graduate Student (Lao-PDR)

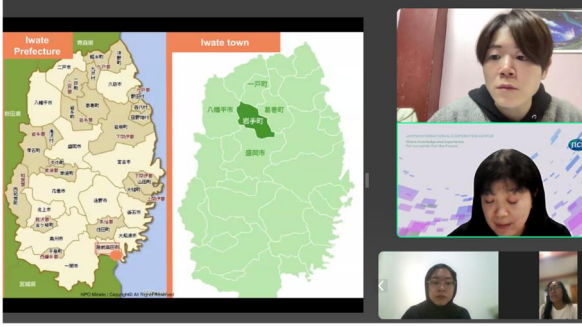



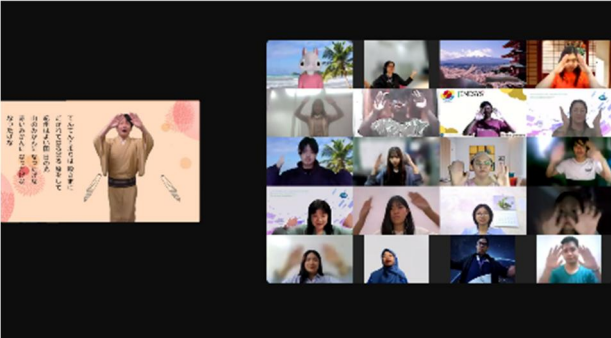
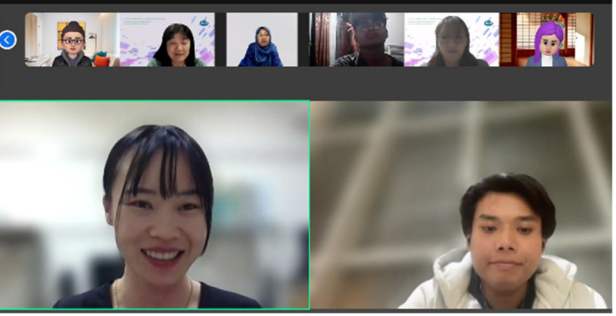
【Workshop】 Summarizing program findings for the Reporting Session

Nov. 29 (Sat)

【Reporting Session】 Presentation of program findings

2. Program Photos

Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program

	
<p>November 25 【Theme Related Lecture】 “Regional challenges and Youth, Social Participation Together with Young people”</p>	<p>November 26 【School Exchange, Observation】 Fukushima Prefecture Futaba Future High School</p>
	
<p>November 27 【Theme Related Lecture, Workshop】 “Shifting Scales in Local Problem-Solving: Turn National Agendas into Local Impact”</p>	<p>November 28 【Cultural Experience】 Bon-Odori Lecture</p>
	
<p>November 28 【Cultural Experience】 Bon-Odori “Let’s dance together! Bon Odori session”</p>	<p>November 28 【Exchange】 Opinion exchange with alumni</p>



3. Participants' Inquiries and Interests (excerpt)

◆ Regarding: 【Theme Related Lecture】 “Shifting Scales in Local Problem-Solving: Turn National Agendas into Local Impact”

- It was a really awesome, fascinating and productive discussion. A discussion really stirring my heart to know more about Tohoku region. As a student committed to contributing to society, I think if I want to go to Japan for whatever it may be, tourism, study, research, Tohoku must be relevant for me. I think Tohoku should do more campaigning to introduce their region, and not only famous areas like Kanto, Chubu, or Chugoku.

◆ Regarding: 【Cultural Experience】 Bon-Odori

- Since every movement in Bon Dance carries a deep meaning, I find it truly wonderful. It is a precious cultural heritage left to us by our ancestors, so why not consider applying for its registration (as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage)?
- I know the name Izumo no Okuni and little bit of her background, but Bon Dance was something new for me.

4. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth (Indonesia)

The program really helped me gain new knowledge of Japan, especially about Tohoku Region which less mentioned.

Ms. Ueda Ayaka with her concern for young people is something that must be appreciated since not everybody can do that. Mr. Kobayashi Masayuki is an intelligent one, he really knows how to stir someone's heart. Thanks to him now I shift my focus to Tohoku instead of other regions.

I had the opportunity to talk with the students of Futaba Future High School about many things, from school matters to personal stories. For me, those conversations are truly memorable, and I feel as if they are my juniors. I sincerely hope that both of them will achieve great success in the future.

In Bon Odori, it reminded me about years ago when I accidentally learned about Izumo no Okuni and the learning process spread out around her. It was a fascinating experience.

◆ **Graduate Student (Thailand)**

Ms. Ayaka Ueda's presentation really inspired me by showing her hard work in helping the rural area. Her activities for those students are also very creative and useful. Her dedication is amazing and I hope I can do it like her. I would definitely follow her idea and create some social work for Thai students!

◆ **Graduate Student (Timor-Leste)**

Bon Dance is a very nice dance. It's kind of heritage that our ancestors left for us. Thank you to the two friends for sharing their experience in Japan.

5. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **Lecturer**

I felt that international exchange is not merely about sharing information, but a valuable opportunity to build bridges of mutual understanding and trust.

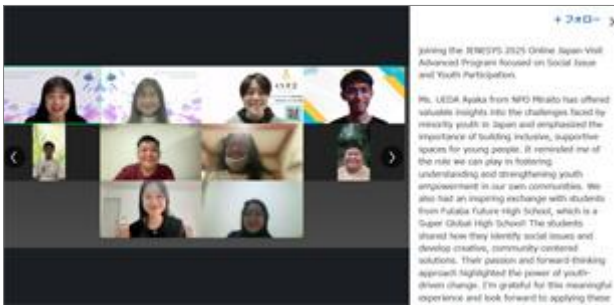
◆ **Cooperating Organization**

With so many participants, we strongly felt the high level of interest in Bon Odori. Having experienced this program, we hope to work with future Japan's Friendship Ties Programs.

◆ **Exchange School Student**

After completing the program, I felt inspired to help even more students enjoy international exchanges. Rather than being constrained by language barriers, I believe it would be wonderful if we could deepen our interactions through games and gestures. I also hope to create future opportunities for exchange that connect with my own areas of interest.

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

	<p>November 29, 2025 (Instagram) Undergraduate Student (Thailand)</p> <p>Ms. UEDA Ayaka from NPO Miraito has offered valuable insights into the challenges faced by minority youth in Japan and emphasized the importance of building inclusive, supportive spaces for young people. It reminded me of the role we can play in fostering understanding and strengthening youth empowerment in our own communities.</p> <p>We also had an inspiring exchange with students from Futaba Future High School! The students shared how they identify social issues and develop creative, community-centered solutions. Their passion and forward-thinking approach highlighted the power of youth-driven change. I'm grateful for this meaningful experience and look forward to applying these learnings to future initiatives.</p>
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【登壇報告】ASEAN同窓生向けプログラムにて、理事長上田が基調講義を担当しました

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NPO法人miraito
2025年12月5日 10:47

2025年11月25日、ASEAN諸国のJENESYS同窓生50名を対象としたオンライン交流プログラムにて、理事長上田が「地域課題と若者の社会参加」をテーマに基調講義を担当いたしました。

本プログラムは、日本政府が推進する国際交流事業「JENESYS2025」の一環として、日本とアジア・大洋州諸国の将来リーダー層との相互理解を深めることを目的に行われました。

オンラインでの講義は、質疑を交えて行われました。上田は自己紹介の後、NPO法人miraitoの活動や、震災ボランティアをきっかけに東北・岩手で活動を始めた経緯を説明しました。そして、若手町を含む日本の地域課題や、若者がどのように社会参画しているかについて紹介しました。

December 5, 2025 (NPO miraito's note)

[Event Report] Executive Director Ueda Delivers Keynote Lecture for ASEAN Alumni Program

On November 25, 2025, Executive Director Ueda delivered a keynote lecture on “Social Issue and Youth Participation” for an online exchange program attended by 50 JENESYS alumni from AMS.

This program was organized as part of JENESYS, a youth exchange initiative promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, with the aim of deepening mutual understanding between Japan and future leaders across Asia and the Pacific.

The lecture was conducted online with interpretation support. After a brief self-introduction, Mr. Ueda spoke about the work of NPO miraito and shared how his experience as a volunteer during the Great East Japan Earthquake led him to begin community-based activities in Iwate, in northeastern Japan. He also discussed regional challenges faced by communities such as Iwate Town, and highlighted the ways in which young people are contributing to society.

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【ご報告】外務省対日理解促進交流プログラムJENESYS2025 Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program for ASEAN Alumniにおいて、日本の盆踊りについての講座を担当させて頂きました。出席者がかなり多く、時間の許す限り質問にも答えました。
#JENESYS #外務省 #ASEAN #盆踊り #東京盆踊りの会

December 6, 2025 (Tokyo Bon-Odori Association's Threads)

[Announcement] We had the honor of giving a lecture on Japanese Bon Odori as part of the JENESYS 2025 Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program for ASEAN Alumni, organized by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

We had a large number of participants, and we answered as many questions as time allowed.

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

Locations: Tokyo, Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima – Presentations by a total of 3 groups

Group A



【Results of the Program】

The program included lectures on social issues in Tohoku and their solution approach, support activities addressing increasingly complex youth issues, exchange programs with high school students, and experiences of Japanese culture through Bon Odori dance. I wish to making good use of learnings and findings gained through this program and write articles as a JENESYS alumnus in Indonesian language. Firstly, I intend to write promotional articles to disseminate knowledge and information about Tohoku. Secondly, to write articles concerning approaches and skills for addressing mental health issues among young people.

Group B



【Results of the Program】

Through this program, I observed that the Japanese people are disciplined, respectful of one another, responsible, and highly environmentally conscious. Community-led development was being implemented with a strong emphasis on the community's will, history, culture, and pride. Taking Japanese examples as a model, I intend to pursue Community-Based Tourism (CBT) and Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) in Timor-Leste going forward.

Specifically, these include rural tourism, cultural and nature tours led by young people, analysis of local assets, and the development of sustainable tourism products. JENESYS alumni will collaborate to implement Japan-Timor-Leste cultural exchange events, workshops, and digital storytelling initiatives. We aim to strengthen young people's global mindset, promote community-based development, and foster cooperation between Japan and Timor-Leste.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)