



## **JENESYS2025 Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program for ASEAN Alumni Report (Theme: Japanese Culture “The Japanese Sword”)**

### **1. Program Overview**

#### **【Objectives and Overview】**

This online program was conducted for JENESYS Program alumni residing in ASEAN member states, featuring the Japanese sword—one of Japan’s most iconic traditional cultural arts—as its central theme. Through a lecture, a virtual tour of a swordsmith’s workshop, and an app-based session for appreciating key features of Japanese swords, participants were given the opportunity to experience this unique tradition firsthand. In the second half of the program, participants were divided into groups to share their reflections on the cultural activities and to introduce traditional cultural practices from their own countries. The program helped deepen their interest in and understanding of Japan, while also promoting continued exchange and collaboration among the alumni.

**【Participants】** Total: 25 alumni from ASEAN Member States (AMS)

(Breakdown) Cambodia 1, Indonesia 2, Malaysia 5, Myanmar 1, the Philippines 8, Singapore 2, Timor-Leste 4, Viet Nam 2

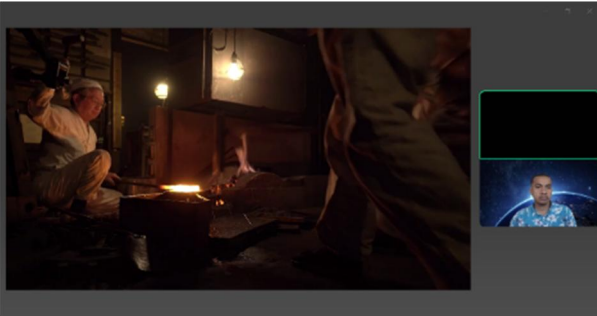
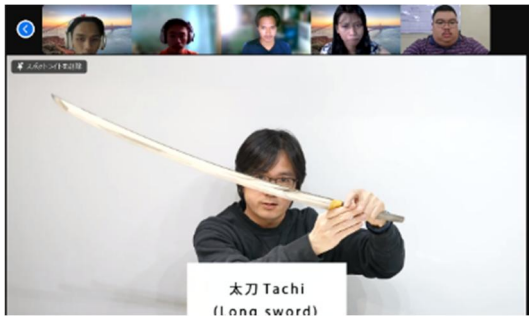
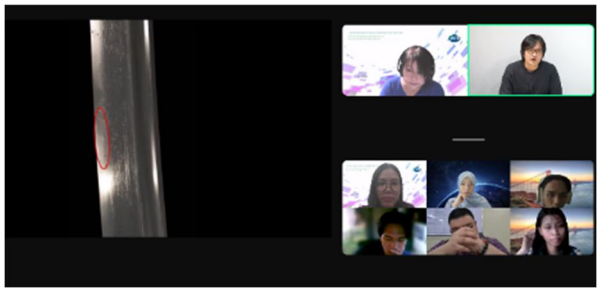
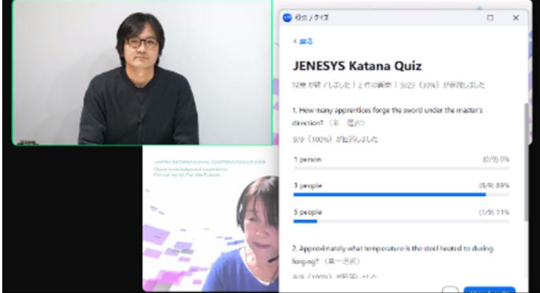

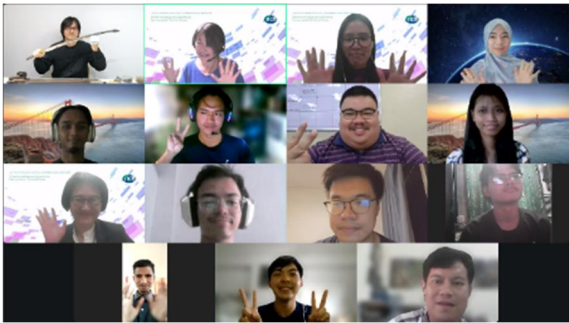
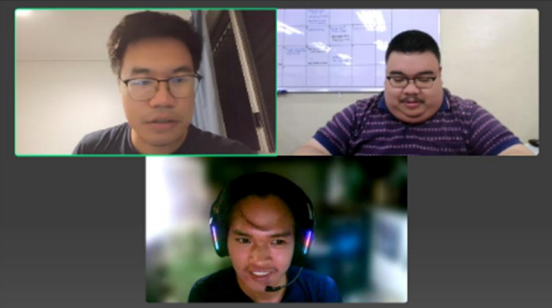
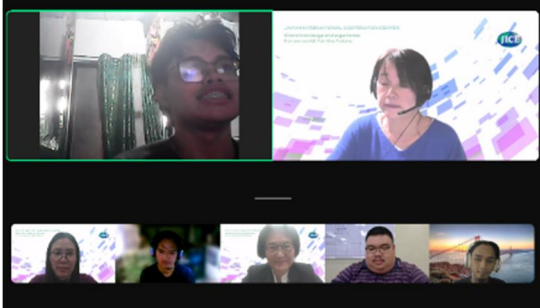
#### **【Schedule】**

##### **■ Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program – March 12, 2026 (Thu)**

1. Opening remarks
2. **【Japanese Culture Experience】 “Japanese Sword”**  
Lecturer: Mr. KAWACHI Shinpei, CEO, Studio Shikumi Inc.
3. Q&A Session
4. Commemorative photo
5. **【Exchange among Participants】 Group Discussion**  
Theme : 1. Sharing your learnings and impressions from today’s “Japanese Sword” lecture, workshop.  
2. Sharing your own country’s’ culture.
6. Closing Remarks

## 2. Program Photos

### Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program

	
<p><b>【Japanese Culture Experience】</b>  <b>“Japanese Sword”</b>            (Virtual Tour of a Swordsmith’s Workshop)</p>	<p><b>【Japanese Culture Experience】</b>  <b>“Japanese Sword”</b>            (Lecture on Japanese Swords)</p>
	
<p><b>【Japanese Culture Experience】</b>  <b>“Japanese Sword”</b>            (Viewing Sword Highlights with the App)</p>	<p><b>【Japanese Culture Experience】</b>  <b>“Japanese Sword”</b>            (Quiz)</p>
	
<p><b>【Q&amp;A Session】</b></p>	<p><b>【Commemorative photo】</b></p>
	
<p><b>【Exchange among Participants】</b>  <b>Group Discussions</b></p>	<p><b>【Alumni Presentations】</b></p>

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

#### ◆ Regarding: **【Japanese Cultural Experience】 "Japanese Sword"**

- Are swords made for just one specific person?
- There are many different types of hamon (temper patterns). Why is that?
- In Japan, is anyone allowed to purchase a sword?

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

#### ◆ Working Youth (Malaysia)

It was very insightful and interesting. I learnt various things from the lecture and deepened my understanding about the history of the katana itself. I've been watching anime that showcased the swordsmiths village and I am not expecting it was the same setting as in real life. Some Japanese movies also narrated about the soul of the sword and I actually thought it was just a myth, but as you answered my question, I knew it wasn't just a myth. Overall, I am very grateful to attend your lecture.

#### ◆ Graduate Student (Timor-Leste)

We learned how the katana is more than just a weapon—it is a symbol of the samurai's soul and an embodiment of Japanese history. Even through the screen, seeing the explanations of craftsmanship allowed us to appreciate the deep respect for tradition and discipline involved in forging each blade. As someone from Timor-Leste, where our own traditional weapons also carry cultural stories, I felt a strong connection to the pride and spirit preserved in Japanese swords. The session gave us a renewed appreciation for how Japan honors its cultural heritage.

#### ◆ Highschool Student (the Philippines)

My sincere thanks for providing this wonderful opportunity to learn about the famous katana and the remarkable art of Japanese sword making. It was truly fascinating to see the craftsmanship, tradition, and discipline behind this historic craft. I deeply appreciate the effort in sharing this meaningful cultural experience with us.

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

#### ◆ Lecturer

Thank you very much for giving me the precious opportunity to share aspects of Japanese culture with everyone from around the world today.


Although our time together was limited to just one hour, I am truly grateful that I could introduce the beauty of the Japanese sword—a craft in which the spirit of Japan deeply resides.

While the Japanese sword is a uniquely fascinating cultural tradition even by global standards, I believe that each of your home countries also has its own wonderful heritage and traditions.

I myself am deeply interested in the cultures of your respective countries, and I sincerely hope that I will have the chance to learn more about them in the future.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who made this meaningful opportunity for international exchange possible.

## 6. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

<p>Grateful to have participated in the JENESYS2025 Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program for ASEAN Alumni with the theme "The Japanese Sword." 🗡️🇯🇵🇸🇰</p> <p>During the session, we explored the history, craftsmanship, and cultural significance behind traditional Japanese swords and had a virtual tour of a sword workshop where we saw how skilled artisans carefully forge and shape the blades 🔥🔨. It was fascinating to learn how centuries of tradition, discipline, and artistry are preserved through this craft 🏺.</p> <p>Thank you to the <a href="#">JICE's International Exchange Programs</a> and speakers for such an insightful and inspiring experience and for the opportunity to connect with fellow ASEAN alumni and deepen our appreciation of Japanese culture. 🙏🇯🇵</p> <p>#JENESYS_ASEAN #JENESYS</p> <p>翻訳を見る</p> 	<p>March 13, 2026 (Facebook)</p> <p>Grateful to have participated in the JENESYS2025 Online Japan-Visit Advanced Program for ASEAN Alumni with the theme "The Japanese Sword."</p> <p>During the session, we explored the history, craftsmanship, and cultural significance behind traditional Japanese swords and had a virtual tour of a sword workshop where we saw how skilled artisans carefully forge and shape the blades. It was fascinating to learn how centuries of tradition, discipline, and artistry are preserved through this craft. Thank you to the lecture for such an insightful and inspiring experience and for the opportunity to connect with fellow ASEAN alumni and deepen our appreciation of Japanese culture.</p>
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## 7. Alumni Presentations

Discussion Theme :

1. Sharing your learnings and impressions from today's "Japanese Sword" lecture, workshop.
2. Sharing your own countries' culture.

<p>Presenter (Philippines):</p>
<p>Until now, I had only seen Japanese swords in movies and anime, so being able to see an authentic Japanese sword in person was a truly memorable experience. I was deeply drawn to its beauty and powerful presence. During the discussion, after sharing our thoughts on the appeal of Japanese swords, the conversation naturally expanded to traditional blades from other countries. A participant from Malaysia spoke about the traditional dagger known as the kris, while a participant from the Philippines introduced a short blade called the balisong. Talking about swords from different countries was a very enjoyable experience.</p>
<p>Presenter (Philippines):</p>
<p>It was also fascinating to observe the process of making a Japanese sword. I learned about the beauty and importance of the hamon (temper pattern), which reflects the thoughts and spirit of the swordsmith. In the Philippines, there is a traditional dance called Tinikling, which uses long bamboo poles. The dance involves rhythmically striking the bamboo poles while dancers skillfully step in and out between them. It is one of our most important cultural traditions. In the breakout rooms, we were able to share and discuss our respective cultures with other participants, making the experience very meaningful.</p>

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)