



**JENESYS2025 (Online) Opinion Exchange Meeting with Japan's Experts for
JENESYS Alumni Report
(Theme: Assessment of Program Outcomes)**

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

This program aims to facilitate exchanges of views among JENESYS alumni, experts, and representatives of relevant organizations in order to assess the review of the outcomes of the JENESYS program from multiple perspectives. In particular, this session focuses on “homestay experiences,” exploring how the homestays experienced during the program have influenced alumni after returning to their home countries. Based on presentations by alumni and insights from experts, the discussion will elucidate these impacts. Through this process, the program seeks to organize and evaluate the effects of the JENESYS initiative while generating insights for further improvement and more effective utilization of the program in the future.

【Participants】

Total: 3 alumni from JENESYS ASEAN (participants from FY2008-FY2010)

(Breakdown) Lao PDR 1, the Philippines 1, Viet Nam 1

Total: 4 Japan's Experts

(Affiliations) Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Japan, Okayama University, Local Network Service, Hokkaido International Foundation (in random order)

【Schedule】

- Opinion Exchange Meeting between Japan’s Experts – Thursday, March 19, 2026, 10:00-12:00

【Theme】

◎Evaluation of the Outcomes of the JENESYS from Multiple Perspectives

- Impacts on Participants Who Joined Homestay
- Changes Observed Among Host Families and Local Communities

Alumni:

- Self-Introduction (Country/region of origin, current occupation, etc.)
- Experience During the JENESYS Program (Participation overview and detailed homestay experience)
- Connection to Japan Now (How the program/homestay relates to your current studies, work, value or engagement with Japan)
- Future Outlook (How you plan to stay connected with Japan or contribute in the future)

Experts:

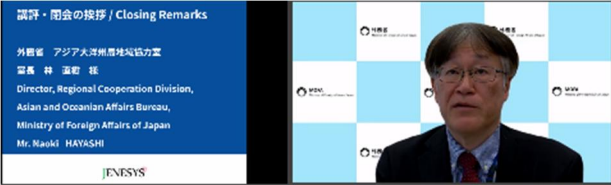

- Self-Introduction, relationship with JENESYS ASEAN
- What kind of impact does implementing homestays have on young people from ASEAN countries?
- At the same time, what impact does hosting young people from ASEAN through homestays have on the Japanese host side?
- Advice and suggestions for the future design and approach of homestay programs.

【Agenda】

1. Opening Remarks (JICE)
2. Introduction of Participants
3. Presentations by JENESYS Alumni and Exchange of Views with Experts
4. Panel Discussion by Experts
5. Closing Remarks: Mr. HAYASHI Naoki, Director, Regional Cooperation Division, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

2. Program Photos

	
<p>【Opening】</p>	<p>【JENESYS Alumni Presentation】</p>
	
<p>【JENESYS Alumni Presentation】</p>	<p>【Panel Discussion by Experts】</p>

	
【Closing Remarks】	【Commemorative photo】

3. Presentations by JENESYS Alumni (excerpt)

◆ Alumnus (Viet Nam)

- During my visit to Japan, I clearly remember sitting around a Kotatsu heating device with my host family and communicating by writing and drawing on large sheets of paper. Through this, we shared our cultures and personal stories. Compared to school life in my home country, this was an exceptionally valuable experience. Even after returning home, we continued to stay in touch through letters.
- By engaging closely with my host family and observing how they lived, I learned what love truly means. I strongly felt that a nation's stability is built by families and by people who respect one another, which in turn creates a society capable of demonstrating strength in the future.
- I am determined to return to Japan someday, not only to places like Shibuya, but also to disseminate the attractiveness of regional and suburban areas. By doing so, I believe we can help avoid overtourism concentrated in major cities and encourage people to learn about Japan from a broader perspective.

◆ Alumnus (Lao PDR)

- I participated in the program in 2007, when I was 18 years old, and visited Tokyo and Nagano. The most memorable part of the program was the homestay experience in Nagano. I was warmly welcomed by a family of six as if I were truly a member of their family. They treated me to hotpot and happily introduced me to manga and television programs.
- Through this experience, I learned important values such as expressing gratitude and being punctual, which I continue to cherish today. Through this experience, I wanted to return to Japan someday—to study, grow, and contribute to society.
- Currently, I am a first-year doctoral student in the Faculty of Medicine at Osaka University, researching household hypertension. In the future, I hope to apply the knowledge and experience gained through my research in Japan to help improve healthcare in Laos.

◆ Alumnus (the Philippines)

- My visit to Japan through the JENESYS program had a profound impact on my attitudes toward education and my personal values. These experiences now serve as guiding principles in my current role, where I organize international exchange programs for high school students.

- In the future, I would like to challenge myself by teaching English at an international school in Tokyo or at a Japanese public high school. Earning a doctoral degree from the University of Tokyo is also one of my major goals.
- Going forward, I hope to continue serving as a bridge between the Philippines and Japan through education, fostering greater international understanding and friendship. I am sincerely grateful to the JENESYS program and to everyone I met in Japan for providing me with these invaluable opportunities.

4. Recommendations and Opinions from the Experts (excerpt)

◆ Expert (1)

- While many international students develop an interest in Japan through anime, manga, and games, we know that homestays are an extremely effective way for them to gain an understanding of the real Japan.
- Homestays bring significant value not only to the participating young people from ASEAN, but also to the Japanese host families and the local communities. In Japan, there is growing emphasis on community development and human resource development that can respond to a multicultural society, and homestays can be considered highly effective in this regard.

◆ Expert (2)

- I believe that homestays are the most effective way to truly understand the real Japan. In typical tourism, people stay in hotels and dine at restaurants, where they are treated as guests. This kind of experience does not necessarily reflect the everyday realities of Japanese life.
- I hope that the relationship between JENESYS participants and host families will not be a one-time exchange, but rather a lasting one. I would like participants to become repeat visitors and to continue coming back to Japan.

◆ Expert (3)

- One particularly memorable moment was the farewell gathering after the homestay of participants from Brunei who visited last November. Everyone was in tears as they said goodbye, showing how deeply they valued the experience. Even though the homestay lasted only for two days, I strongly felt that a deep bond had been formed.
- Scenes like this highlight the future of both countries. I hope that the participants from Brunei will continue striving forward, return to Japan, and further develop themselves—matching the depth of emotion they shared. Since it was also the first time for the Japanese hosts to welcome guests from Brunei, they showed great interest, and I hope that someday they will visit Brunei as well.

◆ Expert (4)

- I believe the most important impact of the program appears after participants return to their home countries. When they come back, they begin to notice differences and make comparisons, and they try to bring the lessons they learned and experiences they gained into their own societies. Even in their further studies or professional lives, the perspectives and experiences acquired through the

JENESYS program enable them to think and act in new ways, helping them consider how to achieve their goals.

- I also believe it would be meaningful for participants to visit embassies in Tokyo after their homestay experiences, as this would allow them to directly report and reflect on what they learned and experienced during the homestay.

5. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ **Alumnus**

There has been a noticeable increase in awareness and appreciation of international perspectives within our organization. It has encouraged greater openness to cultural diversity and strengthened interest in engaging with global partners. Additionally, there is a growing enthusiasm for language learning and cross-cultural communication.

◆ **Expert**

I gained a strong conviction that homestays play a crucial role in making the JENESYS program highly attractive. In particular, I came to understand that homestays are an effective approach for attracting young people from overseas to regional areas, and I was also able to identify several key elements that appeal to young participants.

◆ **Expert**

Seeing how each participant is actively contributing and thriving in their respective fields has highlighted the significant value of this program. I was especially pleased to hear about the paths taken by students after participating in the JENESYS program, as it allowed me to clearly feel how the program contributes to participants' futures. Moving forward, we will continue to plan our programs—such as farm stay experiences—with even greater care and attention to detail.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)