

JENESYS2025 Cambodia-Japan Japanese Language and Cultural Exchange (Dispatch Program of Japanese University Students) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

Eight Japanese university students who aspire to become future Japanese-language teachers visited Cambodia (Phnom Penh) from January 27 to February 3 under the theme “Japanese Language and Cultural Exchange.”

During the program, the group observed local Japanese-language classes and gave their own Japanese-language lecture as part of school exchange activities. This helped them deepen their understanding of Cambodia’s education environment and gave them a clearer picture of what it might look like to work as Japanese-language teachers in the future. Through discussions with JENESYS alumni and local students, the participants exchanged views on their respective cultures and values, fostering mutual understanding and strengthening friendly relations. The program also included cultural visits, such as to the National Museum of Cambodia and the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, allowing the students to learn about the historical and social background of Cambodia. Furthermore, by staying with local host families, the students experienced daily Cambodian life firsthand and gained insight into cultural and customary differences. The participants actively shared what they learned and the appeal of Japan through social media and other platforms, contributing to the promotion of friendship between the two countries and the strengthening of bilateral networks.

【Participants】 Total: 8 Japanese university students

【Location】 Phnom Penh, Cambodia 8

【Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program :

Aug. 26 (Tue)	【Orientation】 First Joint Orientation 【Lecture】 “Welcome to ASEAN-JAPAN Centre” Joint implementation with FY2025 JENESYS ASEAN dispatch programs Lecturer: Mr. WATANABE Mitsuo, Tourism Exchange Team, ASEAN-Japan Centre (ASEAN Promotion Centre on Trade, Investment and Tourism)
Oct. 10 (Fri)	【Lecture】 Theme Related Lecture “Activities at CJCC and an Overview of Japanese Language Education Across Cambodia” Lecturer: Ms. LENG Yukiyo, JF Expert of Japanese Language, Cambodia-Japan Association for Business & Investment (CJBI), The Japan Foundation
Dec. 17 (Wed)	【Study Group】 Study Session on Understanding the Dispatch Country
Jan. 16 (Fri)	【Participant Briefing】

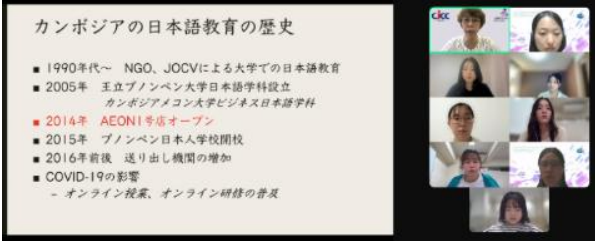
■ Dispatch Program :

Jan. 27 (Tue)	【Pre-departure Orientation】 Departure from Narita International Airport Arrival at Techo International Airport in Phnom Penh
Jan. 28 (Wed)	【Courtesy Call】 Mr. UENO Atsushi, Ambassador, Embassy of Japan in Cambodia 【Courtesy Call】 Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia (MoEYS) 【Exchange】 Exchange with JENESYS Alumni
Jan. 29 (Thu)	【School Exchange】 Royal University of Phnom Penh 【Exchange】 Cambodia-Japan Cooperation Center (CJCC) 【Observation】 National Museum of Cambodia
Jan. 30 (Fri)	【Observation】 Meriawa Education Sala Sekai (preschool) 【Observation】 Russian Market 【Observation】 Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum 【Lecture, Observation】 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Cambodia Office “Overview of JICA’s Operations and ODA Initiatives at the JICA Cambodia Office” Lecturer: Ms. SAWA Mari, Representative, JICA Cambodia Office 【Meeting with the Host Families, Homestay】
Jan. 31 (Sat)	【Homestay】
Feb. 1 (Sun)	【Homestay】 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)
Feb. 2 (Mon)	【Reporting Session】 Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】 【Observation】 Central Market 【Observation】 Killing Fields
Feb. 3 (Tue)	Departure from Techo International Airport Arrival at Narita International Airport

2. Program Photos

Online Pre-study Program

	
August 26, 2025 【Lecture】 “Welcome to ASEAN-JAPAN Centre”	August 26, 2025 【Lecture】 Commemorative photo

	
October 10, 2025 【Lecture】 Theme Related Lecture “Activities at CJCC and an Overview of Japanese Language Education Across Cambodia”	December 17, 2025 【Study Group】 Study Session on Understanding the Dispatch Country

Dispatch Program

	
January 27, 2026 【Pre-departure Orientation】	January 28, 2026 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. UENO Atsushi, Ambassador, Embassy of Japan in Cambodia
	
January 28, 2026 【Courtesy Call】 Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia (MoEYS)	January 28, 2026 【Exchange】 Exchange with JENESYS Alumni
	
January 29, 2026 【School Exchange Program】 Royal University of Phnom Penh (Presentation)	January 29, 2026 【School Exchange Program】 Royal University of Phnom Penh (Japanese Lecture)



January 29, 2026 【School Exchange】
Cambodia-Japan Cooperation Center
(Cultural Experience “Japanese Calligraphy”)



January 29, 2026 【School Exchange】
Cambodia-Japan Cooperation Center



January 29, 2026 【Observation】
National Museum of Cambodia



January 30, 2026 【 Observation 】 Meriawa
Education Sala Sekai (teaching experience)



January 30, 2026 【Observation】 Russian Market



January 30, 2026 【Observation】
Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum



January 30, 2026 【Lecture, Observation】 JICA



January 30, 2026 【Homestay】

	
January 31, 2026 【Homestay】	February 2, 2026 【Reporting Session】
	
February 2, 2026 【Reporting Session】 Commemorative photo	February 2, 2026 【Observation】 Killing Field

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ University Student

During the second pre-exchange program lecture by Ms. Leng, we learned not only about Japanese language education in Cambodia, but also about important perspectives for engaging in international exchange, interacting across cultures, and understanding education on a broader scope. One point that left a particularly strong impression on me was the idea that it is essential to interact with others not as representatives of a particular nationality, but as an individual human being.

Even though we all tend to carry certain assumptions or preconceived images about people based on their nationality, hearing this story made me realize how important it is to interact with someone as an individual. That's what really allows you to value each encounter. The teacher also shared some of her own experiences, such as how taking on work beyond just teaching Japanese ended up expanding her world in unexpected ways, and that every country has its own idea of what "good education" means and its own goals. This made her realize the importance of teaching in a way that fits each learner's purpose and environment, and hearing this taught me a lot.

◆ Undergraduate Student

Our Japanese language and cultural exchange activities at the Royal University of Phnom Penh and the Cambodia-Japan Cooperation Center proved to be an exceptionally meaningful experience. When we served tea and traditional sweets, everyone seemed to enjoy it, and many shared their impressions with us, saying, "It's bitter, but delicious," and "That was so much fun."

As we interacted with the highly motivated students who are working hard to learn Japanese, we were reminded once again of the many strengths of Japan. The experience also deepened our hope that Japan will continue to be a country that many people are eager to learn about and feel connected to.

◆ **Undergraduate Student**

The most meaningful aspect of the program was the opportunity to stay with a local family, sharing daily life with them and experiencing Cambodian culture and values in an authentic, everyday setting. By eating traditional dishes together and being introduced to their national clothing and dances, we were able to deepen our understanding of their living culture—something that cannot be fully learned from textbooks or written materials alone.

Although there were moments of difficulty due to cultural differences, we were also able to rediscover the unique strengths of both of our countries. Moreover, even when language did not fully bridge the gap, we found that sincere feelings could be conveyed through smiles and gestures. This experience allowed us to truly feel how people can connect with one another beyond differences in nationality or culture.

◆ **Undergraduate Student**

Through our interactions, we were able to share and exchange the appealing qualities of both Cambodia and Japan. In addition, through conversations with the people of Cambodia and the homestay experience, I was able to personally feel and appreciate the diverse attractions that Cambodia has to offer.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **Observation Destination Representative**

I was deeply impressed and truly delighted to see how much the students had learned over the course of the week—about Cambodia itself, as well as the historical and contemporary relationship between our two countries.

◆ **Observation Destination Representative**

A large number of Cambodian participants joined the school exchange, making it a highly meaningful and enriching interaction. The participants greatly enjoyed the experience as well. If the opportunity arises again, we would be very grateful to take part again.

◆ **Host Family**

We were very much looking forward to welcoming the Japanese university students. Wanting them to experience Cambodian cuisine and daily life firsthand, we asked them to help with the cooking. I sincerely hope they enjoyed the experience.

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

 初めまして！ 私たちはカンボジアが大好きな大学生です。2026年1月、外務省が主催する JENESYS プログラムでカンボジアを訪問します！ このアカウントでは、日本とカンボジアの魅力、私たちが学んだことや感じたこと、そして現地での活動の様子を発信していきます！ 今回は、10月10日に実施されたプレプログラムのレポートです！ 当日は、カンボジアにおける日本語教育の歴史を中心に、講師の先生から大変貴重なお話を伺いました。 これから学びを深め、両国のより良い交流につながる活動をしていきたいと考えています。🌟 ぜひフォローよろしくお願いします👉 ភ្នំពេញ ថ្ងៃទី១០ ខែតុលា ឆ្នាំ២០២៥ យើងគឺជាសិស្សសាលាស្រីខ្មែរដែលទៅកាន់ប្រទេសជប៉ុន។ យើងនឹងទៅកាន់ប្រទេសជប៉ុនជាមួយមិត្តភក្តិរបស់យើង ក្នុងឈ្មោះ JENESYS ដែលជាកម្មវិធីសម្រាប់សិស្សសាលាស្រីខ្មែរ។ យើងនឹងទៅកាន់ប្រទេសជប៉ុនជាមួយមិត្តភក្តិរបស់យើង ក្នុងឈ្មោះ JENESYS ដែលជាកម្មវិធីសម្រាប់សិស្សសាលាស្រីខ្មែរ។ យើងនឹងទៅកាន់ប្រទេសជប៉ុនជាមួយមិត្តភក្តិរបស់យើង ក្នុងឈ្មោះ JENESYS ដែលជាកម្មវិធីសម្រាប់សិស្សសាលាស្រីខ្មែរ។	 3. アンコール遺跡について カンボジア北部(シェムリアップ州) ・クメール王国の首都を中心とした巨大な都市遺跡群 ・世界最大の宗教建築、高度な技術・芸術の精巧さが特徴 →高度な都市文明 →時代ごとに国家宗教が入り替わり、建築や思想が変り続けてきた遺跡群 ・アンコール・ワット →仏教王による仏教的王都 ・アンコール・ワット →ヒンドゥー教の神を祀る寺院 ・タ・プローム →ハンダ・ア・スレイ →ベン・メリア ・ユネスコ世界遺産 4. クメール文化の華 アプサラの踊り ・起源 →9世紀ごろ成立 →アンコール・ワットやバイン・ネーションの彫刻に数々の舞踊像が刻まれ、宮廷文化として高度に発展したことが確認できる ・アプサラとは →天女・天候 →ヒンドゥー教神話に登場する水の精で、神々に仕える存在 →舞踏は神への奉納・祈りの儀礼として行われた ・信仰の融合 →ヒンドゥー教を基盤にしつつ、仏教やクメール固有の神話信仰を取り込み、宗教的多層性を持つ舞踏へと変化した 器楽音楽の伝統 ・小規模の合奏形式が多いのが特徴 ・フンピット Pongpeat →宗教的な儀式で演奏される →アンコール・ワットのレリーフから歴史の長さが伺える →昔は宮廷音楽だったが、現在は村でも一般的に演奏される →弦楽器は多い ・モハオリ Mohori →宗教的な儀式でない儀式、日常の楽しみで演奏される →歌と交互にソロパートを演奏することが多い
November 2, 2025 (Instagram) University Student Nice to meet you! We are university students who love Cambodia. In January 2026, we will be visiting Cambodia as part of the JENESYS program, sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs! This account will share the charms of Japan and Cambodia, what we learned and felt, and our activities on the ground! This is a report from the pre-program held on October 10th! On the day, we heard some very valuable insights from our instructor, focusing on the history of Japanese language education in Cambodia. We hope to continue deepening our learning and use our activities to further strengthen exchanges between our two countries.	January 13, 2026 (Instagram) University Student JENESYS 2025 Pre-departure Learning 【Cambodian Culture】 Here is an introduction to the culture of Cambodia. 1. Basic Information about Cambodia 2. Overview of Khmer Civilization 3. About the Angkor Monuments 4. The Pinnacle of Khmer Culture: the Apsara Dance Introduction to Cambodian Culture (Cambodia and Music) Here is a broad overview of music in Cambodia, ranging from traditional instrumental music to renowned musicians and contemporary artists.



February 22, 2026 (Instagram)

University Student

Day 2

In the morning, we visited the Embassy of Japan in Cambodia, where we heard about the embassy's role and the relationship between Japan and Cambodia.

Next, we visited AEON Mall. There are three AEON Malls in Cambodia, which serve as hubs for promoting Japanese culture.

Afterwards, we visited Cambodia's Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, where we heard about the current state of education and educational reform in Cambodia. We were presented with traditional Cambodian fabric, Krama, as a gift!

JENESYS alumni also attended the event and enjoyed interacting with each other.



February 22, 2026 (Instagram)

University Student

Day 3

On the third day, we visited the Japanese Language Department at the Royal University of Phnom Penh and the Cambodia-Japan Cooperation Center (CJCC).

We introduced about the charms of Japan's four seasons and each prefecture, and had the participants experience the culture of tea ceremony and calligraphy.

We had a great time interacting with the enthusiastic Japanese language students.

Afterwards, we visited the National Museum of Phnom Penh.

Although we were unable to visit Angkor Wat this time because it is in Siem Reap Province, far from the capital, Phnom Penh, we were able to see many of the precious exhibits that have been stored here to protect them from damage.

In the evening, we strolled through Royal Palace Park in front of the Royal Palace and along the riverside. This spot is located at the confluence of the Tonle Sap River, which flows from Tonle Sap Lake, and the Mekong River. It's a popular spot, perfect for a stroll.



February 22, 2026 (Instagram) University Student Day 4

In the morning, we visited Meriawa Education – Sala Sekai.

We spoke with the director and teachers at this nursery school, which incorporates Japanese-style early childhood education and serves children from diverse backgrounds.

In the afternoon, we visited the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, which was used as a political prison during the Pol Pot regime from 1975 to 1979.

Afterward, we visited the JICA Cambodia office and learned about international cooperation efforts, including initiatives in education and infrastructure development.



February 22, 2026 (Instagram) University Student Day 5

From Day 5, our homestay experience began.

We were divided into three groups and stayed with different host families.

Each family offered us a unique experience, and all of them welcomed us warmly. It was a day when we could truly feel everyday life in Cambodia.

Some of us visited the beautiful beaches of Sihanoukville with our host families, enjoying the sea and local atmosphere

We also had the opportunity to wear traditional Cambodian clothing.

We shared meals, enjoyed relaxed conversations with family members, and even when our words were not perfect, we were able to connect through smiles.

Being able to experience “real life” beyond sightseeing was truly an irreplaceable opportunity.



From March 5, 2026 – Ongoing (Posts about Cambodia being made by participants as part of an action plan on their shared Instagram account)

Posts include an introduction to Cambodia's traditional clothing and the krama scarf, a look at Cambodia's thriving café culture alongside comparisons with cafés in Japan, and highlights of well-known tourist spots. The content was put together using slide images and video clips recorded during the program, which were edited and shared as part of the posts.

January 29, 2026 (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia's Facebook) “Meeting and Discussion with JENESYS Program Representatives”	February 5, 2026 (JICA Cambodia Office's Facebook) “On January 30, we welcomed ten participants from the “JENESYS2025” Japan’s Friendship Ties Program”

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

Presentation by 1 group



【Results of the Program】

During our stay in Cambodia, we observed that Japanese technology and products are widely integrated into everyday life. Infrastructure projects such as water supply systems, as well as facilities constructed through Japanese assistance such as the “Kizuna Bridge” and the “Tsubasa Bridge” play a vital role in the country’s development and are regarded as symbols of national progress, even appearing on banknotes. Japanese products such as home appliances made by Hitachi and Sony, goods sold at AEON, and Japanese automobiles are strongly trusted thanks to their high quality.

Japan has much to offer, from its diverse cultural attractions such as anime and films, the richness of its four seasons and sightseeing destinations, and its highly convenient transportation networks. At the same time, Cambodia possesses many qualities that we believe Japanese people should know more about such as strong family bonds, warm hospitality, the vibrancy of its youth, and the richness of its traditional culture and cuisine. We believe that deepening mutual understanding of the strengths of both countries will contribute to the advancement of friendly exchanges.

【Action Plan】

We aim to share the appeal of both Japan and Cambodia, particularly with youths our age in both countries, through social media. To reach a wider audience, we will utilize not only Instagram but also Facebook, which is widely used in Cambodia. Our goal is to make more than 30 posts in total. Because we ourselves visited Cambodia and engaged in cultural exchange directly, we hope to communicate the authentic appeal and experiences that only we can convey.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)