

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

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

Eight university students from Japan visited Malaysia from December 2 to December 9 as part of the “Japanese Language and Culture Exchange” Program. During the program, the participants visited local universities and other institutions, where they delivered presentations and demonstrations highlighting various aspects of Japanese culture and fostering meaningful interactions with Malaysian students.

Through home visits, the students also experienced traditional Malaysian family life and introduced Japanese culture to members of the local community. By sharing the appeal of Japan with people in Malaysia, the program sought to deepen local interest in Japan and contribute to building networks that will further strengthen friendly relations between the two countries.

【Participants】 Total: 8 Japanese university students

【Locations】 Kuala Lumpur and Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia 8

【Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program :

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| Aug. 26 (Tue) | 【Orientation】 First Joint Orientation
【Lecture】 “Welcome to ASEAN-JAPAN Centre”
Joint implementation with FY2025 JENESYS ASEAN outbound programs
Lecturer: Mr. WATANABE Mitsuo, Tourism Exchange Team, ASEAN-Japan Centre (ASEAN Promotion Centre on Trade, Investment and Tourism) |
| Nov. 12 (Wed) | 【Lecture】 Lecture on the Dispatch Country
“Overview of Activities on ODA and the Look East Policy”
Lecturer: Mr. ASAI Hiroshi, Volunteer Coordinator, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Malaysia Office |
| Nov. 21 (Fri) | 【Participant Briefing】 |

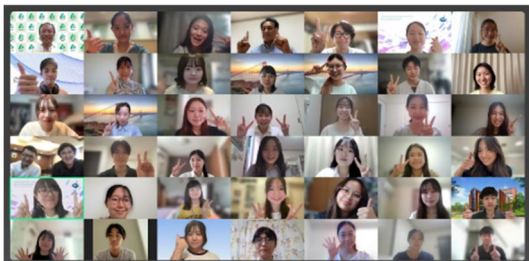
■ Dispatch Program :

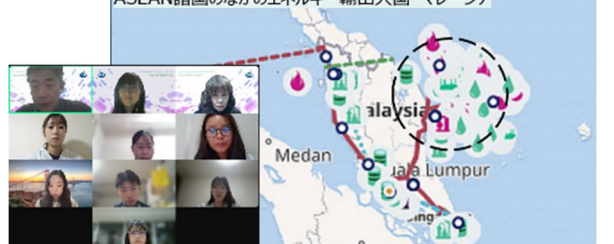
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| Dec. 2 (Tue) | 【Pre-departure Orientation】
Departure from Narita International Airport
Arrival at Kuala Lumpur International Airport |
| Dec. 3 (Wed) | 【Courtesy Call, Lecture】 Embassy of Japan in Malaysia
“Lecture on Malaysia”
Lecturer: Mr. MATSUO Keigo, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Malaysia
【Observation】 National Museum of Malaysia
Domestic flight from Kuala Lumpur to Terengganu |

Dec. 4 (Thu)	【School Exchange, Observation, Cultural Experience】 Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) • Visit to Setiu Wetland • Cultural Experience of handy crafts and traditional food
Dec. 5 (Fri)	【School Exchange, Observation】 Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) • Observation of Lake Kenyir and Bird Watching 【School Exchange】 Joint event organized by both UMT and UniSZA • Presentation by Japanese youths to introduce the charm of Japan • Culture exchange (Bon Odori Dancing)
Dec. 6 (Sat)	【Observation】 Crystal Mosque and China Town 【Meeting with the Host Families, Home Visit】 Domestic flight from Terengganu to Kuala Lumpur
Dec. 7 (Sun)	【Observation】 Petronas Twin Tower, Seria KLCC 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)
Dec. 8 (Mon)	【Reporting Session】 Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans 【Observation】 Islam Museum and Central Market Departure from Kuala Lumpur International Airport
Dec. 9 (Tue)	Arrival at Narita International Airport

2. Program Photos

Online Pre-study Program

	
August 26 【Lecture】 “Welcome to ASEAN-JAPAN Centre”	August 26 【Lecture】 Commemorative photo
	
November 12 【Lecture】 Lecture on the Dispatch Country “Overview of Activities on ODA and the Look East Policy”	November 12 【Lecture】 Commemorative photo

	
November 21 【Participant Briefing】	November 21 【Participant Briefing】
Dispatch Program	
	
December 3 【Courtesy Call, Lecture】 Mr. MATSUO Keigo, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Malaysia	December 4 【School Exchange, Observation, Cultural Experience】 Exchange with UMT at Setiu Wetland
	
December 4 【School Exchange, Observation, Cultural Experience】 Exchange with UMT (cooking traditional food)	December 5 【School Exchange, Observation】 Exchange with UniSZA (Observation of Lake Kenyir and Bird Watching)
	
December 5 【School Exchange】 School Exchange organized by UniSZA & UMT	December 5 【School Exchange】 School Exchange organized by UniSZA & UMT

	
December 5 【School Exchange】 School Exchange organized by UniSZA & UMT	December 6 【Observation】 Crystal Mosque
	
December 6 【Home Visit】	December 7 【Observation】 Petronas Twin Tower
	
December 8 【Reporting Session】 Group photo	December 8 【Observation】 Islam Museum

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ University Student

We are very grateful that we were able to visit Terengganu. Kuala Lumpur, as a big city, is similar to many other large cities in the world, and as you can imagine, it did not feel very new to us. We felt that it was difficult to deeply understand the unique culture of the country in such a metropolitan area. In Terengganu, however, I was able to learn about the local culture, history, and nature not only by listening to local people, but also by connecting with them through my heart and soul. I felt a strong sense of connection, and through this experience, I believe I was able to see a more essential side of Malaysia.

◆ **University Student**

I was able to eat rice in the Malaysian way when we were in Terengganu. I got to experience Malaysian culture firsthand.

◆ **University Student**

Through the homestay, we were able to learn firsthand about the family's daily life, eating habits, and lifestyle directly from local people. I also gained a better understanding of Malaysian religion by actually wearing a veil myself. It was the experience that allowed me to engage most closely with the local culture.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **Exchange School Faculty**

It was a truly enjoyable exchange event. The Japanese yukata worn during the Bon Odori was beautifully striking. For the Malaysian students who had little prior knowledge of Japan, it became a valuable opportunity to learn about the Japanese language and culture.

◆ **Host Family**

The Japanese students were all very charming. I wish we could have spent more time enjoying the exchange together.

◆ **Lecturer**

I was honestly impressed by the students' strong sense of purpose and their high level of language proficiency during the exchange program. I look forward to welcoming all of them back to Malaysia again.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

	
December 5, 2025 (Instagram) In the morning, we enjoyed birdwatching at Lake Kenyir, and in the afternoon, we gave a presentation at UniSZA and had a great time doing Bon-odori together.	December 5, 2025 (Instagram) We really enjoyed the cultural exchange.



January 3, 2026 (note.com)

“JENESYS2025 Malaysia Dispatch Program: Day 4 (December 5) ”

Today’s main event was our cultural presentation on Japan. We visited UniSZA, where our delegation delivered a presentation introducing various aspects of Japanese culture.

This was something our team had been preparing for together since before departing for Malaysia. Our presentation focused on two themes: an introduction to different regions of Japan and an explanation of bon odori. Since we came from all across Japan—from Hokkaido in the north to Okinawa in the south—we felt that introducing our respective hometowns would allow us to showcase the rich diversity of Japanese culture from multiple perspectives. That idea became the foundation of our presentation.

This time, we highlighted four prefectures: Chiba, Osaka, Shiga, and Okinawa.

We shared unique features from each region, such as famous landmarks, local festivals, industries, foods, and even regional dialects. As we exchanged these stories, I found myself once again amazed by the cultural depth and variety within Japan. The segment on dialects, in particular, sparked a lively reaction—Malaysian students were delighted to hear the different accents and expressions.

We then moved on to our presentation and demonstration of the bon odori dance.

To create an atmosphere that felt as close to a Japanese festival as possible, we first dressed in yukata and happi coats. We explained the origins of bon odori, its religious significance, and how the dance varies across regions. After teaching the basic movements of the classic Tankō Bushi dance, we played the music and invited everyone to join us.

Before the event, we had wondered whether performing bon odori in Terengganu—a region where Islamic culture is deeply rooted—would be appropriate. But those concerns quickly disappeared. The students embraced the dance wholeheartedly, enjoying it purely as a form of cultural entertainment. Their enthusiasm was infectious—they not only danced with us but even yelled out the “cho-chon-ga-chon!” chant together with us!

I was so glad to see our carefully prepared cultural presentation end in success.

January 9, 2026 (note.com)

“Reflections on the JENESYS 2025 Program in Malaysia”

My time in Terengganu was deeply meaningful. The state is known for its predominantly Malay population and its strong expression of Islamic culture, which shapes everyday life in vivid and tangible ways.

Unlike major urban centers such as Kuala Lumpur, Terengganu is far less commercialized as a tourist destination.

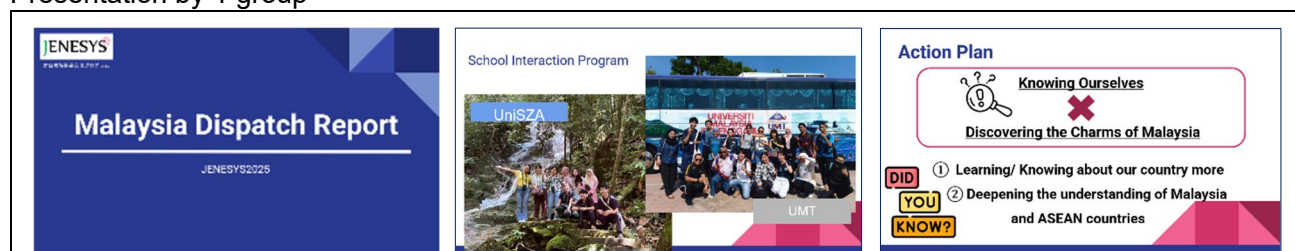
Precisely because we visited Terengganu, I feel we were able to experience an authentic side of Malaysia—one that might easily be overlooked when staying only in the big cities.

Previously, I believed that “you can’t truly appreciate Malaysia unless you visit Kuala Lumpur.”

But now, I can say with confidence that “seeing Terengganu has deepened my understanding of Malaysia in a way the capital alone never could.”

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

Presentation by 1 group



【Results of the Program】

◆ The Charm of Japan We Noticed in Malaysia

In Japan, the infrastructure gap between urban and rural areas is small, and pedestrian-priority traffic rules are strictly enforced. Furthermore, Japanese companies and Japanese culture are widely accepted in Malaysia.

◆ The Charm of Malaysia

Despite being a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society, cultures, cuisines, and attire coexist in harmony. People possess a friendly disposition that values family. Consideration for different cultures is evident, and Japanese culture is widely embraced.

【Action Plan】

We plan to strengthen the relationship between Japan and ASEAN countries through an online cultural exchange program.

Our program targets ASEAN nationals residing in Japan and Japanese citizens interested in international exchange. Its purpose is to deepen understanding of Japan while supporting the livelihoods of ASEAN nationals living in Japan.

Prior to the event, we will promote it via social media and universities to recruit at least 20 participants and facilitate learning about Japan and ASEAN countries. During the event, we will conduct self-introductions, activity presentations, and an explanation of JENESYS, followed by cultural exchange activities utilizing games and Kahoot!, an online learning platform where participants answer quizzes in real time. Exchanges will be conducted online initially, with in-person meetings held if feasible.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)