

JENESYS2025 Malaysia-Japan Academic Exchange (Invitation Program) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

Ten young university lecturers and others from Malaysia visited Japan from December 2 to December 9. The program was conducted to deepen their interest in Japan, build networks between Japan and Malaysia, and promote inter-university collaboration through exchanges with Japanese counterparts and visits to relevant institutions.

【Participants】 Total: 10 participants (8 lecturers and 2 graduate students from Malaysia)

【Locations】 Tokyo 10, Ibaraki 10, Tochigi 10

【Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program :

Nov. 25 (Tue) 【Pre-departure Orientation】

Set Period Prior to Arrival 【 Task-based Learning (VOD) 】 “Overview/Mission”, “Virtual Home Visit”, “Message from Minamisanriku”, “Allure Aichi -Industry / Cutting-edge technology –”, “Study Japanese Culture in Kyoto”, “Learning Japanese”

■ Invitation Program :

Dec. 2 (Tue) Arrival at Narita International Airport

 【Post-arrival Orientation】

Dec. 3 (Wed) 【Theme Related Observation, Opinion Exchange】 University of Tsukuba

Dec. 4 (Thu) 【Theme Related Observation, Opinion Exchange】 University of Tsukuba
 【Observation】

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Tsukuba Space Center

 【Observation】 AIST-Cube

Travel from Ibaraki to Tochigi

Dec. 5 (Fri) 【Observation】 Izuruhara Benten Pond

 【Cultural Exchange】 Fresco painting

 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. KANEKO Yutaka, Mayor of Sano City

 【Meeting with the Host Families】

 【Homestay】 Sano City

Dec. 6 (Sat) 【Homestay】 Homestay and cultural experience

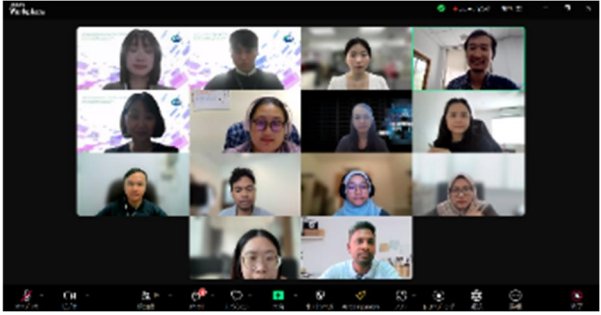
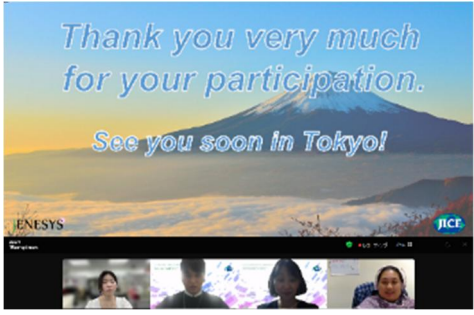
Dec. 7 (Sun) 【Homestay, Farewell Party with the Host Families】

 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, confirming social media posts, preparation of action plans)

Dec. 8 (Mon)	Travel from Tochigi to Tokyo
	【Reporting Session】 Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans
Dec. 9 (Tue)	Departure from Narita International Airport

2. Program Photos

Online Pre-study Program

	
November 25 【Pre-departure Orientation】	November 25 【Pre-departure Orientation】

Invitation Program

	
December 3【Theme Related Observation, Opinion Exchange】 University of Tsukuba	December 3【Theme Related Observation, Opinion Exchange】 University of Tsukuba
	
December 4 【Observation】 JAXA Tsukuba Space Center	December 4 【Observation】 AIST-Cube

	
December 5【Observation】Izuruhara Benten Pond	December 5 【Cultural Exchange】 Fresco painting
	
December 6 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. KANEKO Yutaka, Mayor of Sano City	December 6 【Homestay】
	
December 8 【Reporting Session】	December 8 【Reporting Session】 Group photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth (Lecturer)

The most impressive aspects of the exchange program for me were the opportunities to observe Japan's strong integration of technology, discipline, and human values across both academic and community settings. During the University of Tsukuba visits, I was particularly inspired by how Japanese institutions emphasize hands-on learning, research culture, and attention to detail in engineering education. The company and facility visits also highlighted Japan's commitment to innovation, efficiency, and continuous improvement, which profoundly influenced my perspective as an educator. In addition, the school and cultural exchange activities allowed me to interact closely

with Japanese students and professionals, helping me appreciate their teamwork spirit, respect, and dedication. These interactions, combined with the homestay experience, provided a meaningful and personal understanding of Japanese society that I believe will shape my teaching and future collaborations in positive ways.

◆ **Working Youth (Lecturer)**

The most impressive aspect is when we visited the University of Tsukuba, where advanced research and innovation from multidisciplinary fields were related to each participant. Experiencing cutting-edge labs and smart campus technology showed us how the future of education looks. The culture, traditions and hospitality made the experience even more meaningful. A perfect blend of technology and culture.

◆ **Working Youth (Lecturer)**

The University of Tsukuba was a very interesting portion of the program, as well as the Homestay experience in Sano City. The University of Tsukuba was eye-opening for me as I got to learn so much from the Professors that were guiding and presenting their research work to us during the tour. The university environment in Tsukuba is different than the one that I teach at back at home, from the "open" nature of the university and the impressiveness of the various research works that the professors are working on, I believe there are lessons that I have learned during the trip that I can share with my other colleagues in the academic field as well as to my students, when I return.

The homestay experience with our host family in Sano city was also an enjoyable and memorable one. We get to experience how Japanese families conduct their day-to-day activities and lives as well as taking part in them. They showed us around the city and took us to a local museum. They cooked us all sorts of authentic Japanese food such as okonomiyaki and mochi. I really loved the mochi that our host family made and I will remember the taste for a long time.

I hope to visit Japan again someday, and hopefully, with my friends and family.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **Host Family**

Although we had hosted many junior and senior high school students before, it had been a long time since we welcomed adult guests, so we were a little nervous at first. However, the participants were so friendly that we truly enjoyed our time together. Thank you very much for spending such an amazing time with us.

◆ **Host Family**

We were truly surprised to see that the participants had brought an iron all the way from their country to press their hijabs every morning.

While this may reflect their individual personalities as well, we felt a deep sense of respect for their faith. They were always thoughtful, gentle, proactive, and very warm-hearted. They were amazing.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

	
December 4, 2025 (Instagram) We visited JAXA Tsukuba Space Center. It was my first time seeing a rocket up close! Also, seeing a huge team behind the scenes in making the success of rocket launch was eye opening!	December 5, 2025 (Instagram) Honored to join an open discussion bridging Malaysia and Japan through the JENESYS academic exchange program. Standing together with new friends, we shared ideas, culture, and future plans for closer cooperation. Grateful for the opportunity to learn, connect, and represent our country on this international stage.

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

Locations: Tokyo, Ibaraki and Tochigi – Presentations by a total of 2 groups

Group A	
 General - Prior Knowledge of Japan (Before the Program) 1. Clean and orderly environment - Known from videos showing Japan's cleanliness and public discipline. 2. Early sunset in winter - Gets dark around 5pm. 3. Polite and disciplined society - Familiar with bowing culture, quiet roads, and respectful behavior. 4. Popular Japanese foods - Know about ramen, sushi, and miso soup which is also available in Malaysia. 5. Hospitality and respect - Japanese people are kind, humble, and welcoming. (After the Program) 1. Cleanliness exceeded expectations - Every place was spotless, from streets to campuses. 2. Outstanding manners in daily life - People bow when crossing roads, drivers do not honk, and everyone shows respect. 3. Rich and diverse food culture - Experienced authentic dishes and homemade foods, including homemade mochi. 4. Remarkable hospitality everywhere - Warm welcome from University of Tsukuba, Mayor of Saito City, and homestay families. 5. Japan's values and culture leave deep impact - Discipline, harmony, and kindness are seen at all levels of society.	 01. Cultural Sharing Session (Feb 2026) Experience sharing session with faculty members, Postgraduate and undergraduate students. They will do group message and invite the audience to participate in the upcoming JENESYS program. <i>Mode of dissemination: Physical (Group) and/or Online (Individual)</i> 02. Social Media Awareness Campaign (Jan 2026) Posting social media posts (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Threads) to promote JENESYS program as well as learn for its benefits, history, culture, economy, and public relations. <i>Mode of dissemination: Social Media (Online) (Individual)</i>
【Results of the Program】 • The cleanliness exceeded expectations, and everyday manners were truly admirable. The food culture was rich and diverse, and the warm hospitality was remarkable. Japan's values and culture left a deep and lasting impression. • We learned a great deal about science and technology through our visits to the University of Tsukuba, JAXA, and AIST-Cube.	

【Action Plan】

- Give an experience sharing session for Faculty members as well as postgraduate and undergraduate students online in February 2026.

Modes of dissemination: Physical (Group) and/or Online (Individual)

- Make social media posts to promote JENESYS program as well as Japan for its tourism, history, culture, economy, and public relations in January 2026.

Group B



【Results of the Program】

- Between Malaysia and Japan, there were both similarities and differences in terms of culture and history. Similarities included a strong respect for tradition, rich traditional arts, and diverse food cultures. Differences were observed in traditional architecture, ethnic costumes, and traditional dances.
- It became clear that Japan is more advanced than Malaysia in the field of science and technology. Moreover, Japan excels in continuous research and is always in pursuit of answers.

【Action Plan】

- Hold a sharing session to present information about the program's activities, visits to local areas, experiences with Japanese food culture, impressions of Japanese traditions, and interactions with Japanese society through homestay. This will be done through videos, oral presentations, and written materials.
- Carry out activities experienced in Japan, such as recycling initiatives and tea ceremony.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)