

JENESYS Timor-Leste-Japan Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Reduction, Business and Entrepreneurship Exchange (Invitation Program) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

Eight working youths from Timor-Leste visited Japan from January 20 to 27. The aim of the program was to deepen their understanding of Japan's emergency response and disaster management/risk reduction efforts, as well as business and entrepreneurship, and to have them share and further develop ideas that can benefit our two countries. The delegation visited Tokyo and Miyagi Prefecture, where they attended lectures and site visits, and engaged in exchanges and discussions with Japanese counterparts. Through these experiences, they strengthened bilateral relations and shared insights, learnings, and impressions of the places they visited via social media.

【Participants】 8 participants (working youths from Timor-Leste)

【Locations】 Tokyo 8, Miyagi 8

【Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program :

Jan. 13 (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 –”, “Peace Tour in Hiroshima”, “Learning Japanese”

■ Invitation Program :

Jan. 20 (Tue) Arrival at Narita International Airport

【Post-arrival Orientation】

Jan. 21 (Wed) **【Theme Related Observation】**

FUKAGAWA Fire Station, Tokyo Fire Department

【Theme Related Observation】 Tokyo Innovation Base (TIB)

Jan. 22 (Thu) **【Theme Related Observation, Experience】** Honjo Life Safety Learning Center

【Observation】 Asakusa, TOKYO SKYTREE®

Travel from Tokyo to Miyagi

Jan. 23 (Fri) **【Theme Related Observation】** Miyagi Restar Okawa, Ltd.

【Theme Related Observation】 Kadenowaki Elementary School Ruins

Jan. 24 (Sat) **【Meeting with the Host Families, Homestay】** Kami Town

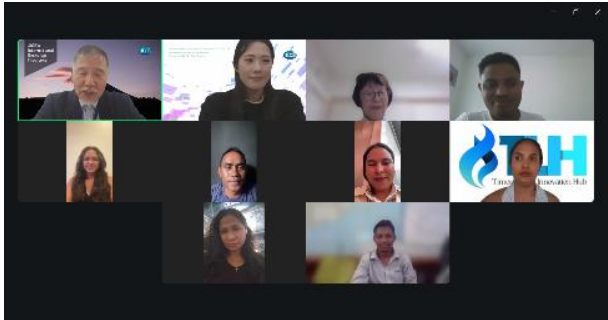
Jan. 25 (Sun) **【Homestay】**

【Farewell Party with the Host Families】

	【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, confirming social media posts, preparation of action plans)
Jan. 26 (Mon)	Travel from Miyagi to Tokyo
	【Reporting Session】 Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans
Jan. 27 (Tue)	Departure from Narita International Airport

2. Program Photos

Online Pre-study Program, Invitation Program

	
January 13, 2026 【Pre-departure Orientation】	January 21, 2026 【Theme Related Observation】 FUKAGAWA Fire Station, Tokyo Fire Department
	
January 21, 2026 【Theme Related Observation】 Tokyo Innovation Base (TIB)	January 22, 2026 【Theme Related Observation, Experience】 Honjo Life Safety Learning Center
	
January 22, 2026 【Observation】 Asakusa, TOKYO SKYTREE®	January 23, 2026 【Theme Related Observation】 Miyagi Restar Okawa, Ltd.

	
January 23, 2026 【Theme Related Observation】 Kadonowaki Elementary School Ruins	January 23, 2026 【Meeting with the Host Families】
	
January 24, 2026 【Homestay】	January 25, 2026 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】
	
January 25, 2026 【Workshop】	January 26, 2026 【Reporting Session】

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth

I learned how Japan supports startups through technology-driven solutions and product showcases at Tokyo innovation hub. This visit inspired me by showing how innovation can be turned into real impact.

Visiting the disaster-affected area in Okawa, Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture, taught me the importance of resilience during hardships. I learned how the community stood up again after tragedy reminded me that even after disasters, we must continue moving forward.

Staying with a host family in Kami Town was a deeply personal experience. I had the chance to try new things such as writing in kanji and katakana, wearing a kimono and a kendo uniform, and sharing daily life with a warm and lovely couple. Despite the snowy weather, their kindness made everything feel incredibly warm.

◆ **Working Youth**

Visiting Tokyo Innovation Base (TIB) impressed me a lot. I learned about its function to support the development of entrepreneurs and improve/attract new initiatives and give solutions to social and economic matters.

At the Honjo Life Safety Learning Center, I saw kids there learning about how to protect themselves in the time of disasters and how to prepare for them. Japan has experienced many fatal events, and each time the country learns from these experiences to become even better prepared. The role and importance of this Center is beyond words.

◆ **Working Youth**

What impressed me most was the visit to a school that experienced a tsunami disaster. Despite the calamity, they still love their country, so they try to do something so that this place does not lose its history. And the local company called Restar Okawa, shared how they see potential in the local area of Ishinomaki, even after being hit by the tsunami. Although the company just kicked off, I see great hope for their olive oil business. Seeing a new industry with the potential to thrive in Ishinomaki was very impactful.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

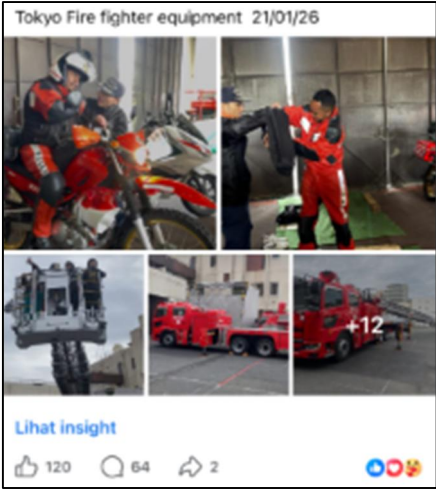
◆ **Host Family**

We heard a lot of fun stories about family life in Timor-Leste, like how big families have different rules they live by (doing the dishes after meals is considered the kids' job). I couldn't believe that the participants could speak multiple languages.

◆ **Host Family**

At first, we worried a little about whether we'd be able to communicate smoothly. But everyone from Timor-Leste was so warm and eager to connect that those worries disappeared almost immediately. We ended up having such a wonderful time together. What struck us most was how curious they were about Japan and how they embraced every new challenge.

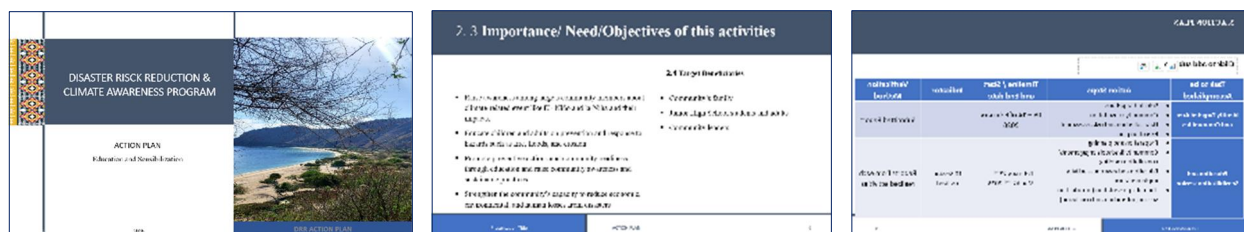
5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

	
January 21, 2026 (Facebook) Working Youth Tokyo fire fighter equipment	January 21, 2026 (Facebook) Working Youth JENESYS Timor Leste -Japan Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Reduction, Business and Entrepreneurship Exchange
	
January 22, 2026 (Facebook) Working Youth The famous and the oldest Buddhist Temple in Tokyo, Japan.	January 22, 2026 (Facebook) Working Youth My Host family taught me some kanji and katakana, and even let me try on their kendo uniform. I love the culture and the people. Thank you for the opportunity.

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

Locations: Tokyo, Miyagi – Presentations by a total of 2 groups

Group A (Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Reduction)



【Results of the Program】

We learned how important it is to prepare for possible disasters in advance and be aware of climate change.

【Action Plan】

We will choose areas at high risk of disasters and educate adults and children of the risks their areas could face. By doing that, we can reduce the number of disasters such as fires and floods and reduce the number of people who suffer. We'll implement the plan from this February through March.

Group B (Business and Entrepreneurship)



◆ Prior Knowledge about Japan:

1) polite and modest, 2) disciplined with serious work ethics 3) proud to protect their culture and purpose driven

◆ Gained Knowledge about Japan:

1) innovative, 2) futuristic, 3) purpose driven prioritizing significance, 4) innovative with an efficient network to create new value

【Action Plan】

“Business KAKEHASHI: 1.0 Bizbridge - Building Dili's Innovation with Tokyo's Spirit”

We will hold a cocktail party in Dili on March 20, 2026 to establish business networking. All participants in this group will work together to plan and set up this event. We plan to invite JENESYS alumni, entrepreneurs, the CCITL (Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Timor-Leste), and international agencies and governments.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)