

JENESYS2024 Singapore-Japan SDGs Exchange (Dispatch of Japanese High School Students) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】 With the main objective of deepening mutual understanding between Japan and Singapore, seven Japanese high school students and one accompanying faculty member visited Singapore from February 11 to February 18 under the theme of the SDGs. The group gave presentations and held workshops to introduce Japanese culture and attractions during their exchanges with local high schools, and experienced local family life through homestays, learning firsthand the differences in lifestyle, culture, and customs. The group also visited the Japanese company Ocean Network Express where they learned about the SDG initiatives of Japanese companies operating in Singapore, and a local complex called Our Tampines Hub, where they had the opportunity to observe firsthand the initiatives and achievements related to the program theme, "Sustainable Cities and Communities." The participants actively used social media and other means to disseminate what they learned through these experiences as well as the attractions of Japan and also worked to strengthen networks to deepen the friendship between the two countries.

【Participants】 Total: 8 participants (high school students and chaperone from Japan)
(Breakdown) 7 students and 1 chaperone from Sapporo Kiyota High School

【Location】 Singapore 8

【Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program:

Aug. 27 (Tue)	【Orientation】 First Joint Orientation 【Alumni Insights】Alumni of FY2023 JENESYS ASEAN outbound programs 【Lecture】"Welcome to ASEAN-JAPAN Centre" Joint implementation with FY2024 JENESYS ASEAN outbound programs Lecturer: Mr. WATANABE Mitsuo, Tourism Exchange Team, ASEAN Promotion Centre on Trade, Investment and Tourism (ASEAN-Japan Centre)
Dec. 5 (Thu)	【Lecture】 Theme Related Lecture "Urban Development in Asakusa, Taito-ku, Tokyo" Lecturer: Ms. INOUE Tomomi, Manager, Second Section of Regional Development, Taito City Office
Jan. 28 (Tue)	【Participant Briefing】 Sapporo Kiyota High School

■ Dispatch Program:

Feb. 11 (Tue)	【Pre-departure Orientation】 Departure from Haneda Airport, Arrival at Singapore Changi International Airport
Feb. 12 (Wed)	【Courtesy Call】 Ms. Mana YAMAGUCHI, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Singapore Ms. Keiko SOEDA, Event Team Manager, Embassy of Japan in Singapore Venue: Japan Creative Centre (JCC) 【Courtesy Call】 National Youth Council (NYC) Global Office Mr. Izzat Rusydi Jufri, Assistant Director Ms. Jessica Song, Manager Ms. Teri Anne Tan, Manager 【Company Visit】 Ocean Network Express Pte Ltd. (ONE) Lecturers: Ms. MIKATA Wakaba, Manager, Corporate Strategy and Sustainability Corporate Communication Ms. SEKIGUCHI Hana, Senior Executive, Corporate Strategy and Sustainability Green Strategy Team
Feb. 13 (Thu)	【School Exchange】 Temasek Polytechnic (a complex facility integrating administrative facilities, public facilities, commercial facilities, sports and leisure facilities, etc.) 【Observation】 Our Tampines Hub
Feb. 14 (Fri)	【School Exchange】 Ngee Ann Polytechnic 【Homestay】
Feb. 15 (Sat)	【Homestay】
Feb. 16 (Sun)	【Observation】 Marina Barrage, Chinatown, Merlion Park, Little India, Arab Street 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)
Feb. 17 (Mon)	【Reporting Session】 Presentation of program findings and action plans Departure from Singapore Changi International Airport
Feb. 18 (Sun)	Arrival at Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos

Pre-study Program

	
August 27, 2024 【Lecture】 "Welcome to ASEAN-JAPAN Centre"	August 27, 2024 【Lecture】 Group photo
	
December 6, 2024 【Lecture】 Theme Related Lecture "Urban Development in Asakusa, Taito-ku, Tokyo"	December 6, 2024 【Lecture】 Group photo
	
January 28, 2025 【Participant Briefing】	January 28, 2025 【Participant Briefing】 Introducing the attractions of Japan Participants practicing their presentations

Dispatch Program



February 11, 2025
Departure from Haneda Airport



February 12, 2025 【Courtesy Call】
Embassy of Japan in Singapore



February 12, 2025 【Courtesy Call】
National Youth Council (NYC)



February 12, 2025 【Company Visit】
Ocean Network Express Pte Ltd. (ONE)



February 13, 2025 【School Exchange】
Temasek Polytechnic



February 13, 2025 【Observation】
Our Tampines Hub Guide Tour



February 14, 2025 【School Exchange】
Ngee Ann Polytechnic



February 15, 2025 【Homestay】



February 16, 2025 【Observation】
Marina Barrage



February 16, 2025 【Observation】 Chinatown



February 16, 2025 【Observation】 Merlion Park



February 16, 2025 【Observation】 Arab Street



February 16, 2025 【Observation】 Little India



February 16, 2025 【Workshop】



February 17, 2025 【Reporting Session】



February 17, 2025 【Reporting Session】
Group photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

Pre-study Program

◆ High School Student

I had never really had the chance to hear about what municipalities outside of Sapporo are doing in terms of urban development, so this was a good opportunity for me to learn about the good qualities of Asakusa and the different initiatives being undertaken around Japan. The lecture also helped me reacknowledge the good qualities of Sapporo. It was also good to learn how to make slides that are easy to understand for the presentations that we will be giving at the exchange schools. I will do my best to make use of what we learned here when we go to Singapore. Thank you.

◆ High School Student

I enjoyed hearing about Asakusa's history and current issues from someone who is actually involved in community development. I thought that Tokyo and Sapporo were completely different, but I also found many similarities between them. It was also a great opportunity for me to learn what kind of things I should pay attention to when introducing Japan in Singapore (e.g., population, characteristics, the history of cities and how they were built, current issues and challenges). It was also helpful to learn that when giving presentations to people overseas, it is easier to convey information by using universal design (UD) fonts, scientifically easy-to-see color placement, symbols, etc. I will do my best to make use of what we learned today.

Dispatch Program

◆ High School Student

I was moved by the importance and warmth of interpersonal relationships when I visited the schools, during the homestay, and even when I walked around town and someone would come up to me with a smile and ask if I was Japanese. My English is still not that good, and I was worried if I would be able to communicate with the locals, but I was able to read their gestures and facial expressions even if I could not understand exactly what they were saying. Singapore is a multi-ethnic country, so each English accent has its own quirks, which was really interesting. People often say, "you never know until you actually try," and through this program, I could clearly understand what it means. From now on, I will do my best not only at school, but also in everyday life and interact with people like I did in this program. This was a very valuable week for me.

◆ High School Student

The best part of the program were the exchanges at Temasek Polytechnic and Ngee Ann Polytechnic. A lot of local students joined the exchanges, making them the most fulfilling exchanges I've ever had. They took us all over the school and we had a lot of fun.

◆ High School Student

It was great being able to experience the life of the locals during the homestay.

◆ High School Student

I enjoyed the school exchanges the most. It was a great experience being able to engage in discussions with students around my age from a different country.

◆ **Chaperone (Faculty)**

The 2 school exchanges were very interesting. I believe that it was very stimulating for the students to interact and discuss with students in the same generation from a different country. Although the exchanges were very short, it was amazing to see the local students see us off at the airport at the end of the program.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **Observation Destination Representative**

This visit was a very valuable opportunity for us as well, since we are quite far away geographically speaking and do not usually have many opportunities to introduce our company to people from Japan. The honest and positive reactions of the high school students also provided an opportunity for our employees to deepen their own understanding of our company. As a Japanese person based abroad, I would gladly receive more high school students or other visitors in the future if the opportunity arises, and hopefully be of some help in creating an opportunity for them to spread their wings and fly out into the world.

◆ **Exchange School Faculty**

It was memorable how the Singapore students and Japanese students could connect so easily despite some language barriers and become good friends within one day. Some of our students who have been learning Japanese have become more confident in using Japanese to converse. We definitely hope, circumstances willing, to have more similar exchanges with students from Japan in future.

◆ **Exchange School Faculty**

How attentive and engaged the Japanese students were during the visits to the research centers. Quick warm up between Japanese and Singaporean students which led to meaningful conversations. Warm friendship at both staff and student levels. Our students from the Japanese Cultural Group appreciated the opportunity to foster a deeper appreciation of Japanese culture and practice their Japanese language skills.

◆ **Host Family**

We have been hosting homestays for about 30 years since 1989, including people from SSEAYP, Iwate, and JENESYS, so we have a lot of experience. More than anything, my wife and I enjoy it when students enjoy their homestay with us. They get to eat home-cooked food, learn about Singaporean culture, and learn about the environment and sightseeing spots. A one-night homestay is not long enough, so please come and stay with us for at least two nights next time.

◆ **Host Family**

It was a pleasure for us to be able to introduce how wonderful Singapore is to the youths.

Dispatch Program



The first program was a visit to the JCC. We heard about the economic relationship between Japan and Singapore. Water was mentioned as a future issue for Singapore. Currently, Singapore relies on Malaysia for water, but with a deadline of 2060, it will be important to consider how to deal with this issue in the future. Thank you for sharing your valuable story.

I visited the National Youth Council (NYC). I was able to learn more about NYC by listening to an explanation of NYC's activities and an overview of the facility. After the explanation, I was able to have a short tour inside The Red Box. Past activities were displayed on the wall, and I was able to visually understand the specific activities that have been carried out, such as volunteer activities during the COVID-19 pandemic and interviews with volunteers, and I was able to think about what we need to do now and what kind of impact volunteering has. They will continue to actively participate in volunteer activities, so I will regularly check their Instagram and website. Thank you for your valuable time.



I visited Ocean Network Express (ONE), a marine transport company. I learned that 99% of transportation in Japan is by sea, and that most of

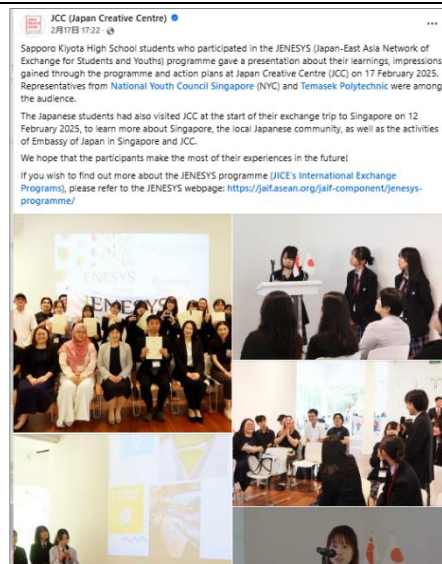
Today we visited Temasek Polytechnic. Polytechnics are schools similar to Japanese high schools. This school values sustainability. Various

our daily lives depend on it.

I had the opportunity to talk with people from a Japanese transport company that is responsible for this social infrastructure, and it was a good experience for me to gain a variety of knowledge.

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me today.

environmental conservation activities are carried out in areas close to school life, such as growing plants using reusable materials without using soil, cleaning the school with a liquid made from fermented tangerine peels, and collecting used oil, cleaning it, and reusing it. We had fun interacting with local students over lunch and tea breaks.



February 17, 2025 (Sapporo Kiyota High School's website)

On the fourth day of the JENESYS Japan's Friendship Ties Program (Singapore), our students had a chance to interact with local students of the same age at a school called Ngee Ann Polytechnic and were given a campus tour.

On the fifth day, the students did a homestay and were able to experience the daily lives of people of Chinese, Malay, Indian, and other ethnic backgrounds.

On the sixth day, students visited the Marina Barrage Dam (where they learned about Singapore's precious water resources), Merlion Park, Arab Street, and Little India.

On the last day, there was a reporting session at the Japanese Embassy. The students reported on what they experienced and learned firsthand in Singapore, as well as their action plans for after returning to Japan.

February 17, 2025 (Facebook of Japan Creative Centre (JCC))

Sapporo Kiyota High School students who participated in the JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) programme gave a presentation about their learnings, impressions gained through the programme and action plans at Japan Creative Centre (JCC) on 17 February 2025. Representatives from National Youth Council Singapore (NYC) and Temasek Polytechnic were among the audience.

The Japanese students had also visited JCC at the start of their exchange trip to Singapore on 12 February 2025, to learn more about Singapore, the local Japanese community, as well as the activities of Embassy of Japan in Singapore and JCC.

We hope that the participants make the most of their experiences in the future.

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

Presentation by 1 group

		Action Plan2 Why → To encourage ourselves to deepen our understandings of SDGs to search what we can do about SDGs When → periodically Who → Program members To Whom → People in the world What → What we saw and felt How → Our Instagram account
【Results of the Program】 ◆ Learnings from the Program: We had heard that Singapore is a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and multi-religious country, but actually visiting Little India, Chinatown, and Arab Street, we found that each area is filled with people from completely different ethnic backgrounds and has completely different cultures. ◆ Learnings about SDG 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities”: We found that Singapore is implementing an attractive urban development strategy that combines lush green environments and industrial promotion centers. 【Action Plan】 1. All group members will share what they saw and felt in Singapore to the entire school by March 2025 in order to let people close to them know about the attractions of Japan and Singapore in terms of the SDGs. 2. All members will regularly think about what they can do for the SDGs, deepen their understanding of the SDGs, and communicate the differences they see and feel between Japan and Singapore from the perspective of the SDGs to people around the world using social media (will make an Instagram account).		

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)