



**JENESYS2024 Singapore-Japan Language and Culture Exchange
(Online Invitation Program for Singaporean High School Students)
JENESYS2024 The Philippines-Japan Cultural Exchange for University Students
(Online Invitation Program for Japanese Language Learners) Report**

1. Program Overview

【Objective and Overview】

The main objective of the program was to promote mutual understanding by having university students from the Philippines and high school students from Singapore with strong interests in Japan deepen their understanding of Japan through online experiences and exchanges with their peers.

【Participants】

Total: 36 participants from the Philippines (21 university students) and Singapore (15 high school students)

【Locations】 Tokyo 30, Fukuoka 29, Okinawa 25

【Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program:

Set Period Prior to Arrival **【Task-based Learning (VOD)】** “Virtual Home Visit”, “Message from Minamisanriku”, “Study Japanese Culture in Kyoto”, “Hiroshima Peace Tour”, “Learning Japanese”

■ Online Visiting Japan Program

Oct. 1 (Tue)	【Orientation】 【Lecture on Japan】 “Attractiveness of Japan” Lecturer: Mr. ODA Yuichi, Professor, Institute for Excellence in Educational Innovation (IEEI), Chiba University
Oct. 2 (Wed)	【Theme Related Lecture】 ASO POP CULTURE COLLEGE Lecturer: Mr. HARADA Eiichi, ASO POP CULTURE COLLEGE
Oct. 3 (Thu)	【School Exchange】 Tsuda University
Oct. 4 (Fri)	【Observation & Cultural Experience】 Virtual tour of Kokura Castle and the Kokura Castle Japanese Garden, including a tea ceremony experience
Oct. 5 (Sat)	【Home Visit】 Yomitan Village, Okinawa
Oct. 6 (Sun)	【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing the program, confirming social media posts, creating action plans)
Oct. 7 (Mon)	【Reporting Session】 Presentation of program findings and action plans

2. Program Photos

Online Exchange Program

	
October 1, 2024 【Orientation】	October 1, 2024 【Lecture on Japan】 “Attractiveness of Japan”
	
October 2, 2024 【Theme Related Lecture】 ASO POP CULTURE COLLEGE	October 3, 2024 【School Exchange】 Tsuda University (Scene from the presentation)
	
October 3, 2024 【School Exchange】 Tsuda University (Scene from the exchange)	October 4, 2024 【Observation】 Kokura Castle
	
October 4, 2024 【Observation】 Tea ceremony demonstration	October 5, 2024 【Home Visit】 Yomitan Village, Okinawa

	
October 7, 2024 【Reporting Session】	October 7, 2024 【Reporting Session】 Commemorative photo

3. Participants' Inquiries and Interests (excerpt)

◆ Kokura Castle

- What was the rank of a clan leader in Japan on a national level at the time?
- The samurai storytellers were very lively and seemed to be having fun. How does one become a storyteller at Kokura Castle?
- When would one hold a tea ceremony? Do I need a certification to perform the tea ceremony? Who can be invited to a tea ceremony?

4. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ University Student (the Philippines)

I was really impressed by the (samurai) tour guides of the Kokura Castle and Garden. They were all very enthusiastic and energetic as they played their assigned roles and taught us about the history of Kokura castle. It seems like a fun job in Japan, and I would like to be able to try doing what they do in making people happy while teaching them about history.

I also enjoyed getting to meet my host family as they welcomed us into their home in Yomitan Village, Okinawa.

◆ University Student (the Philippines)

I enjoyed a lot of parts during the exchange program, but the most interesting parts were the recent pop culture where we learnt about anime, music, and the details of how such content are being created. I knew it was hard to be one of the creators of animations or CG and that Japanese have a very hardworking people but the dedication to work for 300 hours based on what the speaker said was very amazing.

◆ High School Student (Singapore)

I found the exchange with Tsuda University to be the most interesting. As a student, I found the experience to be quite enriching as I got to see how their schooling is like and how it differs from Singapore. Additionally, I found the idea of all-female schools to be somewhat shocking as they are quite rare here in Singapore. Finally, I think the best part was that we got to interact with others from our age and was able to find out how their lives were like as a student in Japan.

5. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Exchange School Faculty

Our students were definitely motivated to improve their language skills, and I think this program gave them an opportunity to feel closer to the Asian region. The exchange lasted for an hour that passed in an instant in a friendly atmosphere, with the students and participants sharing about each other's culture and famous things from their countries. It was a great honor to have this precious opportunity. I would like to continue to participate in and hold events like this to promote friendly exchanges among students across borders.

◆ Lecturer

While the screen was being shared, I could only see the faces of four participants at a time and I was nervous not being able to see how they were reacting, but I was relieved when they seemed excited during the final chat session. I also had no idea that Japanese games and anime (even really niche ones) had spread so widely in Singapore and the Philippines, and it was quite exciting to hear.

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

#JENESYS_ASEAN Jenesys 2024 programme is coming to an end. These past 5 days have been very informative and interesting in helping me learn about Japan. Interactive house tours, student exchange programmes, Pop Culture University showcases, a tour of Kokura Castle & an introductory lecture on Japan all helped to make these past few days enriching and fulfilling. I wish some of the days lasted longer so I would have more time to interact with the people from Japan. Overall it was a great experience and I would highly recommend anyone interested in Japan or Japanese Culture to try it out and find out more about the rich culture of Japan. 	
October 4, 2024 (Facebook) High School Student (Singapore) Jenesys 2024 programme is coming to an end. These past 5 days have been very informative and interesting in helping me learn about Japan. Interactive house tours, student exchange program, Pop Culture University showcase, a tour of Kokura Castle and an introductive lecture on Japan all helped to make these past few days enriching and fulfilling. I wish some of the days	October 7, 2024 (Instagram, etc.) University Student (the Philippines) Waaaah my first online cultural exchange program! It was a blast meeting students from Singapore and Japan

lasted longer so I would have more time to interact with the people from Japan.

Overall, it was a great experience and I would highly recommend anyone interested in Japan or Japanese Culture to try it out and find out more about the rich culture of Japan.



October 4, 2024 (ASO POP CULTURE COLLEGE's Instagram page)

I recently gave a lecture on "Japanese Pop Culture" to students from the Philippines and Singapore who are studying the Japanese language, or are interested in Japan, as part of the Japan's Friendship Ties Program, JENESYS, conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE). It lasted about 2 hours with an interpreter. The second half of the lecture was very lively with a tour of the school and talk about Japanese games and anime.



October 11, 2024 (Tsuda University's website)

"Online Exchange with students from the Philippines and Singapore"

Tsuda University received students as part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' "Japan's Friendship Ties Program - JENESYS".

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

Locations: Tokyo, Fukuoka, Okinawa Presentations by a total of 6 groups

Group 2 (Singapore)



【Results of the Program】

During the lecture on Japan, we learned a lot about Japanese cuisines and food. It's interesting how many Japanese sports there are and how widespread some of them have become.

During the lecture by ASO Pop Culture College, we learned that there are many notable game companies in Fukuoka alone, and that surprised us. The college was very different from how a Singaporean school would look and feel like, and there were incredible works & portfolios done by the students.

Through the exchange program with Tsuda University, we gained insight on the lives of students. The program gave us an idea of how higher-level education is in Japan and how the Tsuda University students view other countries.

The architecture style and scenery at Kokura Castle was unique to Japan and cannot be found in Singapore. Through the home visit at Yomitan village, we learned about the history of Sanshin, and were able to gain a glimpse into the history and culture of Japan.

【Action Plan】

"Our Own Origami"

During the holiday season from Halloween and Christmas to New Year's, we will provide opportunities for children to experience Japanese culture by teaching them how to fold origami in person at schools and daycare centers and have them create their own works of art.

Group 6 (the Philippines)



【Results of the Program】

Before participating in the program, our impression of Japan was of anime, manga, games, and unusual foods such as sushi and sashimi. Through this program, we learned that there are things that enrich everyday life in Japan, such as the Shinkansen, toilets, and vending machines, and that there are schools that specialize in pop culture and universities for girls only, which are different from the situation

in the Philippines. On the other hand, through school exchanges and home visits, we were able to find not only the differences, but also the similarities between Japan and the Philippines. There is an Okinawan saying “icharibachōde”, which means “once you meet someone, they are your family”. We thought this concept was wonderful. It made us want to learn more about Japan and to tell others more about Japan.

【Action Plan】

We will conduct an activity to introduce Japan under the title, “Social Media Campaign: Ichigo Ichie (treasure every meeting).”

Specifically, we will discuss how Japanese culture, such as pop culture, food culture, and technology, is affecting our lives, and decide themes and topics to post each week. We will create blog posts, video blogs, and podcasts that introduce episodes of everyday life in the Philippines that involve Japanese culture. In order to get more people to see it, we will repost it on our own social media (Instagram, Facebook, etc.) and share it. In this way, we hope to create a space and a group with a common interest in Japan, and to act as a bridge for the exchange of knowledge, as well as helping family and friends to learn more about Japan.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)