Juntos!! Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Outbound Program

Youth Group Visit to the Republic of Paraguay and the Federative Republic of Brazil

Report

1. Program Overview

Theme:

Paraguay: Celebrating 90th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Paraguay:
-Promoting Understanding and Showcasing Nikkei Community Activities in Paraguay

Brazil: Celebrating the Japan-Brazil Friendship Exchange Year:
-Showcasing Nikkei Community Activities in Brazil

Participants: Total: 8 Japanese undergraduate students

Location: Asuncion、Yguazu, Paraguay
São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2. Program Schedule

Pre-study Program (online)

January 19 February 13	Pre- departure Orientations 【Online・Q&A Session】 【Online Orientation】Briefing session・Participants Exchange

Inbound Program

Sunday, February 22	- Arrive at Silvio Pettirossi International Airport - Briefing at the Ambassador's Official Residence - Move to Yguazu - Reception with young Nikkei people and a JICA volunteer group
Monday, February 23	- Japanese Association of Yguazu - Japanese Immigration Museum - Tour of the Yguazu Colony and its agricultural land - Visit "MICHI no EKI" - Move to Asuncion
Tuesday, February 24	- BDA Boutique Denim Factory - the Federation of Japanese and Nikkei Associations of Paraguay - Palo Santo Midori

	- Tour of the Historic Center with a SENATUR guide - Cocktail reception with young Paraguayans at the Ambassador's official residence
Wednesday, February 25	- Move to Sao Paulo, Brazil - Arrive at Sao Paulo-Guarulhos International Airport
Thursday, February 26	- Bunkyo Youth - The Historical Museum of Japanese Immigration - Short walking tour of Liberdade neighborhood - Japan House São Paulo - Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Brazil - Mitsubishi
Friday, February 27	- Consulate General of Japan in São Paulo - Move to Rio de Janeiro - Arrive at Antonio Carlos Jobim International Airport
Saturday, February 28	- Japan-Brazil Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICBJ) - REN Rio de Janeiro - City tour in Rio de Janeiro
Sunday, March 1	- Departure from Antonio Carlos Jobim International Airport

3. Program Photos

	
February 22 Briefing at the Ambassador's Official Residence	February 22 Reception with young Nikkei people and a JICA volunteer group

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February 23 Japanese Association of Yguazu	February 23 MICHI no EKI
	
February 24 Boutique Denim Factory	February 24 Palo Santo Midori
	
February 24 Tour of the Historic Center with a SENATUR guide	February 24 Cocktail reception with young Paraguayans at the Ambassador's official residence

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February 25 Move to Sao Paulo, Brazil	February 26 Bunkyo Youth
	
February 26 The Historical Museum of Japanese Immigration	February 26 Short walking tour of Liberdade neighborhood
	
February 26 Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Brazil	February 26 Japan House São Paulo

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February 26 Mitsubishi	February 27 Consulate General of Japan in São Paulo
	
February 28 Japan-Brazil Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICBJ)	February 28 REN Rio de Janeiro
	
February 28 City tour in Rio de Janeiro	March 1 Departure from Antonio Carlos Jobim International Airport

	
March 31 Reporting Session	March 31 Reporting Session

4. Voices from Participants (excerpt)

●One of the most valuable aspects of this program was the opportunity to interact with people from a wide range of generations, especially younger participants. Exchanging ideas with individuals from diverse backgrounds and perspectives enabled me to gain a broader and more multifaceted understanding of various topics. In addition, I had the opportunity to experience the local cuisine, and the program also included time for sightseeing around the city in addition to academic activities and official visits. These experiences allowed me to feel a stronger sense of connection with both countries and made the entire program even more fulfilling. Even now, after the program has come to an end, I find myself deeply missing those seven days. It was an incredibly meaningful and unforgettable experience that I will always cherish.

●I had the valuable opportunity to visit government institutions, companies, and various events that are not ordinarily accessible to the public, which allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the Japanese communities in Brazil and Paraguay from multiple perspectives. Having lived in Brazil during my childhood, I found it especially meaningful to revisit the country from a different standpoint and with a new perspective than I had when I lived there.

In addition, I greatly appreciated the organizers' prompt and flexible response when travel disruptions occurred during our return journey due to flight cancellations caused by the situation in the Middle East. Their willingness to listen to the participants' opinions and respond quickly was truly reassuring, and I am sincerely grateful for their support.

●The one-week program was extremely fulfilling, providing opportunities to visit Japanese communities and Japanese companies, as well as to interact with local students. Despite the limited timeframe, I was able to gain a wide range of valuable experiences. On the other hand, traveling to four cities—Asunción,

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Iguazu, São Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro—within a single week involved frequent travel and was physically demanding. I also felt that I would have liked to spend more time in each city to gain a deeper understanding of its unique characteristics and culture.

5. Action Plans Presented at the Reporting Session (excerpt)

- **Japanese Communities (Nikkei Communities)**

By learning about the distinct histories and backgrounds of the Japanese communities in each country, I came to understand that the dedication and perseverance of Nikkei people have played a significant role in strengthening the relationship between Japan and South America. I also gained a deeper appreciation for the important role that younger generations of Nikkei will play in shaping the future of these communities, particularly in addressing challenges such as population decline and the preservation of language and cultural heritage.

- **Multicultural Coexistence**

Through this program, I reaffirmed the importance of mutual understanding between immigrants and the host society despite cultural differences. I also recognized the value of embracing one another as members of the same community and sharing the spirit of working together—embodied by the concept of *Juntos!* ("Together!").

- **Future Action Plan**

1. Deepen young people's understanding of Latin America through my research and related activities.
2. Maintain and further strengthen the friendships and professional networks established through this program.
3. Create platforms, such as social media communities and events, where Japanese and Latin