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EVALUATION STUDY ON THE
YOUTH INVITATION
PROGRAMME IN THE
PHILIPPINES



Philippine ASEAN-Japan Friendship Association
for the 21st Century

February, 1998



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1984, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) started the implementation of the "Friendship Programme for the 21st Century". It was inspired by His Excellency Yasuhiro Nakasone, the ex-Prime Minister of Japan during his visits to the ASEAN countries (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore) in May 1983. The ultimate aim of the said programme is to foster goodwill, understanding and friendship among Japanese and ASEAN youth. Unless mutual trust and friendship are developed among one another, unity in its real sense can never be achieved. It is in this light that an opportunity for all delegates to mingle and interact through cultural exchange was born. The participants are given the chance to gain first hand experience of the way of life of other people and to understand how one country came about. Once they develop mutual understanding, then a peaceful and prosperous 21st century is never too far.

The programme implementation was started on a five-year plan basis for the First Phase in the ASEAN region. In the Philippines, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) spearheaded the said implementation in cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) . JICA was then under the leadership of Mr. Akihiro Mitarai from 1983-1986 and under Mr. Moriya Miyamoto from 1986-1991. The first batch of delegates totalled a number of one hundred fifty (150) in 1984.

The Philippine-ASEAN-Japan Friendship Association for the 21 st Century (PAJFA-21) is the organization of former participants of the Friendship Programme. It was formed in 1991 with the intention of bracing up and consolidating the bond between all members and their counterparts. Its present officers are:

President: Mrs. Evangelina G. Lawas
Vice-President for External Affairs: Dr. Anna Marie Joy S. De Leon
Vice-President for Internal Affairs: Mr. John Y. Atilano
Secretary: Ms. Jackie I. Ortiz
Asst. Secretary: Ms. Maritess A. Hipolito
Treasurer: Ms. Anne Coronado
Auditor: Ms. Eva M. Guevara
PRO Ms. Gladys C. Sta. Rita
Member of the Board of Trustees: Mr. Edilberto C. Infante

Since its inception, PAJAF-21 has implemented a number of projects. Its current projects are the following:

1. Medical Mission held in Bulacan last September 20, 1997.
2. Third Philippine-Malaysia Student Exchange Program in October 27-November 2, 1997.
3. Special Showing of the "Great Walls of China" as fund-raising activity.
4. Handling of the Pre-departure Orientation Seminar together with the conduct of group dynamic activities for the delegates.
5. Hosting of JICA AFTER CARE MISSION.
6. Christmas carolling last December, 1997.
7. Conduct of "PAPASKO SA PASLIT NG PAJAF-21" or gift-giving wherein the recipients were the sick children confined at the Philippine General Hospital and the street children of Makati City.

8. Some social activities like the Christmas party, gathering at the videoke in Makati and at Ka Freddie's in Tagaytay to strengthen the bond among PAJFA members.
10. Fund raising activities like ballroom dancing , the proceeds of which helped subsidize other socio-civic programs like free medical clinic.
11. Publication of the 3rd newsletter (Kaibigan-21), and the Friendship Programme brochure as part of the information drive.

This study is aimed in evaluating the outcomes, together with the benefits gained from the Friendship Programme. For this purpose, a survey was conducted to the past participants. Of the 1,200 mailed questionnaires, 229 participants responded. Analysis was done without disaggregating the respondents in their responses in order to gain higher degree of reliability.

Results of the analysis are the following:

1. The more common sources of initial information from which the respondents first learned about the programme are: a) from ex-participants or alumni association b) from the workplace, and c) from government offices.
2. Eighty-three percent of the respondents stated that the selection processes have been fair.
3. The more common reasons for participating in the program are: a) Interested in international exchange programs, b) To improve my professional knowledge, c) To visit Japan, d) To make friends with someone from Japan, and e) To make friends with someone from our own country or region.
4. The top five benefits derived by the respondents from the programme are: a) Was able to learn about the society of Japan, b) Was able to understand the importance of

- international exchange, c) Was able to promote mutual understanding with Japanese, d) Was able to learn how to communicate with people from a different culture, and e) Was able to deepen interest in international issues.
5. Of the activities participated in Japan, the following were considered most beneficial:
a) Observation Tour to understand Japan, b) In-House Seminars with Japanese Youths, c) Visits related to my professional field, d) Homestay, and e) Lectures in Japan.
 6. After participating in the program, majority of the respondents admitted that their impressions were corrected and started to appreciate Japanese character, virtues and beliefs.
 7. Majority of the respondents are presently in touch with other participants and their foster families.
 8. In their opinion, the following should be given emphasis: a) Promoting international exchange, and b) Increasing the programs in local areas and regional cities in Japan.
 9. Among the respondents who received "Dear Friends", majority would like articles about previous participants be included in the magazine.
 10. Only 12% of the respondents participate actively in the alumni activities. Many are not able to participate because they do not live in the capital city.
 11. Of all the alumni activities, many remembered the pre-departure orientations and the grand reunions.
 12. With regards to future activities of the alumni association, many suggested to strengthen the network among the participants.

13. Majority of the respondents would like to see continuing support and financial assistance to the activities of the alumni association.

14. The top ten recommendations of the respondents are:

- a. Provide a follow-up program
- b. Provide updated information/ communication
- c. Provide Japan cultural studies
- d. Extend the Friendship Programme
- e. Elongate duration of program
- f. Broadbase Participation
- g. Maximize time on enhancing field of profession
- h. Support different fields of activities
- i. Provide an equitable participation
- j. Motivate Alumni members to be active

Results of the evaluation categorically show and identified the benefits of the ASEAN-JAPAN Friendship Programme particularly in promoting friendship, understanding and goodwill among Japan and the ASEAN nations. Many of these benefits are immeasurable but these do not diminish the importance and great value of the programme. Its greatest lesson imparted to everybody is as long as every nation shares their warmth with one another, there will always be peace, understanding, love and goodwill among men.

INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND

HISTORY OF THE FRIENDSHIP PROGRAMME

In 1984, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) started the implementation of the "Friendship Programme for the 21st Century". It was inspired by His Excellency. Yasuhiro Nakasone, the ex-Prime Minister of Japan during his visits to the ASEAN countries (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore) in May 1983. The ultimate aim of the said programme is to foster goodwill, understanding and friendship amongst Japanese and ASEAN youth. Unless mutual trust and friendship are developed amongst one another, unity in its real sense can never be achieved. It is in this light that an opportunity for all delegates to mingle and interact through cultural exchange was born. The participants are given the chance to gain first hand experience of the way of life of other people and to understand how one country came about. Once they develop mutual understanding, then a peaceful and prosperous 21st century is never too far.

After the initial implementation of the said program in the ASEAN countries in 1984 as mentioned earlier, it was extended to Myanmar, Papua New Guinea and Fiji in 1986, to China and Korea in 1987, and to the twelve South Pacific countries (Solomon, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook, Niue, Kiribati, Nauru, Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Palau) in 1988. In 1991, seven other South Asian countries were involved namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. In 1996, Vietnam was likewise included in the programme. At present, some 1,300 young people are invited yearly from the Asia and Pacific regions to Japan.

OVERVIEW OF THE FRIENDSHIP PROGRAMME IN THE PHILIPPINES

The programme implementation was started on a five-year plan basis for the First Phase in the ASEAN region. In the Philippines, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) spearheaded the said implementation in cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) . JICA was then under the leadership of Mr. Akihiro Mitarai from 1983-1986 and under Mr. Moriya Miyamoto from 1986-1991. The first batch of delegates totalled a number of one hundred fifty (150) in 1984. Dissemination of information about the program, screening and final selection were done by the Department of Foreign Affairs specifically the North East Asia Division. Participants were categorized based on their educational status and professions. Application forms were sent to top universities in the country, government offices and some private institutions. During the first phase of the programme, most successful applicants came from major cities of the country particularly Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao. In view of this centralized selection of participants, application forms were disseminated to regional level. Initially, governors of all provinces were informed of such programme. These government offices recommended several applicants whom they think will benefit from it and can assist the local government in return.

The Philippines consists of sixteen (16) regions and it was made sure by the Department of Foreign Affairs that all the areas were well represented by the delegates through the regionalization scheme that was implemented. The programme had its Second Phase in response to the good evaluation and overwhelming requests from both the Japanese as well as the participating countries. This time, the delegates were divided into "GROUPS BY THEME". This move was directed toward deepening the members' understanding and knowledge regarding the specific themes however, the primary aim of promoting goodwill remains the thrust of the programme. Among the few themes

were science and technology, education, agriculture, public service, social welfare, economics, and ASEAN component.. Every year, JICA Office conducted thorough evaluation of the programme together with the after-care mission group consisting of selected and highly qualified Japanese delegates who came to the Philippines for such purpose only. They do comprehensive analysis of the benefits the participants and their country get out of the friendship programme through exchanging of ideas in the form of discussions, sharing and even open forum. Recommendations were then being submitted by the "After-Care-Mission" group to JICA.

In 1991-1993, JICA was headed by Mr. Masataka Iijima . He was succeeded by Mr. Akihiko Hashimoto in 1993-1996. It was during the term of Mr. Hashimoto when the Philippine-ASEAN-Japan Friendship Association for the 21st Century (PAJAF-21) got involved in the screening process. Also, the following were just some of the government institutions that were tapped and represented: National Economic Development Authority, Department of Agrarian Reform, Provincial Hospitals, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippine General Hospital, Sangguniang Kabataan and Provincial Farmers' Association. Subsequently, specific themes were chosen to make the programme more significant and relevant to the needs of the Philippine society. As of December 1997, there are around two thousand one hundred (2,100) participants of the programme since 1984.

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Philippine-ASEAN-Japan Friendship Association for the 21 st Century (PAJAF-21) is the organization of former participants of the Friendship Programme. It was formed with the intention of bracing up and consolidating the bond between all members and their counterparts. Their by-laws were drafted in 1988 through the efforts of a core group headed by Miss Elizabeth Garcia.

Somewhere along those lost years, these leaders left and a new core group was formed under Miss Mary Louise Catherine S. Saldana. She headed the group in 1991-1992. Changes took place and the former goal of simply creating linkages among its members was rectified. PAJAJFA-21 formed its VISION and COMMITMENT for a better Philippines towards the 21 st Century.

The term 1991-1992 paved the way for PAJAJFA- 21 's organization restructuring and its deep involvement in the ASEAN-Japan network, the AJAJFA-21. *Unity and stability* were its main objectives in order to institutionalize procedures, rules and systems, make the constitution more relevant and sound a call towards active participation from its members.

The following are the members of the Executive Committee of PAJAJFA-21, 1991-1992

President:	Ms. Mary Louise Catherine S. Saldana
Vice-President:	Mr. Vinci R. Villasenor
Treasurer:	Ms. Evangelina G. Lawas
Secretary:	Ms. Karen B. Vistan
PRO:	Mr. Dennis del Rosario

Board of Directors:

Alain Maulion	Papum Garcia
Linda Catan	Elizabeth Garcia
Jess Reyes	Gary Auxillian
Johnny Tan	Fidel Guidote
Mario Villaverde	Cristy Trinidad
Jun Rosario	Ray Reyes
Ariel Araza	

That term had the following accomplishments:

- * Establishment of working committees
- * Participation of the Philippines in the AJAFA-21 Regional Youth Camp in Indonesia
- * Dialogues between the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and JICA for the improvement of the Friendship Programme
- * Submission of a working proposal to DFA, NorthEast Asia Division for the improvement of the programme
- * Approval of all proposals leading to committed PAJFA involvement in pre-departure and post-evaluation of the participants to the friendship programme
- * Participation of the Philippines in the AJAFA-21 art and photograph exhibit sponsored by Brunei Darussalam
- * Extension of donations raised for Mt. Pinatubo victims
- * Participation of the Philippines in the annual Executive Council Meeting of AJAFA held in Pattaya, Thailand
- * Conduct of After-Care Mission from Japan in 1991-1992
- * Revision and summary of amendments to the original constitution to make it more relevant and more democratic
- * Publication of the first comprehensive directory of all PAJFA -21 members.
- * Implementation of the Philippine Homestay Program

In 1992, an ad-hoc committee was created to continue the leadership of the society. Legal issues had to be settled prior to any election since the society was not registered in the Securities

and Exchange Commission (SEC) yet. In later part of that year, a new set of National Officers and members of the Board of Trustees was elected after the registration of the PAJFA-21 with the Securities and Exchange Commission and implementation of its revised constitution and by-laws . The following were the officers , 1992-1996:

President:	Ms. Evangelina G. Lawas
Vice-President for External Affairs:	Atty. Poncevic M. Ceballos
Vice-President for Internal Affairs:	Atty. Anne Marie Logarta
Secretary :	Ms. Jocelyn S. Alegre
Asst. Secretary:	Ms. Winnie Marie A. dela Rosa
Treasurer:	Mr. Linus Juan A. Chavez
Internal Auditor:	Ms. Nonalyn L. Vengco
Public Relations Officer:	Dr. Anna Marie Joy S. de Leon

Other Members of the Board of Trustees:

Mr. Edilberto C. Infante	Dr. Filipinas S. Ricamora-Rojo
Dr. Adriana F. Lasam	Mr. Lorenzo N. Tallorin
Ms. Ma. Nympha C. Mandagan	Ms. Ma. Karina B. Vistan
Ms. Eunice Mareth C. Querol	

The term of this new set of officers gave birth to the following accomplishments:

Internal Projects

1. Team-building and planning workshop. This activity was held in Baguio City, May 15-16, 1992. Participants were the newly elected members of the Board of Trustees to

develop cohesive working relationship among themselves and to map out plans for the year. Such planning workshop has become an annual activity to provide directions for the organization.

2. Close coordination with Department of Foreign Affairs, Japan International Cooperation (JICA) , Japan Embassy and other government and non-government agencies to establish networking and collaborative working relationship with them. This led to the birth of the following:
 - a. Pre-screening committee of applicants to the Friendship Programme.
 - b. Establishment of PAJAJFA-21 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SCREENING COMMITTEE. Participating members include Cebu, Davao, and Bulacan. The results are recommendatory and are subject for the final approval by the DFA and JICA.
 - c. Consultation and dialogue with DFA on how to improve the Friendship Programme in its third phase (1994-1998). A Position Paper to the JICA Evaluation Team and DFA was presented last March 1, 1994. As a result, the Friendship Programme was extended for another five years.
 - d. Participation in the planning and implementation of the After Care Mission which is a follow-up team sent by JICA to the Philippines to evaluate past participants of the Friendship Programme and recommend measures for improvement of the said Programme.
 - e. Participation in some of the activities of JICA and PHILJAJFA such as annual Sports Tournament and other social events.

- f. Recognition of PAJAF-21 by JICA, Japan Embassy, DFA and other agencies as co-partner for human resource development.
3. Socio-Civic activities were conducted to make the existence of PAJAF-21 relevant and responsive to the needs of the less fortunate Filipinos.
 - a. Medical and Relief Missions to disaster-affected areas like Mt. Pinatubo in Pampanga and Mt. Mayon in Bicol and Marillac Hills . Medical doctors from PAJAF-21 and other volunteers were tapped for this project.
 - b. "Paint-A-Can ,Clean-A-Town" On the Spot Painting Contest was launched in March 11, 1995 at Makati City. This environment-friendly project involved out-of-school youth and streetchildren. Participants gave their artistic touch by using drums (as garbage receptacles) as their medium instead of canvass. Winners were awarded medals and cash prizes. Painted cans were distributed to several schools in Makati. It was the target at that time to cover all of the seventeen (17) cities and municipalities in Metro Manila.
 - c. "1-4-3, Plant- A- Tree Project" was in support of the "Clean and Green Projects" of the First Lady Amelita Ramos. Trees were planted in the Cities of Mandaluyong and Muntinlupa in coordination with Mayor Benjamin Abalos of Mandaluyong and Congressman Manny Villar of Las Pinas-Muntinlupa , and Mayor Ignacio Bunye of Muntinlupa. Local women and youth leaders were likewise involved in this project
 - d. Legal Clinic was held on December 7, 1995 at Marillac Hills, a training and rehabilitation center for girls aged seventeen (17) and below who were victims of

sexual abuse (rape and incest), sexual exploitation and youth offenders. Lectures were given to enlighten victims and prepare them psychologically and morally for the court trials.

- c. "Christmas Treat for Marillac Hills Youth" replaced the annual PAJAF A-21 Christmas Party to give way to gift-giving and merrymaking among the less fortunate children.
4. Grand Meeting of members was held in June 19, 1993 in preparation for the Fourth Youth Forum with the Philippines as host.
5. Third PAJAF A Grand Reunion was held simultaneously with the Closing Ceremony of the Fourth Youth Forum in November 17, 1993 . This was an occasion for the local members to interact with international delegates.
6. Establishment of PAJAF A Regional Chapters to encourage active involvement of members in the sub-urban areas and to unite all members through nationwide networking.
7. Printing of "KAIBIGAN-21" which is the official PAJAF A-21 newsletter. Its publication and distribution nationwide facilitated dissemination of the association's projects and activities .
8. Printing of identification cards for registered/active members.
9. Printing of an updated Directory covering participants from 1984-1993.
10. Courtesy call with President Fidel V. Ramos in December 15, 1994 which paved the way in getting government support to PAJAF A-21's socio-civic projects.

External Projects

1. ASEAN-JAPAN Related Projects. In order to maintain and strengthen the friendship and close link with Japan and other ASEAN countries, the group initiated various international-related projects such as:
 - a. Fourth ASEAN-Japan Regional Youth Forum held in Manila, Philippines in November 12 to 17, 1993. This was participated by seventy (70) delegates from other countries with the theme: "ASEAN YOUTH AS MANAGERS OF THE ECONOMY AND THE ENVIRONMENT." The YOUTH FORUM is an annual activity sponsored by different ASEAN countries on a rotation basis as a venue for further interaction with the past participants .
 - b. The First Philippine-Singapore Student Exchange Programme was held in September 3 to 9, 1993 under the leadership of Dr. Anna Marie Joy S. de Leon and Mr. Anbu Ganesh . The idea of involving the sons, daughters, and immediate relatives of PAJafa members in an event similar to the Friendship Programme came about when Mr. Christopher Chan visited the Philippines in 1993 for the AJafa book. The participants are the young students of today but the future leaders of tomorrow . The programme aims to inculcate in the minds of the youth the need to understand each other and unite as Filipinos and as Asians.
 - c. Participation to the AJafa Executive Council which started in 1991. The ASEAN country members take turns in hosting this meeting and the top two officials of each association meet to discuss policies, guidelines and directions of the group for the year to come. These are discussed, deliberated and presented to the council for approval and implementation.

- d. "Sama-Sama in the Philippines" or Friendship Mission to the Philippines by Malaysian and Indonesian delegates visited the Philippines and interacted with Filipino counterparts
- e. Presentation of recognition to JICA officials who supported PAJFA in attaining its goals.

In 1996, during the Annual Grand Reunion, an election took place. The following members are presently in office:

President:	Mrs. Evangelina G. Lawas
Vice-President for External Affairs:	Dr. Anna Marie Joy S. De Leon
Vice-President for Internal Affairs:	Mr. John Y. Atilano
Secretary:	Ms. Jackie I. Ortiz
Asst. Secretary:	Ms. Maritess A. Hipolito
Treasurer:	Ms. Anne Coronado
Auditor:	Ms. Eva M. Guevara
PRO	Ms. Gladys C. Sta. Rita

Member of the Board of Trustees: Mr. Edilberto C. Infante

The present administration is geared towards continuing all the relevant projects of the past officials. Some of the projects implemented were as follows:

1. Medical Mission held in Bulacan last September 20, 1997
2. Third Philippine-Malaysia Student Exchange Program in October 27-November 2, 1997.
3. Special Showing of the "Great Walls of China" as fund-raising activity.

4. Handling of the Pre-departure Orientation Seminar together with the conduct of group dynamic activities for the delegates.
5. Hosting of JICA AFTER CARE MISSION
6. Christmas carolling last December, 1997.
7. Conduct of "PAPASKO SA PASLIT NG PAJAJA" or gift-giving wherein the recipients were the sick children confined at the Philippine General Hospital and the street children of Makati City.
8. Some social activities like the Christmas party, gathering at the videoke in Makati and at Ka Freddie's in Tagaytay to strengthen the bond among PAJAJA members.
9. Fund raising activities like ballroom dancing , the proceeds of which helped subsidize other socio- civic programs like free medical clinic.
10. Publication of the 3rd newsletter (Kaibigan-21), and the Friendship Programme brochure as part of the information drive.

Although the PAJAJA-21 has been in its restructured age for five years now, it still continues to face some problems just like any organized body. It is now directed to improve the networking among its members and counterpart bodies in the ASEAN neighborhood. A comprehensive evaluation of the programme and the alumni association is indeed consequential to the betterment of the whole scheme. It is even more significant if the constituents themselves get involved in the assessment either as subjects or analyzers.



Figure 1 : After-Care Mission of January, 1998



Figure 2 : After-Care Mission of February, 1996



Figure 3 : Courtesy Call to President Fidel V. Ramos, Dec. 1994



Figure 4 : Executive Council Meeting in Laguna, January 12-15, 1996

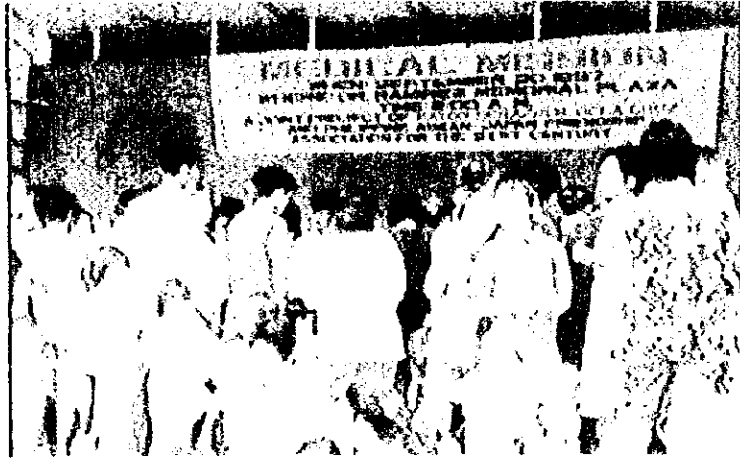


Figure 5 : Medical Mission in Bulacan, Sept. 1997



Figure 6 : Christmas Caroling



Figure 7 : Tree Planting Project at Marillac Hills, October 28, 1995



Figure 8 : Christmas program and gift-giving for children in depressed communities, December, 1997

B. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The trend toward improving any existing policy or implementing a better programme creates the need for an organized body to have a sound information base. Increased complexity means that there are more variables to consider. Each of these factors demands that the head has more and better information upon which to base decisions. In this particular research, an evaluation of the Friendship Programme was conducted by JICA and PAJAF-21 for the improvement of the quality of the Programme for the coming 21st century. It was evaluated in terms of impact, program content and benefits among others involving the ex-participants of the said programme. This study is a descriptive retrospective analysis to improve the programme as a whole from the screening process to the overall impact of the project after participation by the delegate.

C. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The study aims :

- (1) To evaluate achievements and impacts of the Youth Invitation Program
- (2) To make suggestions for the program content
- (3) To make suggestions for the alumni activities and JICA's support system
- (4) To guide the general direction of the program in the future.

METHODOLOGY

A. SAMPLING DESIGN

The sample population consisted of one thousand two hundred (1,200) ex-participants of the programme from 1984-1997. Non-random non-probability selection was used. Purposive judgment and quota sampling were utilized to ensure equal representation from all categories/divisions of the delegates. The logic behind using this was because certain relevant characteristics particularly the category, place of origin, year of participation, and present residence were important. Subjects living outside the Philippines, those who are already dead, and without proper addresses were excluded from the study. Sampling frame was the national directory of ex-participants of the programme given by JICA and from the PAJAF A-21 directory.

B. RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design was exploratory . The method of data collection was through a survey. A questionnaire was sent to the target population for completion. Descriptive analysis of the responses to the survey questions were done.

C. DATA COLLECTION /DATA ANALYSIS

Questionnaires given by JICA were sent by mail to the subjects by PAJAF A-21. Official postal agents were JRS and Philippine Postal Office. Letters were sent along with pre-paid postal envelopes for mailing back to PAJAF A-21 Secretariat Office two weeks later. Results were collated and all questions were tabulated, graphed and some analyzed statistically as needed. Mailing was done last January 16, 1998 soon after the budget from JICA was released on January 15, 1998.

D. LIMITATIONS

Because of limited budget, only 1,200 out of 2,100 members were included in the sample population. For the same reason, qualitative evaluation through small group discussions and interviews were eliminated. Final analysis was based only on the returned answered questionnaires which may not be statistically significant. Review and comparison of results of this study with those reported and documented by other Japanese experts were not done because of confidentiality. Recommendations made were based on data gathered from the questionnaires mailed back to PAJAFSA only. Some respondents submitted back the forms later than the set deadline making the final tabulation quite difficult and thus resorting to its exclusion. Out of 1,200 set of questionnaires sent to members, only 229 were sent back to PAJAFSA.

RESULTS OF THE STUDY

PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS:

Out of a total of 1,200 questionnaires mailed to past participants of the Friendship Programme all over the Philippines, 229 responded to the survey or 19 % of the target respondents. The categories of the respondents as previous participants are shown in Table 1. Their median age is 34 years old (Table 2) and the females comprise almost 60% of them (Table 3). One hundred seventy-nine questionnaires were returned because of wrong address.

Table 1 : Distribution of Respondents by Category

Categories of Respondents	Number
Agriculture -ASEAN	6
Agriculture-Single	31
Civil Servants-ASEAN	6
Economy-ASEAN	1
Economy-Single	52
Education-ASEAN	4
Education-Single	49
Environmental Protection-ASEAN	5
Health and Medical-ASEAN	3
Press-ASEAN	1
Public Administration-ASEAN	3
Social Development-ASEAN	26
Social Development-Single	2
Student-Single	17
Youth Leader-Single	23
Total	229

Table 2 : Number of Respondents According to Age

Age In years	Number	Percent
20 to 24	13	5.9%
25 to 29	41	18.7%
30 to 34	72	32.9%
35 to 39	73	33.3%
40 to 44	16	7.3%
45 to 49	3	1.4%
50 to 54	1	0.5%
Total	219	100.0%

Table 3 : Number of Respondents According to Sex

Sex	Number	Percent
Female	137	59.8
Male	92	40.2
Total	229	100

Table 4 : Number of Respondents According to Year Participated

Year Participated	Number	Percent
1984	2	0.9%
1985	11	4.8%
1986	9	3.9%
1987	9	3.9%
1988	6	2.6%
1989	7	3.1%
1990	11	4.8%
1991	7	3.1%
1992	15	6.6%
1993	13	5.7%
1994	26	11.4%
1995	19	8.3%
1996	50	21.8%
1997	44	19.2%
Total	229	100.0%

Tables 1 and 4 show that there are categories of participants and year participated that responded more than the others. Because of this and in order to derive representative answers to the questions, the analysis did not group the answers according to the categories of respondents. Rather, their responses were treated as a whole. It can be observed that there are more respondents from the recent batches as compared to earlier batches in 1984 up to 1991. This can be attributed to the fact that the participants who belong to these years might have transferred residences or change work places.

ON THE SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

Many of the past participants came to know about the ASEAN-Japan Friendship Programme either from previous participants or the alumni association (Table 5). This mode of information dissemination which is essentially by "word of mouth", seem to be a significant determinant. This modality of communication can have its disadvantages. First and foremost, this may indicate the presence of barriers for wider dissemination and this may result to other qualified participants not being able to apply.

On the other hand, the "word of mouth" mode of information dissemination may indicate that this method is the best option for others to appreciate the value of the program; thus, pushing them to apply themselves.

Table 5 : On Source of Information

Question No. 1 : How did you learn about the program?		
ANSWERS	No.	Percent
1. From ex-participants or alumni association	92	40.2
2. From the workplace	84	36.7
3. From government offices	80	34.9
4. Through the press	20	8.7
5. From JICA Representative Office	19	8.3
6. NEDA	5	2.2
7. University	5	2.2
8. Friend	4	1.7
9. Others	13	5.7
TOTAL RESPONDENTS	229	

ON THE SELECTION PROCESS OF THE PARTICIPANTS:

Table 6: Selection Process of Participants

Question No. 2: What do you think about the selection process of the participants?		
ANSWERS	Number	Percent
1. Fair	183	83.2%
2. Not fair	12	5.5%
3. Do not know	25	11.4%
Total	220	100%

Eighty three percent or 183 of the respondents believe that the selection process made was fair (Table 6) and almost all the respondents, participated in the Programme for the following reasons: 1) they are interested in international exchange programs; 2) to improve their professional knowledge and 3) to visit Japan. (Table 7).

Interest in the International Exchange Programme reflects the participant's desire to broaden their horizon in terms of discovering and exploring other cultures and traditions and at

the same time, share their own culture and practices with the rest of the world. This exchange, as presently being observed, has resulted to mutual understanding and cooperation among nations of different beliefs and culture. On the other hand, improving one's professional knowledge contribute to the development of a nation because the more educated, well-trained and skilled people a nation has, the better for its growth and development. The other reason given, which is to visit Japan is obviously one of the major reasons for joining the Programme (Table 7)..

Table 7: On the Reason for Participating in the Programme

Question No. 3: Why did you participate in the programme?								
ANSWERS	Agree		Partly Agree		Disagree		No Answer	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1 Interested in international exchange programs	220	18.8	4	1.67				
2. To improve my professional knowledge	202	17.2	17	7.08	3	2.27	1	1.61
3. To visit Japan	200	17.1	21	8.75	1	0.76	0	0
4. To make friends with someone from Japan	199	17	19	7.92	0	0	2	3.23
5. To make friends with someone from our own country or region	154	13.1	49	20.4	12	9.09	5	8.06
6. To win honor	56	4.78	70	29.2	53	40.2	20	32.3
7. Advice by my organization or agency	55	4.69	60	25	63	47.7	34	54.8
8. To learn/experience Japan's culture, values, education & people	25	2.13	0	0				
9. To promote mutual friendship	12	1.02	0	0				
10. For cultural exchange	8	0.68	0	0				
11. For professional/personal growth	8	0.68	0	0				
12. To promote own country	5	0.43	0	0				
13. To gain insights on Japan's being the "Giant Economic Of The World"	5	0.43	0	0				
14. To take the opportunity	5	0.43	0	0				
15. Others	18	1.54	0	0				
Total	1172	100	240	100	132	100	62	100

ON THE BENEFIT DERIVED FROM THE PROGRAMME:

Table 8: On the Benefit Derived from the Programme

Question No. 4: How did you benefit from the programme?								
ANSWERS	Agree		Partly Agree		Disagree		No Answer	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1. Was able to learn about the society of Japan	211	12	13	3.8	0	0	0	0
2. Gained professional knowledge in my field	148	8.2	68	20	4	12	4	17
3. Was able to promote mutual understanding with Japanese	208	11	15	4.3	0	0	0	0
4. Was able to deepen interest in international issues	189	10	30	8.7	2	5.9	1	4.3
5. Developed pride for my own country	187	10	28	8.1	3	8.8	3	13
6. Was able to understand the importance of international exchange	211	12	11	3.2	2	5.9	0	0
7. It has changed my way of thinking	153	8.4	61	18	6	18	3	13
8. Was able to learn how to communicate with people from a different culture	195	11	25	7.2	1	2.9	1	4.3
9. Was able to behave the traits of a good leader/follower/subordinate	180	9.9	33	9.5	3	8.8	2	8.7
10. Helped me in the advancement of my career	134	7.4	62	18	13	38	9	39
Total	1816	100	346	100	34	100	23	100

In terms of the benefit the participants derived from the programme, four answers got the highest scores, namely: 1) was able to learn about the society of Japan; 2) was able to understand the importance of international exchange and 3) was able to promote mutual understanding with Japanese and 4) was able to communicate with people from a different culture. These answers indicate that the objectives of the ASEAN-Japan Friendship Programme were fully achieved in the sense that mutual understanding and friendship were concretely manifested. The benefits that were derived from the Programme were congruent to the reasons for joining the Programme as

indicated above. The money spent, the efforts that went into planning and implementation of the Friendship Programme and all the other diplomatic negotiations that were done are worth considering the benefits that were derived from the Programme.

ON THE ACTIVITIES MOST BENEFICIAL TO THE PARTICIPANTS:

Table 9: On the Activities Most Beneficial to the Participants

Question No. 5: What kind of activities in the programme did you find most beneficial?								
ANSWERS	Rank 1		Rank 2		Rank 3		SUM	%
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
1. Lectures in Japan	29	48.3	17	28.3	14	23.3	60	100
2. Lectures on my professional field	14	38.9	13	36.1	9	25	36	100
3. Japanese Language lessons	10	37	6	22.2	11	40.7	27	100
4. Visits related to my professional field	34	35.1	40	41.2	23	23.7	97	100
5. Observation Tour to understand Japan	81	45.5	57	32	40	22.5	178	100
6. In-House Seminars with Japanese Youths	45	31.5	57	39.9	41	28.7	143	100
7. Homestay	33	21.3	38	24.5	84	54.2	155	100

The respondents find that the Observation Tours aimed to understand Japan as the most beneficial and was given rank no. 1 because "first hand" experience is the best way of learning and appreciating other culture. It is only through direct interaction with other people that one would be able to better understand each other. Further, Observation Tour is a non-threatening and very practical way of learning about the people and its environment. Likewise, In-House Seminars got rank number 2 because the participants were able to mingle with people of their same age and interest in a very light setting and atmosphere, and such interaction led to knowing each other better, thus this experience created more friends for the participants. The third rank was given to homestay, again, for the reason that the Homestay was a very good opportunity for

the participants to observe how a Japanese family lives and relate to one another and at the same time, how the participant would be able to communicate with people of a different culture. It has facilitated in knowing and admiring the Japanese people better.

ON THE CHANGE OF IMPRESSION AFTER PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAMME:

Table 10: On the Change of Impression After Participating In the Programme

Question No. 6: How did your impression of Japan change after participating In this programme?		
ANSWERS	Number	Percent
1. Much better	173	79.0%
2. Better	39	17.8%
3. Worse	1	0.5%
4. No Change	5	2.3%
5. Don't Know	1	0.5%
Total	219	100.0%
In what way did you change your impression?		
ANSWERS	Number	Percent
1. Corrected mis-impressions and appreciated Japanese character, virtues, beliefs	147	77.8%
2. Admired Japan's effort in developing their country	12	6.3%
3. Discovered Japanese modernity/being Westernized	6	3.2%
4. Appreciated Japanese cosmopolitan outlook & yet faithful to its culture, tradition & environment	6	3.2%
5. Japan's being much worthwhile to see than just reading about it	4	2.1%
6. Others	14	7.4%
Total	189	100.0%

It is very impressive to note that 79% of the respondents had much better impression of Japan and its people after participating in the programme by way of correcting the mis-

impressions and appreciate the Japanese character of honesty and industriousness; virtues and beliefs. (Table 9 and 10). The means by which the participants were exposed to Japan and its people were very effective in the sense that the participants were able to interact, closely observe and later on learn to find meaning in the way they were relating with the Japanese people and its environment. This finding somehow validated, that most Filipinos have bad impressions of Japan and its people before they went to Japan. The very good treatment and reception accorded to them coupled with the positive traits they have observed from the Japanese people, has significantly erased the bad impression they had before going to Japan. The Friendship Programme's objective of creating mutual understanding and friendship between and among the ASEAN countries and Japan has been successfully achieved as explicitly expressed in the result of the study.

ON BEING IN TOUCH WITH PEOPLE THEY HAVE MET IN THE PROGRAMME:

One of the significant and effective measures by which one can gauge whether a Programme has been successful or not is when said Programme has tremendously influenced the behavior, attitude and thinking of a person. Such change of impression is shown in the number of past participants who are still in touch with people who have made a difference in their lives or have been important to them like other members of the Alumni Association, their host families and people whom they have come across in the In-House Seminars. This is reflective on the kind of friendly relations that have been established and nurtured during and after the trip to Japan. The sustenance and continuation of the friendship up to this moment is something unmeasurable and cannot be replaced by any other thing on earth. (Table 11)

Table 11: On Being in Touch with People they have met in the Programme

Question No. 7: Are you still in touch with the people you met in the program?		
ANSWERS	Number	Percent
1. No	19	8.8%
2. Yes	196	91.2%
Total	215	100.0%
What kind of people do you still in touch?		
ANSWERS	Number	Percent
1. Alumni	187	28.7%
2. Family	132	20.3%
3. Seminar	126	19.4%
4. Visit	70	10.8%
5. Country	58	8.9%
6. Staff	78	12.0%
Total	651	100.0%

ON WHAT SHOULD BE GIVEN MORE EMPHASIS IN THE PROGRAMME:

Table 12: On What Should be Given more Emphasis

Question No. 8: Which do you think should be given more emphasis in the programme?		
ANSWERS	Number	Percent
a. Promoting international exchange	105	55.6
b. Providing professional knowledge in the participant's field	84	44.4
TOTAL	189	100
 		
a. Maintaining the current balance of the programs in Tokyo and local areas in Japan	87	46.3
b. Increasing the programs in local areas and regional cities in Japan	101	53.7
TOTAL	188	100

The answers given are consistent to the earlier concerns we have discussed above. Promoting international exchange and increasing the programs in local areas and regional cities in Japan got the higher preferences. This only shows that the participants' interest is more of a "hands-on" type

of learning thru the international exchange and exploring the local areas of Japan, rather than a formal way of learning. (Table 12)

Such preferences reflects the attitude of the younger generation to be more adventurous and exploratory in their search for more meaning and answers in their struggle for a better Philippines and a better world.

ON RECEIVING "DEAR FRIENDS"

Table 13: On Receiving "Dear Friends"

Question No. 9: Do you receive "Dear Friends" magazine twice a year?		
ANSWERS	Number	Percent
1. Yes	103	46.8%
2. No	117	53.2%
Total	220	100.0%
What kind of articles do you think "Dear Friends" should include?		
ANSWERS	Number	Percent
1. Articles related to ex-participants	23	30.7%
2. Updates of the Friendship Programme	6	8.0%
3. Japanese cultures, lifestyle & technology	6	8.0%
4. Features related to Host Families	5	6.7%
5. Updates on the International Exchange Programme	4	5.3%
6. Open letters of friendship among participants	4	5.3%
7. Home-Stay experiences	4	5.3%
8. Development & research technology	3	4.0%
9. Regular column for 6-ASEAN countries	2	2.7%
10. Issues regarding different fields	2	2.7%
11. Implementation of knowledge gained in the program	2	2.7%
12. Economic & social issue	2	2.7%
13. ASEAN Japan's development programs, tourism, cultural & environmental undertaking	2	2.7%
14. Others	10	13.3%
Total	75	100.0%

Most of the respondents are not receiving "Dear Friends" twice a year. This could be attributed to the fact that most of the respondents to this research study came from 1996 and 1997 batches and might not have received their copies yet. Added to this, most of the respondents have changed their addresses and were only contacted through the efforts of the private courier company that was hired by this research study. They tried to reach them in two or more addresses as indicated in their bio-data.

For those who have received their copies twice a year, they are interested to include articles related to the ex-participants which is also indicative of their desire to know what has been happening with their friends from Japan and in the ASEAN region. (Table 13). Again, this reflects that a better networking and communication system must be done both in the domestic and international front because for friendship and understanding to flourish, an effective communication system must be in place.

ON THE PARTICIPATION IN THE ALUMNI ACTIVITIES:

It is sad to note that half of the respondents (120) are not participating in the alumni activities because they don't live in the city and most of them are busy. The participants in the Philippines are being selected from the 16 Regions of the country which are geographically segregated by seas, land and mountains. For those past participants who don't live in the city, the cost of transportation and communication are very expensive, hence would not be able to be actively involved in the Alumni activities. Further, since most of the past participants are professionals, they are too busy attending to their job requirements as well as family responsibilities specially if they are the bread winners. (Table 14). These findings also tell us

that for a Regional Chapter to be activated, seed fund must be available for establishing a core group that would initiate and drum up membership at the Regional level by means of organizing themselves and coming up with a complete Directory of Past Participants at their level. Initial meetings and contacts is essential for the Regional Chapters to be established .

Table 14: On the Participation in the Alumni Activities

Question No.10: Are you participating in the Alumni activities of the program in your country?		
ANSWERS	Number	Percent
1. Yes, actively	28	12.8%
2. Yes, sometimes	70	32.1%
3. No	120	55.0%
If No, Why?:		
ANSWERS	Number	Percent
1. I am too busy	40	18.2%
2. I do not live in the capital city	61	27.7%
3. There is no information about the Alumni Association	30	13.6%
4. The activities of the Alumni Association are not interesting	6	2.7%
5. The Alumni Association is closed to new participants	3	1.4%
6. Delayed information/Irregular communication	29	13.2%
7. Schedule's Conflicts	17	7.7%
8. New participants	13	5.9%
9. Financial constraints due to the far venue/location	12	5.5%
10. Out of the Country	2	0.9%
11. Others	7	3.2%
Total	220	100.0%

Another important factor to consider is - majority of the respondents are from the 1996 and 1997 batches and has not yet been actively involved in the Alumni Association's projects and activities, but they have indicated their intention to be active this year.

ON THE ALUMNI ACTIVITIES THEY ARE FAMILIAR WITH/PARTICIPATED:

Table 15: On the Alumni Activities they are familiar with/participated

10-A What past/regular activities of PAJAFSA-21 are you familiar with or have you participated?		
ANSWERS	Number	Percent
1. Medical Mission	32	8.4%
2. Tree-Planting	30	7.9%
3. Student-Exchange Programme	33	8.7%
4. Youth Forum	22	5.8%
5. Pre-Departure Orientation	94	24.8%
6. Grand Reunion	77	20.3%
7. Printing and Distribution of newsletter	18	4.7%
8. Reception of "After Care Mission" or Japanese visitors	28	7.4%
9. Charity Projects	21	5.5%
10. Meetings	7	1.8%
11. Regional reunions	4	1.1%
12. Others	13	3.4%
Total	379	100.0%

Although, most of the respondents are not participating in the Alumni activities, they are familiar with the activities of the Alumni Association specially the Pre-Departure Orientation and Grand Reunion which the Association is actively involved. There's a need to re-activate/re-organize the Regional Chapters since most of the past participants are distributed in the different Regions of the country in order to get more active participation from them. It is very difficult for them to always come to Manila to participate in the various projects being implemented by the national officers. The printing and distribution of the newsletter, "KAIBIGAN-21" must be done at least twice a year to keep them abreast of what is going on at the national level and for them to have a venue for sharing what they are doing at the Regional Chapters. This communication

system will somehow update them on the recent developments/activities of the alumni association even though they cannot attend the Grand Reunion regularly.

ON WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SHOULD HAVE IN THE FUTURE:

Table 16: On What Kind of Activities the Alumni Association Should have in the Future

Question No.11: What kind of activities do you think the Alumni Associations should have in the future?																	
ANSWERS	Rank 1		Rank 2		Rank 3		Rank 4		Rank 5		Rank 6		Rank 7		Rank 8		SUM
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
1. Activities to establish a network among the members	97	53	13	7	0	0	16	9	15	8	16	9	20	11	6	3	183
2. Orientations for new participants of the programme	17	11	12	8	10	7	13	8	12	8	9	6	21	14	59	39	153
3. International Exchange activity with Japan	47	24	36	19	26	13	23	12	24	12	21	11	14	7	3	2	194
4. International Exchange activity with other Alumni Associations in ASEAN	35	19	25	13	30	16	24	13	26	14	19	10	16	9	13	7	188
5. Activities for the development of our country	53	28	40	21	21	11	28	15	30	16	12	6	4	2	2	1	190
6. Activities for world peace	27	16	20	12	23	14	24	15	19	12	19	12	15	9	18	11	165
7. Activities for environmental issues	29	16	30	16	37	20	26	14	17	9	16	9	25	13	7	4	187
8. Activities to support people who need help	22	14	15	9	23	14	21	13	18	11	26	16	16	10	19	12	160
9. Activation of Regional chapters	12																
10. Activities concerning youth development of Asian countries	11																
11. Formulation of funds & projects	4																
12. Activities concerning Japanese counterparts & for them to visit the Phils.	4																

13. Activities for Health & Education (Scholarship grant)	3								
14. Waste management disposal	2								
15. Linkage to National members	2								
16. Coordination with the Regional chapters	2								
17. Coordination to leading government agencies/organizations	2								
18. Another chance in joining the program	2								
19. Others	7								
Total	51								

The preferences given higher scores by the respondents are indicative of their earnest desire to continue communicating with the other past participants of the Programme and more international exchange activity with Japan. At the same time, they are concerned with activities for the development of their country. Others are also anxious to have programs which are environment related issues.

ON THE EXPECTATION FROM JICA IN SUPPORTING THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The respondents are unanimous in stating that JICA continue its present support system as well as the financial assistance in order to enable the Alumni in its pursuit of continuous linkage with the past participants of the Philippines and other ASEAN countries and Japan and implementation of various projects for the alumnus and others. Provision of open and updated information and communication can only be possible if the newsletter of the different alumni associations and "Dear Friends" will still be in circulation. In the same breath, strengthening of

relationship with the Alumni Association can only be realized if there's continuous communication and interaction such as in the Grand Reunion, Youth Forum and Executive Council Meetings and other venue for interactions, like the student-exchange programme.

Table 17: On the Expectation from JICA in Supporting the Alumni Association

Question No.12: What do you expect from JICA in supporting the Alumni Association?		
ANSWERS	Number	Percent
1. Continue support & financial assistance	116	62.4%
2. Provide open/updated information & communication	25	13.4%
3. Continue/Follow-up Friendship Programme	11	5.9%
4. Strengthen relationship with the Alumni Association	10	5.4%
5. Provide a Grand Reunion in Japan	6	3.2%
6. Continue the International Exchange	4	2.2%
7. Sponsor scholarship program	3	1.6%
8. Others	11	5.9%
Total	186	100.0%

ON THE IDEAS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMME:

What is glaring in the suggestions and ideas given by the respondents is the provision of a follow-up program for the past participants. This is particularly important because in any group or association, the interest usually wanes and may totally disappear if there's no sustaining activity to maintain the interest and enthusiasm of all members. This will somehow keep the group going, intact, alive and consistently communicating with one another. Other answers given are, namely: provision of updated information/communication which is similar to the support they expect to be given by JICA. Equally given importance are: the provision of Japan cultural studies, extension of the Friendship Programme and extension of the duration of the Programme in Japan. These suggestions all leads to the conclusion that the Friendship Programme is still in

demand but for how long and up to when the Japan Government can extend it is another question considering the present economic crisis we are all experiencing.

Table 18: Ideas for Future Programme

Question No.13: Please give your suggestions or ideas for future programs.		
ANSWERS	Number	Percent
1. Provide a follow-up program	21	12.7%
2. Provide updated information/ communication	16	9.6%
3. Provide Japan cultural studies	13	7.8%
4. Extend the Friendship Programme	13	7.8%
5. Elongate duration of program	13	7.8%
6. Broadbase Participation	12	7.2%
7. Maximize time on enhancing field of profession	11	6.6%
8. Support different fields of activities	7	4.2%
9. Provide an equitable participation	7	4.2%
10. Motivate Alumni members to be active	7	4.2%
11. Host Japanese visit here	7	4.2%
12. Have a reunion in Japan	7	4.2%
13. Continue present activities and programs	7	4.2%
14. Provide a regional tour for PAJAFAs members	4	2.4%
15. Others	21	12.7%
Total	166	100.0%

DISCUSSION ON THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMME

A. International Understanding and Promoting Friendship between ASEAN and Japan:

Since the Friendship Programme has been in existence for the last fourteen (14) years, many achievements have already taken place as far as development of international understanding and promoting friendship between ASEAN countries and Japan. Foremost and very important is the establishment of friendly relations as can be observed through the implementation of the following projects: the Homestay Programme for the members of the Japanese "After Care Mission" in our Filipino homes as well as in other ASEAN countries, has paved the way for better understanding and appreciation of each other's culture. Filipinos and other ASEAN countries has very good impressions of the Japanese and vice versa. The uniqueness and differences of one culture from the other has significantly been understood and appreciated. Secondly, the hosting of other projects like the accommodation of the winners in the High School Essay Writing Contest in Japan is an opportunity for the children and other family members of the past participants to experience interacting with the Japanese students. Friendship was not only developed among the older ones but as well as the younger generation. Thirdly, almost all ASEAN countries have established ties with the different Prefectures for the Exchange Programme not only for the past participants but the high school students from Japan and other ASEAN countries.

Our Homestay families and JICA coordinators and the past participants have continuously been communicating with one another. Some have already been considered part of their

respective families like being Godmother/Godfather of their sons and daughters in baptism and weddings. In some cases, their Japanese friends have already been their business partners and hobby partners like in Bonsai Making and Ikebana.

When some past participants of the ASEAN countries are visiting Japan, they feel more comfortable and relaxed because they are assured that someone in Japan would be at their rescue should they need any assistance and in like manner, if the Japanese homestay parents or other participants in the Programme are visiting any ASEAN country, they also feel the same way.

Further, JICA officials have always been supportive of our projects and we have enjoyed working and coordinating with them our projects and activities.

B. International Understanding and Promoting Friendship Among ASEAN Countries:

International understanding and promoting friendship among ASEAN countries is one area wherein the Japan government has been extremely successful. This could be due to the fact that JICA was not only contented in sending people from the different ASEAN member countries for a one month's exposure to Japan but in helping us to establish the different alumni associations and the ASEAN-Japan Friendship Association, as the overall umbrella organization of the ASEAN-member countries.

Such effort has been contributory to the conceptualization and the implementation of projects like: the Annual Executive Council Meeting - which is the policy making/planning body of the different associations, where projects/activities for each year is being discussed, drawn and

decided upon. Corollary to this is the Youth Forum - a project being implemented on its own by each alumni association on a rotation basis as an opportunity for interacting with the participants on a very informal and enjoyable setting. Other projects cropped up like the Student-Exchange Programme between the Philippines and Singapore in 1993; Brunei in 1996 and with Malaysia in 1997. The sons, daughters, relatives and friends of past participants age 12 - 16 are given the chance to be exposed to the educational system, culture and tradition of the participating ASEAN countries. The friendship that was created out of this experience was insurmountable and undescribable. These students have come to the Philippines, specifically the Brunians, for a taste of Philippine hospitality and warmth. Since then exchange of letters, cards, telephone calls, fax and e-mail messages are happening regularly. The potential leaders of the ASEAN countries have started to create friends at an early stage which can be beneficial to attaining peace, economic opportunities, social stability and mutual understanding.

More so, when disaster occurs in any part of the ASEAN country, the alumni associations are ready to respond to the call by donating goods for the disaster-affected areas just like when Mt. Pinatubo has erupted in 1991.

Homestay is always offered to visiting members of the different alumni associations whether they are on official or personal trips. Some have also joined us in our Team-Building Seminars.

C. Participants' Professional Growth:

When we looked back, the Friendship Programme has tremendously helped majority of us developed pride and self-confidence. The kind of exposure, experiences and treatment extended to all past participants has somewhat created a deep sense of self-respect for most of us. The programme has been very enriching specially the follow-up activities being implemented by JICA and the alumni associations. Most have confessed that through this Programme, they had the chance to make use of their leadership potentials through the implementation of various projects/activities. It has developed a deep sense of creativity and responsibility among themselves. The opportunity to interact with other professionals from different fields of expertise, both from the government and the private sectors have been instrumental in gaining more professional insights and learning. One's horizon and perspective in viewing his own career has been extensive and wider in scope. Others are luckier because their friends in other countries have vouched for their efficiency/effectiveness in carrying out work responsibilities and other personal attributes, hence most of them have been taken by foreign employers.

D. Participant's Individual Growth:

The saying that "experience is the best teacher" has been aptly demonstrated in the ASEAN-Japan Friendship Programme. What we can read from the books is just a tip from the iceberg compared to the very rich learning we have gained from this programme. The leadership potential, interpersonal relationship, the decision-making, the tolerance level of each person, the creativity, the maturity, the emotional stability, the level-headedness, the wisdom and the educational/social/political/economic experiences of a person will be put into test during and

after the friendship programme. Interacting with people of different culture/traditions, upbringing, socio-economic status and philosophy is not only a challenging opportunity but a very rewarding one. Your personal growth and development will be dependent on how well you will be able to mix and blend with people who differ from one another and at the same time, you don't lose your own self-identity and self-worth as an individual and your uniqueness as a person with his own set of values and principles in life.

In essence, Japan government has been successful in terms of attaining the goals and objectives of the Friendship Programme because at the moment, it is very easy to communicate with each other. A deep sense of belongingness, camaraderie, friendship and oneness has been explicitly observed among the past participants specially during the Youth forum and other international activities. The exposure given to all ASEAN countries to visit and observe Japan and interact with its people has created a very lasting positive impact in the hearts and minds of the past participants which cannot be forgotten as long as we live and will forever remain as a living monument of our great sense of gratitude to the Government of Japan.

E. Other Impact of the Programme:

As far as the Philippine ASEAN-Japan Friendship Association for the 21st Century, Inc. (PAJAJFA-21) is concerned, we have rose from a simple social organization into a socio-civic organization. The projects we are currently undertaking are very fulfilling and heart-warming. We have helped a lot of underprivileged and less fortunate children, men and women through our medical mission project. Legal assistance was similarly provided to abused young girls which led

to double death sentence of one of the perpetrators. We have utilized the rich manpower resources available like involving the doctors, nurses, social workers and lawyers who are members of PAJAF-21.

In this manner, we have made a dent in the lives of the people we serve and our existence as a socio-civic organization has earned us awards and international recognition from JICA, the Rotary Club International and from the Office of the President of the Philippines.

One of our officers, has been taken in as the legal consultant of JICA Philippine Office, and another nurse has been hired by the Sultan of Brunei to work as one of the medical staff in the palace.

We are at present actively involved in the screening and selection of prospective participants of the Programme and conducting the Pre-Departure Orientation to the participants which is an indicator that both JICA and DFA have recognized us as their partner for human resource development.

The bond of friendship has been extended not only to the co-past participants of the Programme but to the immediate family members. Most of us are now Godfather/godmother in weddings and baptism. Others have become business partners and if one member has a personal problem we are immediately responding in whatever capacity we can be of help to him. Aside from PAJAF-21 activities, we see to it that we support the other projects of our members outside of PAJAF-21 affair.

The experience and the "hands-on" training we got from the Friendship Programme has developed our personality, strengthened our international connections, established ties and

fostered camaraderie/friendship with the Filipino past participants and other ASEAN countries and Japan.

The organization of the Alumni Association provided the necessary link and communication which any organization badly needs for it to continuously grow and be partners in the attainment of world peace and development through friendship, mutual understanding and goodwill.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. On the Procedure for Nomination of Participants:

1. Announcements must be published in all major newspapers so that the information will not be limited to those who have access to the information.
2. Submission of application forms together with additional requirement of psychological examination results in order to determine their level of maturity, emotional stability and coping mechanism.
3. Applicants must be screened by non-partisan, non-political group which are to be composed of representatives from the different government/private sectors.
4. Qualified applicants must sign a waiver stating that if they will not return to the Philippines, their family will pay JICA the amount of P500,000.00 as a penalty for not coming back to the Philippines.
5. In order to prevent escape, the passports of the participants must be in the safekeeping of the JICA/DFA coordinators.
6. Members in good standing of the Alumni association must be part of the screening committee both at the Regional and National levels.
7. Job Performance of the applicants for the last two years must be considered in the screening process.
8. Those who have been to Japan in another Programme must no longer be considered for the Friendship Programme in order to give chance to others.

9. Essay must also include what the participant intends to do after participating in the Programme in relation to his professional/personal development and with the Alumni association.
10. Prospective participants must be strictly warned that any misinformation/falsification such as giving erroneous address and other personal information is a ground for disqualification in joining the Programme.

B. On the Preparation of Participants in the Programme:

1. The letter of invitation must specify what things/clothes to bring if ever accepted in the Programme. A checklist must be attached in the letter. The Rules and Regulations as well as the grounds for disqualification must be fully explained in the invitation-letter.
2. The Regional Chapters must be actively involved in the psychological preparation of prospective participants thru conduct of simple Pre-Departure session.
3. Notice of acceptance to the Programme must be made at least one month to give ample time for the prospective participant to prepare everything and to attend to his official and personal responsibilities. This will also lessen the anxiety on the part of the prospective participant when he knows that everything is in place prior to his departure.
4. Pre-Departure Orientation must be conducted for at least four days and must include Team-Building Session and Orientation to the Alumni Association. Membership to the Alumni Association must be required to all participants.

5. All travel documents must be completed and submitted prior to their attendance to the Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) in Manila so that the participants will be able to participate fully in the sessions.

C. On the Duration and Content of Each Sub-Program in Japan:

1. **Lectures in Japan:** The present duration is justifiable but the lectures must preferably be conducted in English to lessen the time spent in translating. (from Japanese to English and English to Japanese). Given such premise, the lecturers can provide a clearer stream of thought. On the other hand, the content is relatively comprehensive and informative. Daily accomplishment of simple evaluation and learning insights will definitely give a greater impact to the participants in as much as learning points can be highlighted. In such scenario, the Coordinators can evaluate the feedback earlier and can make necessary changes or modification based on the response of the participants.
2. **Visits:** The duration of the visit should be prolonged because in most cases, the participants had less time to interact with the people in the Institution they visited. The content of the lecture should include the programs/services/activities, problems encountered and solutions applied in the different canters, agencies and institutions visited. In the process, a comprehensive and comparative analysis from the participants is encouraged.
3. **Homestay:** The duration of the Homestay Program is just enough considering that most foster parents are working. In terms of content, homestay programme must provide an

interaction with most family members. A program of activities should be planned taking into consideration the specific interest of the participant and capability of the Homestay family to respond to such interest. This will in effect, maximize the time allotted for the Homestay Programme and prevent any disappointment on both parties. A strict selection and matching procedure for the prospective homestay guest and family must be done to ensure adequate security and to avoid any misunderstanding among people concerned.

4. **Seminars:** The duration of the seminar is just enough but the content must include information regarding the values, beliefs culture and tradition of the participating countries so that the exchange of information will be two-way and will facilitate mutual understanding between Japan and its ASEAN neighbor countries.
5. **Cost Effectiveness of the Programme:** In terms of cost effectiveness, the present set up is feasible and workable and must be continued as it is. The result might not be readily tangible after the trip but as of now, after fourteen years of implementation, the Programme has successfully achieved its purpose of achieving mutual understanding, goodwill and peace in the ASEAN Region and Japan.
6. **Alumni Activities and JICA's After Care for Ex-Participants:** The present projects/activities of the Alumni Association as earlier discussed in this research study, and the After Care Programme being provided by JICA at the moment are enough in terms of continuing the linkage and sustaining the communication network with the past participants. JICA must continue with its assistance to all ASEAN countries like the support for the Grand Reunion, newsletter publication, After Care Mission and other projects of the Alumni Association.

7. General Suggestions for the Future of the Programme: Based on the results of this research study and the suggestions from the active officers and members of the alumni association, the following recommendations are proposed.

- a) Provide more follow-up programs for the past participants in order to rekindle the friendship that has been established in Japan. This can be done on a per category/per year basis so that those with common interests can be grouped together.
- b) Provide updated information/communication regarding the past participants, homestay parents, JICA coordinators and other important persons involved in the Friendship Programme to strengthen networking.
- c) Extend the Friendship Programme to its Fourth Phase.
- d) Provide Grand Reunion in Japan for selected past participants based on a set of criteria prepared by JICA. This will somehow orient the Japanese counterparts to the what-about of the alumni association how it is being run in a particular country.
- e) Organize a Japanese counterpart association similar to the alumni associations in the different ASEAN countries. This will somehow facilitate networking with the Japanese friends.
- f) Come up with updated directory of past participants per country to be distributed to all alumni associations in the ASEAN region.
- g) Support other project/activities of the alumni associations.

Appendices

Appendix "A"

COMPOSITION OF THE EVALUATION TEAM

MRS. EVANGELINA G. LAWAS -	Principal Investigator
DR. ANNA MARIE JOY S. DE LEON -	Co-Investigator
DR. NOEL DAUIS LAWAS -	Co-Investigator
CHONA U. ENCALLADO -	Secretary-encoder
VIRGILITA L. MONTOYA -	Research Assistant
RAMON M. DE GUZMAN -	Driver / messenger

Appendix "B"

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

1. December 18, 1997 - Initial Meeting with JICA, Philippine Office and discussed intention of JICA to get assistance of PAJAF A-21 in the conduct of a Research Project re: Youth Invitation Programme
2. December 20, 1997 - Drafted the proposed budget for the conduct of the said Research Project.
3. December 24, 1997 - Presented the Budget Proposal and Matrix of Activities for the conduct of the Research Project with Miss Ishiga of JICA.
4. December 28, 1997 - Reviewed the draft of questionnaire.
5. December 29, 1997 - First Meeting of the Research Team and discussed the mechanics/flow of the research and finalized the questionnaire.
6. January 5, 1998 - Presented the revised questionnaire to JICA and got its approval for its reproduction.
7. January 5 - 7, 1998 - Reproduction and collation of the questionnaire.
8. January 8 - 12, 1998 - Xeroxing of directory, screening of addresses, cutting of names, pasting in the envelopes and sorting of mailing list.
9. January 15, 1998 - Released of 40% initial fund.
10. January 16, 1998 - Mailing of questionnaires c/o JRS and Post Office Main Office
11. January 20 - February 10, 1998 - Retrieval, encoding of questionnaires and re- mailing of "return to sender" questionnaires.

12. February 11 - 15, 1998 - Consolidation of findings
13. February 16 - 20, 1998 - Analysis and final write-up
14. February 21 - 23, 1998 - Final Review
15. February 24, 1998 - Reproduction and collation
16. February 25, 1998 - Submission to JICA, Philippine Office
17. March 7, 1998 - Presentation of findings to Executive Council Meeting
18. March 15 , 1998 - Discussion with the Board of Trustees and the Research Team the
comments given during the Executive Council Meeting
19. March 16 - 20, 1998 - Final review and revision, if necessary
20. March 24, 1998 - Meeting with the Research Team
21. March 25 - 27, 1998 - Final write up
22. March 28, 1998 - Reproduction and collation
23. March 30, 1998 - Submission to JICA final form

JICA