

## 2. Impressions by the Participants

■ Asia

■ Cambodia

### Agricultural Cooperatives in the Development of Agriculture in Hokkaido

Khemara Kol

Agriculture (Transport of Products) Group

I experienced and learned a lot of things about Japan that had developed during my 28-day stay in Japan for the Youth Invitation Programme. They were about the society, traditions, customs, culture, tourism, agriculture, and the distribution system of Japan.

I was most interested in the development of agriculture. I learned through agricultural cooperatives in Hokkaido. Such cooperatives are the base of the development of agriculture by mechanizing and facilitating the distribution of agricultural products between producers and consumers. I learned that the cooperative had led the lives of local people to the prosperity.

Moreover, agricultural cooperatives play an important role in providing the farmers with special techniques and information in accordance with their goals. They offer a variety of good services such as establishing distribution centers and warehouses, providing the farmers with advanced agricultural machinery and tools, and so forth.

All of these factors serve to promote the productivity of farmers. Farmers can make production efforts without worrying about troubles such as waste and loss of the products, illegal pricing, lack of markets, and so on.

I'll convey such good knowledge back to Cambodia

and fully utilize it.

In Cambodia, 80 % of the people are farmers and dependent on agriculture.

My experience will be useful for my country.

Thank you very much

### Administrative Reform

Saret Sok

Civil Servants (Administration Reform) Group

Nowadays the government of Japan has been providing developing countries all over the world including Cambodia with the assistance. Out of all of foreign assistance for Cambodia, Japan provides us the most. The Youth Invitation Programme in which the administrative reform was the main training theme for 15 Cambodian youths is one such form of assistance.

We achieved good results after the 28-day programme. We got them from the training programmes about the Japanese and their society, which that respects the rights of the people under democracy, the administration system of the government, and the system of civil servants in Japan. The central administration system of Japan it fulfills the policy of decentralization by granting self-governing rights to the local governments and allows autonomy at the level of prefectures, cities, towns, and villages.

We could compare the administration systems of both countries. The most interesting point for us was the guidance system of the central government. The central government recognizes that the indispensable factors should form the base, and it transfers autonomy to the local governments. Our knowledge about the consumers' cooperatives established by the local residents for the purpose of mutual

understanding and improvement of their lives was deepened.

In conclusion, we acquired a wide range of knowledge such as on the ways of guidance and administration, implementation of duties, and so forth during our 28-day stay. We are sure that we will utilize all of our knowledge and experience for the establishment and the development of Cambodia.

Cambodia is promoting administrative reform since realization of peace as its first priority. In particular, local autonomy has been prepared by the government of Cambodia and is scheduled to be enforced at the end of 2001.

that the standard of living in Japan is uniform, and respect is very important in Japan. People always implement the rule of law strictly. The social welfare system in Japan is good because it offers a lot of services. We didn't see street children or beggars.

In closing, again we would like to give a hundred thanks to JICA and JICE and also Sapporo International Communication Plaza Foundation.

Thank you !

---

## Our Days in Japan

---

Sabonne Sorn, Samol Oeun  
ASEAN Comp.  
Social Welfare Group

I would like to present some comments about our stay in Japan under the sponsorship of JICA and JICE. Japan is an interesting country in Asia as well as in the world, as it is an economic super-power. We are greatly in the weather, transport systems and especially interested in the welfare system in Japan. As for the weather it is comfortable for people to live in even during the summer. It is generally not so hot and does not have too much rain. We personally think the Japan's weather is part of the systems of Asia, Europe and America. Therefore, we and people around the world enjoy staying in such a country very much.

The infrastructures in Japan are excellent. We travelled to some places and yet never saw any noticeable traffic jams at all. Market places and supermarkets are also popular and crowded. We found the Japanese people to be strict with their culture and traditions, basically they usually keep on speaking and using Japanese at all times and places.

It is good that the Japanese government has preserved some historical places along with museums for the next generations, so that they can know and experience history—especially the war and so that. They never repeat their mistakes and make war again. The Japanese people are polite and bow to each other when they meet. They are friendly, and they always want to promote international relationships. We think

## ■ Asia

### ■ Indonesia

#### Japanese Public Bath

Rosa Maria Gani

Teachers (Natural Science and Mathematics) Group

The following happened when I stayed at the hotel at the foot of Mt. Fuji. I was invited to the public bath by a Japanese counterpart. I heard that hot water was kept in a bigger bathtub where everyone was supposed to share the same space while naked. That sounded very unique to me. Although I heard the baths for men and women are separate, I hesitated as I wasn't used to sharing the bath with others. It is a common in my home town (West Sumatra) for people to bathe in the river together. I have also experienced bathing in the river, but I had a cloth over my body.

My Japanese friend realized my anxiety and started encouraging me by saying that the hot water came from a natural hot spring, the water of Mt. Fuji is famous for its good quality, and our skin would become smoother, to get me interested. Although I still had some anxiety, I didn't want to disappoint my Japanese friend and finally decided to go into the public bath. Furthermore, I changed my mind into thinking that it would not be bad to experience a Japanese custom because I was having the chance to be here in Japan.

I went to the public bath with a 'Yukata' (a Japanese nightgown) prepared in the room, still with some anxiety. On entering the batharea, I looked around and checked whether there was anyone whom I never wanted to stay with me. I pretended to be cool and tried to adjust myself in the situation where I was.

I got my body wet with hot water and washed it with soap. You can wash your head at the same time. I washed my body for a long time because I wanted to conceal my embarrassment and intention about of taking a public bath. My friend called my name and encouraged me to go into the bathtub.

Finally, I walked to the bathtub grabbing a towel to cover my body tightly. At the moment I went into the bathtub, I took the towel off of my body. Hot water in the bathtub was changed constantly and was circulated. It was warm enough to make me feel comfortable. In

addition, I enjoyed the beautiful scenery of Mt. Fuji through the window. I got confident and concluded that I had decided on was right.

In conclusion, I would like to recommend to everybody. Don't forget to take a public bath. It is very comfortable.

#### Memories of My Host Family

Rahiman

Agriculture (Fisheries) Group

"Consideration comes out of getting to know each other. Affection comes out of consideration." Those are words to express my three-day stay with a Japanese family. If we are filled with an affection that is warm, thoughtful, and simple, every one of us will feel as if we stayed with our real family.

I was a little nervous when I first met my host family. But then I came to enjoy my stay and gradually wanted to remain with them longer. My host family seemed to have the same feeling. They looked happy with me.

Their eyes were filled with tears at the time of our parting, and they looked as if they had lost something precious to them.

The barriers of culture, customs, and languages, cannot become obstacles when both of us tried to understand each other. Still even when we had a kind of misunderstanding, it didn't turn out to be a problem. The Japanese people feel the same way as foreigners do. I found the similarities between the Japanese and our ancestors' culture, such as in the culture of shame, vanity, and the importance of discipline. That's why the Japanese people have a friendly feeling toward the Indonesian people.

I hope that this JICA's Youth Invitation Programme will continue and that young people from both countries will interact more positively so that the Indonesian people will become more familiar with the Japanese people in the same way.

Bravo !

---

## My Anxiety and Expectations

---

Hetty Harlisa Prasasti  
Small and Medium Industries Group

The Youth Invitation Programme, implemented by JICA, attracts many Indonesian youths, both from the cities and regional areas of the country.

This programme is so interesting that a lot of youths want to participate in it. But the applicants have to pass through strict competition. It is not easy to take part in this programme. As I didn't receive any notice for nearly one month after applying for the programme, I was anxious about it.

At last, I got the exciting notice that I had passed the selection and would participate in the programme in Japan. Various feelings whether I should go or not came to my mind. If I went go, I would have to prepare to leave my family, especially my children, behind in Indonesia. I wondered whether I was ready to go because I had not experienced leaving my home for such a long time, except for business purposes. On the other hand, I also supposed that I would not have any other chance if I lost this one.

Besides, I would make good use of this chance in my career.

I got permission from my husband finally. My family also suggested to me to join the programme. It seemed that I could finish my duties in my work and leave for Japan.

It was meaningful to me to take part in this programme. I would be able to establish a friendly relationship with the Japanese youths as well as improve my knowledge and broaden my perspectives.

Those reasons helped me persuade my boss to give me permission to leave.

I was worried a little about the climate of Japan when I heard that I would stay there in the snow season because I was used to the hot climate of Indonesia. But such anxiety disappeared soon.

It was not as cold in Japan as I had expected before, although it did take some days for me to adjust to the *Japanese climate. Japan welcomed us very warmly.*

As a result, the programme was very enjoyable. I would like to thank God sincerely that one of my wishes came true. I don't know when another such

wonderful chance will come to me, but I cannot help making a wish for having one more.

---

## Snow

---

Shofia Ushwatun Hasanah  
Administration Group

Not all people can experience Japan, a country like in a fairy tale, which is covered with snow to the corners of its cities. I was so lucky to be able to feel this fairy tale-like world and have satisfaction with it. I passed along the long roads, got tired, and reached a country like in a fairy tale.

But my three-day stay in Tokyo disappointed me who had waited a longtime to see snow. Soft and white snow didn't fall over this city. It didn't snow even after my first week in Japan, so I was forced to give up my wish to touch cold and soft snow.

I had very beautiful image of snow when I was in my country. I thought of it as something like a white carpet covering all of Japan, and it transformed every place into white mountains.

I came to feel miserable because I had waited for something which would never appear to me. I felt severe coldness in my body, as if I had lost something precious. I came to all the way Japan, but I was experiencing only the cold.

Yamanashi Prefecture was the place that has engraved special memories in my mind as well as the place which healed me and which made my dream come true. There small snow crystals fell down slowly from the sky.

I saw that with my eyes and felt delicate snow with my fingers. It was soft, white, and pure. I thank Allah, the great God, the Almighty God, who created the beauty unparalleled. That was my first experience in my life with snow, and I'll never forget it.

The snow fell down to the ground and accumulated slowly, covering roads, trees, and houses. How beautiful the world was, covered with the white snow! The sunlight came out from the horizon, and the scenery became more beautiful. Mt. Fuji was covered with snow, with the sunlight reflected on it, and the sun welcomed a new day warmly. The sunlight reflected on the snow engraved the scenery eternally in my

heart.

That is the dignity of the God.

---

## Memories of My Homestay

---

Gita Dinarsanti  
Local Development Group

Hello. I am Megi. I would like to write about my experience with a homestay at Mr. Eiji Nagaya's house for three days and two nights in Obihiro, Hokkaido.

After my host father came to see me at the hotel, I went to the post office with him to see how letters are sent automatically. After that, I went to his house. Two cute poodles welcomed me. But honestly, I am afraid of dogs.

My favorite place in Eiji-san's house was the toilet. Do you know why? That's because it was warm. Especially I felt very comfortable in sitting on the warm toilet seat, which suited the cold of Obihiro.

I was impressed how warmly the Japanese people treated their guests at home. I think I was favorably treated. I was also impressed with Sushi. I think that will be my last experience with it in my life.

My host family seemed to like the Indonesian dishes I prepared. I deep-fried Indonesian Krupuk\*. They were pleased to see it change from a small shape to a bigger one. Of course, it was edible and had a crispy sound.

I have many more things to talk about, but I think it is difficult to tell them all now. This essay describes only part of the things I wanted to convey. I will never forget the experience of my homestay. I would like to send my appreciation to the Nagaya family.

Iroiro Arigato gozaimashita. Goon wa Wasuremasen. Watakushi no Kuni e Kitekudasai. Mata Aimasho. From Megi.

(\*Krupuk; Indonesian shrimp crackers)

■ Asia

■ Laos

---

## My Encouraging Experience

---

Kingmano Boutsavath  
ASEAN Comp.  
Education Group

We make a living with what we get;

We make a life with what we give.

Staying 28 days in Japan, as one of JICA Youth Invitation Programme, ASEAN Component Education Group, I experienced lots of precious activities. The kindness heart, hospitality, and punctuality of the Japanese encouraged me to do things better.

Some unforgettable memories from my visit to Gifu Prefecture include interaction with students at Nagara Higashi Elementary School and with 2nd grade students of Futaba Elementary School, where I had a lunch and a bottle of milk with them.

One of highlight programme was the homestay, which gave me the chance to learn Japanese culture from first-hand. The kind-heartedness, hospitality, and feelings of my foster family in Kawashima Town gave me a memorable experience and insight. Sharing ideas and having valuable discussions with my Japanese roommate in Hakone during the In-house Seminar helped me to get along better with the Japanese.

Those precious activities mentioned above were very fantastic for me, and I will bring them back to Laos for sure.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the JICA and all the people concerned in this precious program for giving me this opportunity and sweet memories as well.

"Domo arigato gozaimasu."

---

## Thank You, Iwate Prefecture!

---

Amphone Soukvisay  
Local Development Group

I visited Japan for the first time as a participant of the Youth Invitation Programme.

I felt myself very lucky to be able observe Iwate

Prefecture. We could learn about the local development policy in Iwate Prefecture, as well as the daily lives, culture and customs of Japanese people.

My unforgettable memory was that Japanese and Lao youths became close friends through heart-to-heart communications. I believe that is proof that we will be able to create a better world through cooperation of youths around the world.

The most impressive programme was the lecture by Ms. Itoko Kuwahara, 69, a former staff member of local governmental office. Her lecture was given based on her working experiences.

"How can we get out of the poverty? I think we should solve poverty and other social problems after acquiring the necessary knowledge by studying. We have to find the best way to solve these problems. But the most important thing is to unite and to cooperate with each other as well as to realize equality between men and women. If we achieve all that, we will get out of troubles."

The comments of Ms. Kuwahara, who was quite motherly, became very good guideposts for us.

Although we have departed from Iwate, we left our hearts there. We remembered the scenery of Iwate and warm exchanges with the local people.

We might not have more chances to visit Iwate in our lives. But we will cherish what we learned during the programme. We will never forget Iwate Prefecture where we had the training and exchange programmes.

Thank you, Iwate Prefecture!

■ Asia

■ Malaysia

## Experiences and Impressions in Japan

---

Mat Azim Bin Darman  
Administration (National Government) Group

I recognize that Japan is a country with high technology and remarkably strong economic power in the world. Japan recovered rapidly after the war as if a giant had awakened from sleep.

I was very happy that participation into the Youth Invitation Programme enabled me to acquire a realistic image of Japan and to experience many things.

Tokyo was a busy city, in which public order was well maintained. My mind changed into a hope to get to know Japan more deeply by experiencing the society of Japanese who were shy but kind.

I enjoyed martial arts, a dolphin show, a visit to the special nursing home for the aged in Noheji Town. One old woman at the special nursing home said to me that I looked like a kid. Her words were memorable to me.

Clean Pair Hamanasu, an incinerating plant, was an unexpected place and contrary to our negative image of garbage.

The three-day/two-night homestay was something which I had waited for. We felt as if the allocated time had been only three hours, because we became very close to our wonderful host families and their neighboring people.

As for food, some of my friends couldn't accept Japanese cuisine but I was very interested in it. I would like to boast that I had a chance to show our culture through singing and dancing in our national costume.

I wanted to give a performance to show our culture to all the Japanese people. The pictures appearing on the screen of the building were a little embarrassing, since it was our first time. But I will look forward to seeing them later.

The Japanese people whom I had understood appeared shy to me at first. But once they get acquainted with another, they become very close.

I felt as if Japan were inviting me to come back to

them and to get close with its nature and people again.

---

## The Experiences of the Participants

---

Yusni Bin Mohd Yusoh  
Agriculture (Fisheries) Group

When we arrived at Narita Airport, the friendly smiles of the Japanese people were waiting for us.

After our Japanese lessons at Tokyo International Centre (TIC) were over, we were full of confidence that we would be able to communicate with the Japanese people in Japanese.

'Sumimasen.' 'Arigato gozaimasu.' 'Ohayo gozaimasu.' 'Konnichiwa.' 'Konbannwa.' These Japanese words became something like songs which always came out of our mouths.

While we were taking a walk, we were about to get lost because of the complicated roads under the ground. But thanks to knowing the words "Sumimasen" and "Arigato gozaimasu," we were helped by same Japanese people though they were so busy and pressed for time.

We, with a speciality of fisheries, were impressed by our opportunities to experience the fact that Japanese are leading lives with a very close relationship with fish and marine products. During our one month stay in Japan, 'sashimi' and 'sushi' became common food to eat with chopsticks for us since they are the products from the sea. We learned about the strong ties between the Japanese people and the food resources based on fisheries.

We went to a hot spring resort. We had imagined that water in the hot spring wasn't as hot as that in regular baths. But the strong heat of the hot spring made us jump like 'a spring.'

We, the young generation living in the new era, received an important and deep message during our observation tour of Hiroshima.

We wish for "No more Hiroshimas." Those facts as bitter experiences of the world will remain in history forevermore.

Although we stayed in Japan for one month, we felt how quickly the time passed. Japan, where the Eastern culture, remains has becoming our hope and is now like a second home country for us.

---

## Good Memories, Stay in My Heart Forever

---

Norhana Hashim  
Small and Medium Industry Group

We cannot spend lives in foreign countries in the same way as we do in our own countries. I learned a lot of things during my stay in the country of rising sun. I had opportunities in which I learned about Japanese culture, punctuality, working ethics, the way of thinking, and so on. We cannot buy these important experiences anywhere.

Although we sometimes had language problems in communicating with the Japanese people, it was not such a big difficulty.

We used a 'Nihongo' textbook efficiently. When I went out in Osaka with my Japanese friend, Yuki-san, I took the book with me and used it even in rain. It was such a short time, but I enjoyed myself a lot with Yuki-san.

"The Japanese people have developed along with their country." That was a remark from my Malaysian friend who was sitting next to me in the Shinkansen bound for Tokyo from Osaka while we were watching the outside scenery. We got to observe a lot of original technology, which helped to promote the level of the nation in every place.

"Good memories and experiences, stay in my heart forever." This is the most suitable remark in which to express my experience in Japan.

When we didn't know Japan, we didn't long for it. But once we came to know it, we didn't want to come back home. I would like to utilize my knowledge and experience after returning to my home land.

---

## The Future of Japanese Society

---

Kharyati bte Hassan  
Science and Mathematics Teachers Group

"Japan is one of the most advanced countries in terms of economy and technology in the world." This fact was my preconceived knowledge before I came to Japan. I realized that it was true after I stayed in Japan

for one month.

I was impressed by the Japanese characteristics of making great efforts in achieving their goals. Japan has developed itself and become an advanced country in just fifty years. It is clear that effects of the Pacific War led the Japanese people to raise the country's dignity and to make their lives more wealthy. Some factors such as the dense population, scarce mineral resources, and limited agricultural land made the *national character of Japan outstanding*. These demerits produced the Japanese positive characteristics of emphasizing and preserving diligence, sincerity, punctuality, independence, creativity, discipline, and dignity.

The younger generation enjoying *wealthy lives* as a result of the sincerity and efforts of their parents generation during the past fifty years. But this phenomenon also causes the loss of the national characteristics among the young generation. The young Japanese people have been affected by the Western sense of values. That has caused them to lose the traditional sense of values of Japanese society. On the other hand, some young people try to seek real purposes for living. Movements to seek such a thing through their ties with faith and God are not only seen in Japan but also in other advanced countries. Mankind cannot survive only by materialistic satisfaction. It is more important to find the answers toward the questions of what our spirits want, how we can get mental happiness, or what is spiritual peace, and to implement them and become satisfied with them. Let us consider these things together.

---

## **Give Our Hands and Establish Friendship**

---

Omarsita Bin Rustam  
Local Development Group

The Malaysian proverb, 'There is a land, where there is a sky' became my guideline wherever I went in Japan. Since I came to Japan on January 18, 2001, I *have had mixed feelings of both happiness and sadness*. The sad feelings meant that I had to leave my family and yet I had happy feelings about being able to come to Japan, the country of rising sun. Every

programme I joined was interesting, and every visit attracted my interest. My sad feeling became happiness gradually as I tried to adjust myself into each programme. Although there was language barrier between the Japanese and us, our coordinators gave us great expectations by translating things well. All the programmes were well prepared, and rules such as punctuality were taken into considerations. The programme management was so good that we intend to use it in our working place.

The days we passed with the programme have made unforgettable memories.

The local people kindly gave us knowledge about their culture, technology, and skills. Through the homestay I observed the way of the local people live with the Eastern characteristics of respecting each other by keeping maintaining kindness and tight family ties. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to JICA, Junior Executive Council of Japan (JEC), Shobara International Exchange Association, Junior Chamber (JC), and our host families for providing us with the successful programme. I hope that this programme will be implemented for a long time, so that more Malaysian youths will gain a lot of knowledge. I also hope the friendly ties between Japan and Malaysia will continue forever.



■ Asia

■ Myanmar

## View of Japan by an ASEAN Participant

Mya Thu Zar

ASEAN Comp.

Health and Medical Service Group

It was a nice trip although we had only a short stay in Japan. We had a chance to learn about Japanese culture, tradition, and Japan's health and welfare activities. We learnt about many historic places such as Kyoto, Hiroshima etc. Japan has well preserved its own tradition in spite of worlds-class development on the other hand. The history of Hiroshima, being an atomic bomb victim, has been unforgettable for Japanese and the rest of the world. And we should pay attention so that no further atomic bomb disasters ever occur again in the world. Our knowledge and experiences were exchanged between Japan and the ASEAN countries.

Japan tries to help other countries to develop. It grants or lends money to other countries, offers technical assistance, training and the aid of experts, or sends volunteers to help out. The Japanese government gives a great amount of official development assistance to developing nations. It also encourages and supports the efforts of non-governmental organizations around the world.

JICA arranged various activities for us as much as it could. We had a very delightful and convenient stay in Japan. We believe that it may further the friendship and mutual understanding between Japan and ASEAN countries. And I wish JICA activities may last forever and have continued success.

---

## 28 Days in Japan

Daw Saw Myat Mon

Education (Primary School Teachers) Group

The Myanmar Education Group arrived at JICA Osaka International Centre (OSIC) on October 25, 2000.

We took the lectures on "Japanese and their

society," "Post-war development and education system in Japan," and "The present situation of school education," and we exchanged the opinions with the lecturers.

During the Specialized Programme in Tokyo, we participated in the In-house Seminar with our Japanese counterparts at Sajima Marina. We learned that the teaching materials used in Japanese schools have been well prepared and education is carried out in good manners. I was glad to see the Japanese students working well in groups.

When we visited and worshipped the Great Buddha in Kamakura, I felt great happiness.

We thought while on observation tours of National Museum of Ethnology, NHK Studio Park, Gas Museum, Mitsubishi Automobile Co. Mizushima plant, Kurashiki Life Park, Kurashiki Municipal Chuo Library, and so on that we will try to promote and develop our science technology and increase knowledge after stay in Japan.

I felt so pained and I wanted to express my deep condolences to the A-bomb victims.

As for my homestay, I was very glad to be warmly welcomed by the Japanese family.

Through all of these programmes, we felt happiness and that we should learn from the Japanese systems. On the other hand, we learned that Japanese youths and children are not so good at English. I think that English is very important for Japan, which is highly developed in every field. Therefore, I would like to suggest that Japan promote English education more.

## Asia

### Philippines

#### Straight from the Heart

---

Aimee Marie C. Chamen

Teachers (Natural Science and Mathematics) Group

We participants had only equipped ourselves with very few Japanese terms, and as much as we would like to keep every term in mind, we could utter only some of them. "Sumimasen" topped the list; next was "Arigato gozaimashita," and of course, the very popular "Toire wa doko desu ka?"

Who could forget the phrase "Koko no kyoshidesu," which we memorized and repeated all over again as we introduced ourselves from time to time? We should have recorded it and had the greatest laugh in our lives.

We all thought that our lives in Japan would simply end with "Dozo yoroshiku," but we were all proven wrong. It rather marked the beginning of a very beautiful encounter between the Japanese and Filipinos. It marked the starting point for mutual understanding, since what happened next was far more important; and we realized that exchange of words are not the sole basis of communication.

Far more important than words spoken were the gestures of friendship extended by the Japanese in welcoming us in their country not as foreigners but rather as partners. No words can take the place of the gestures of acceptance extended to us to make us feel not like visitors but rather as members of their families. The gestures of kindness and understanding really moved us, for they made us realize that despite our differences in culture, we both share the same heritage as Asians.

With not too many words, we found partners among the Japanese teachers whose visions in life do not differ much from ours; that is to mold the nation's young minds for a brighter future through relevant and quality education. Without being conscious of the words uttered, we found home among our foster families with whom we share common responsibility — meaning to love and nurture our citizens for nation-building. The difference in our languages did not hinder us from expressing our dreams to each other.

Our common dream is to have a world without borders, a world without war; a world that is one.

The language barrier did not matter much because we have communicated in the best way possible — that is, through the heart.

---

#### Twenty-seven Days in Japan

---

Maria Melba Balatero Wee

Agriculture (Fisheries) Group

A chilly spring breeze greeted us on the night we first set foot to Japan. But gazing at the mystic city lights was more than heartwarming. Japan is like one big beautiful city with trees along the streets providing shelter to birds flying freely even in a fast-paced place like Tokyo. Its economic development is dispersed nationwide. Japan has a very rich culture and heritage. The Japanese are patriotic and take so much pride in their language. Senior citizens (the elderly) dominate the populace. There are more men in the offices. Japan's infrastructure, especially the roads, picturesque bridges and all of its transport facilities linking one island to another and to the world are very impressive. Japan has pristine lakes and seas, which, at the same time are fully harnessed by its people. The mountains are all green, cool and refreshing, with all those pines, maples and bamboos dominating the forests. The people are friendly but reserved. They are very punctual. Time is gold in Japan and is even used as unit of measure to determine distances. The farmers and fishermen who are using advanced technologies are empowered. They have easy access to information, credit and markets. Their activities are synchronized. Their cooperatives are very strong, effective and efficient. Farming and fishing are indeed highly mechanized.

The Japanese love pretty things. In boutiques, department stores and even in train or bus stations, all items are so neatly and beautifully packed that one may think the wrappings are the gifts.

My 27 days in this country were well spent. Words are not enough to thank the collaborative effort of the Japanese and the Philippine governments for this fruitful friendship program. I must also thank my supportive husband, who is always proud and happy

of what I have and I achieved, and above all, the Almighty God, for without his gift of life, I could not have experienced and marveled at the beauty and bounty of the wonderful country called Japan.

---

## Japan in My Mind

---

Lailanie R. Tiu

Small and Medium Industries Group

I've watched Japan go by in silence, in the calmness of the early mornings I spent in Osaka, Tokyo, Yamanashi, Hiroshima, and Kyoto.

In the stillness of these moments came the realizations of what this rare experience has brought about. I came to Japan bracing myself for the unknown — the country, its people, their language and culture. But the sights and sounds which greeted me surpassed even my greatest expectations. I will forever be amazed by this beautiful country and the harmonious relationship between man and nature. The gardens, the plants, and the colorful flowers have added to the charm, from the urban areas to the countryside. I marveled at the exuberance of youth shown by my Japanese counterparts at Lake Kawaguchi and the friendships I was able to forge. I intend to keep them forever. It was touching to know that we share common dreams and aspirations, problems and concerns. Japan's dominance in technology globally is a given fact, but I was humbled by the quiet dignity which its people exemplify. And for that they have my utmost respect. The openness of my foster family as they welcomed me into their home and embraced me as family was the most-meaningful moment of my journey. I never expected such warmth, care, understanding and acceptance from people whom I used to perceive as rigid and structured.

But the most important lesson I have learned in Japan is peace. It is a country that has lost so much during the war in what can still be considered as the worst manmade devastation done to humanity, so I truly admire the manner in which the Japanese rose to the occasion. The challenge of rebuilding a nation and their image as a people was met with utmost determination.

And as I ponder on this, I will always remember

Hiroshima and the gory remnants of that war.

As a Filipino who has had my share of battles for peace and freedom, I wish to rally behind the Japanese in their quest for global peace and the banning of all weapons of mass destruction. My entire journey to Japan has been an emotional roller coaster ride. After all the fun and the laughter, and in the midst of all the excitement and preparations for our trip back home, I am leaving Japan with a heavy heart. I will never forget the depth of emotions I felt during my stay.

My memories of the Japanese from the chicness of the Tokyo people to the simplicity of my host family in Yamanashi will forever be etched in the deep recesses of my mind and my heart. After all the company visits and discussions, what really mattered most were the universal understanding and friendship I will continue to nurture and treasure.

The language problem, which, at first, was viewed as the greatest obstacle to friendship, was no match for the sincerity of two people determined to build bridges instead of walls. I have so many good memories of Japan, almost too many good memories. Rest assured that I will have a lifetime to look back. Because I will keep looking back at my time in Japan.

---

## Reflections of JICA Participant

---

Marie Angelie C. Villapando

Administration (National Government) Group

Japan has long been known as a country of great technological advancement, of efficiency, of people imbued with a strong sense of discipline, of an ingrained work ethic unmatched by other countries. It is a country strongly influenced by its rich historical past, and yet it continually trailblazes with its amazing discoveries and inventions, to help change the world. These were impressions I had before coming to Japan as a participant in the 2000 Youth Invitation Programme under the National Administration Category. Indeed, I was not disappointed. During my nearly one month stay in this country, I felt like a child awed by the kaleidoscope of lights and sounds of Tokyo — pulsating with energy, throbbing with life and soothed by the serenity of Niigata prefecture, assured by the efficiency of Japan's

socio-economic infrastructure, all while learning new things in an endless maze of discoveries.

Yet unlike Alice in Wonderland, my sojourn took me to a deeper understanding, admiration and appreciation of this country known as the Land of the Rising Sun. Beyond the machine-like precision in carrying out the tasks, in the people I met — from our JICA / JICE / WYVEA / NIA programme coordinators, seminar lecturers, Japanese volunteers and counterparts to the subway train masters and shop assistants lies a big heart that responded warmly to our group and individual needs.

I saw a people eager to help sometimes even at his or her own inconvenience, like the shop assistant who helped me find my way to the Tokyo International Centre.

I saw a people whose unwavering commitment to their country transcends personal desires and comfort, like our Japanese counterparts who willingly shared with us their humanity as well as their aspirations for this country, sometimes by spending long hours away from their families.

I saw a people who recognize and are proud of their rich cultural heritage, such as my host family who readily and warmly accepted me into their home, treated me like their own daughter, allowed me a rare opportunity to experience the richness and beauty of Japanese culture.

From our tours, I saw a people with a deep reverence for life and the preservation of the ecological balance amidst growing industrialization like in Niigata prefecture, where abundant rice fields co-exist with factories.

I also saw a people resolute in ensuring that the bitter lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will not be forgotten like ashes and carried away by the wind. Above all these, I saw each individual Japanese's selflessness and sacrifice, each Japanese's unflinching commitment to discipline, each Japanese's honest realization of the price they had to pay to attain their nation's current status in the global community and their determination to restore and strengthen their individual families, which are the basic and solid foundation why Japan is what it is today.

Truly, I was deeply honored and humbled to experience the human face of Japan and equally excited to share the lessons I learned with my

countrymen.

---

## ICHI GO, ICHI E

---

Local Development Group  
Local Development Group

The 21 Philippine delegates in the 9th batch of the *Local Development Group* came from diverse backgrounds, varied experiences, and were practically distributed from north to south and east to west in the Philippines islands. Nobody knew each other very well before, but the moment that we started our Japan trip the bond clicked just like magic. For 28 days thereafter, a newfound friendship was nurtured from sharing the same highs and lows; laughing at each other's jokes, silliness and fancies; singing the same tunes; endeavoring to learn together a new language; sharing the same hot baths in full nakedness and above all never losing our pride in being Filipinos.

Together, we have been awed by the beauty of Japan as a country, the richness of its culture, and we discovered the inherent goodness of the Japanese people. Together we explored the depths of Seto Inland Sea and the height of Mr. Fuji while learning about the peculiarities, similarities and differences in the regional development of Japan compared to our respective localities. From our incessant curiosity and hunger for knowledge, we asked infinite questions of our resource speakers that ended up extending the working time of the interpreters and made our coordinators worried-sick, because of the Japanese people's obsessive concern about the preciseness of time. Most importantly, we never missed photo opportunities, so that the scenes and events will forever form part of our memories, with the pictures serving as gentle reminders of such rare chance afforded to each of us. Despite the threat of excess baggage when going back home, it seemed that we could never overcome our fondness for keeping souvenirs of the places we visited, and the hotels we stayed as a solid proof for our relatives back home that indeed we went to such magnificent places.

Some have misunderstood our fondness for singing and our cheerful nature as lack of substance and depth. Little do they know that it is in the culture of Filipinos

to be happy and tactful even in the midst of insurmountable problems. In our case, we had utilized our free time such as in bus rides to nurture our friendship and hone our singing talents. But we never failed in our assigned tasks and responsibilities. We developed keen interest in the subject matters taught to us, and we craved to learn as much as we can.

We may have the chance to meet again someday, somehow as a group or with the Japanese people with whom we had established newfound friendships, but it will never be under the same circumstances. We are happy to know that everything that had to be done was done. There can never be room for regrets because we optimized and made full use of the JICA-sponsored Youth Invitation Programme in accordance with its desired purpose and objective. We have been equipped with the proper knowledge and information that can enhance our participation in local development in our respective localities. It is our group's conviction that we have been accorded a rare opportunity and enriching experience for which we thank all concerned Japanese entities like JICA and countless other Japanese people who devoted their time and efforts for us. Above all, to God who made all things possible, a million thanks.

I shall pass through this way only once. So anything that I can do or say, let me do it now, for I shall never pass this way again.

---

## Productive Encounters

---

Albert Dizon Mendoza  
ASEAN Comp.  
Science and Technology Group

Learning about Japan's rich history and culture through books and newspapers is not enough to appreciate their beauty. Visiting Japan widens one's horizon by gaining first-hand experiences.

It is of great honor to be part of 24-member ASEAN Youth — Science and Technology group initiated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to participate in various activities sponsored by the Toyokawa International Association (TIA).

Representing each country's language and culture,

we participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, were able to enrich our vocabularies by learning few words shared among us and some cultural practices where we found common factors. It was of great joy to learn Japanese language in a short period of time. Practical programmes like the Homestay, In-house Seminar, shopping, ordering food at restaurants, travelling around and interactions with the Japanese youths motivated me to use the language although with some difficulty. In spite of this, I enjoyed every encounter. Being with Japanese people during the In-house Seminar, Homestay and the Disneyland tour greatly enriched my knowledge of Japan's culture. Given our limited time to be together, those were moments very much to be treasured.

Visiting some important companies contributing to the economic growth of Japan gave me some perspective of the nature of work they are doing to attain continuous progress. I saw technologies not only for their own good but also for others consumption — technologies which will benefit most nations.

Stepping on Hiroshima's soil gave me the sense of respect for those people who experienced the wrath of A-bomb. Their long-term agony made me realize the importance of life. The beautiful temples manifested Japan's life in the early centuries, and brought me to its past dimensions.

With all these productive experiences, I would conclude that living in harmony with other nations will build a life for the future generation.

## ■ Asia

### ■ Thailand

## Taking Part in the Youth Invitation Programme

---

Meena Thamchaipenet  
Small and Medium Industry Group

*When our stay in Japan for one month by the Youth Invitation Programme was fixed, we were so happy and got one more dream into our lives.*

We imagined the skyscrapers in Tokyo, Mt. Fuji covered with snow, cherry blossoms in full bloom in spring, fashionable and attractive young men, Samurai, Ikkyu-san, and Doraemon appearing only on T.V. These dreams would come true soon. We decided to study the Japanese language, which could help us protect ourselves in advance. So we took leaves for one month to get to know Japan, which we had longed to see.

Why has Japan recovered unexpectedly rapidly and developed more than any other Asian countries, although it was so severely damaged in the war and had to start from zero?

Why has Japan become happy enough to give this kind of opportunity to us and spend much money for us without any conditions, although it has already donated aid to a lot of countries?

Why can Japan do what others don't think of or what they don't think they can do?

We had had a lot of questions in our minds.

It took only five hours from Bangkok International Airport to Narita International Airport. But our curiosity made us feel the flight to be much longer.

During the first part of the programme after arriving in Japan, we were something like birds which didn't know where to go and what to eat and drink. If there was only one way to protect ourselves, it was the 'Thai smile.' JICA took care of us well, and we got used to the Japanese life. As a result, we became tough enough to survive in Japan.

I'm writing this essay just a few hours before departing for Thailand after 27 days spent in Japan. I might not be able to convey all of our images of Japan. But I am sure that every scene has remained deep in our minds.

A lot of mixed feelings are rising up in my mind at the same time. I sometimes missed Thai food and got homesick, but I have another feeling of not wanting to leave Japan. Our work and duties remind us that this is the time to leave this place, because this is not our country. We are mere visitors, who have to leave this place when the time comes.

I've remembered Mr. Fujiya Aoyama's remark at the closing ceremony, "If you see the reality of Japan, I would like all of you to utilize the good points for the development of your country." Yes. We learned the Japanese way of work and were surprised at its advanced technology. Moreover, we were impressed by the management system in which land, machinery, and the work force were efficiently used, and by the cleverness of the managers and their creativity, which was worth trusting.

We also studied the differences between our cultures, lifestyles, sense of values, and ways of thinking.

I often remember taking a public bath with my friends. That was a very unique experience to us. I also remember the train trip where we always had some trouble in counting the members and asking the way.

These were so funny that we could not stop laughing. Although there was a language barrier between the Japanese people and us, they were so kind as to help us a lot at any time.

I can conclude that the experience of participating in the Youth Invitation Programme was very useful and valuable.

I am grateful to JICA and the organizations concerned for preparing the best programme in every aspect for us. Our 27-day stay in Japan will be lingering in our minds as wonderful memories forever.

---

## My Summertime Memories

---

Mayurachat Pratis  
Teachers (Primary School) Group

I took part in the Youth Invitation Programme as a member of Teachers Group from May 31 to June 27, 2000. I cannot forget my impression at the moment of seeing the clear image of Japan when our airplane

over the ocean came close to the airport. Our daily programmes were carried out usefully and smoothly. We learned not only the contents but also how to deal with the work from our coordinators and the persons concerned. I think that was all very meaningful.

We acquired indicators for the future and widened our perspectives through a lot of lectures and seminars with the Japanese youths in the same field of specialty. I was impressed by the warm welcome, which was as if we were treated like as state guests at every place we visited. We were welcomed by the pupils at a primary school with their faces full of smiles, and we will never forget that scene. When we left the school, the pupils waved to us with their small hands. We realized that the differences in culture and languages should not be barriers against friendship if there are smiles.

Moreover, enjoyable time with our host families was unforgettable memories in our hearts.

We would like to help to establish a friendly relationship between Thailand and Japan. So we will convey our experiences in Japan to our friends in Thailand and make good use of them. I think our experiences are more valuable than any medals.

We will leave Japan, but the friendship between both countries will continue forever.

---

## What I am Thinking about Japan

---

Wikrommanas Auawithoothij  
Agriculture (Fisheries) Group

I observed a lot of facilities and enjoyed the scenery of the mountains and the sea during our one-month stay in Japan. The center of the scenery surrounded by the mountains was agricultural land, mostly rice paddies.

But here in Japan, there are not any water buffalos moving to and fro in the paddy fields. Since the people use tractors for cultivation, they don't need buffalos. Instead, various sizes of buildings stand around such places. That was unique scenery to me. I recognized that Japan has recognized the value of agriculture. That is to say, it has tried not to lose its origins as an agricultural country, even though it has achieved development.

This seems to express the Japanese attempts of trying not to lose their origins.

Roads go through the mountains. Some roads detour when possible, but other roads go into the tunnels if they can't detour. This shows the Japanese attitude of respect for others and trying to be humble in front of any obstacles. And they make the utmost efforts to succeed according to the situation.

We feel we come to understand deeply what the Japanese youths were thinking through our discussions. We recognized how they wanted Japan to be. I also have similar ideas. It might turn out to be a mere dream, but I have a hope that both Thailand and Japan will have a good relationship tied through friendship, and have good impressions of each other.

When we visited the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, our coordinator's remark was impressive, 'We not only would like you to see what was done by A-bombing, we also would like you to know what was brought by the war.'

The coordinator apologized as a Japanese responsible for the war and said that she wanted us to think about a real friendship. Wars brought great damage and sorrow to both those who caused them and to those who were victims in the troubles. Therefore, we really understood the importance of peace for coexistence.

While I am glad that I will go back to my home country and meet my friends and family, I have mixed feelings as it is painful to leave the persons with whom we created such good images of each other.

Japan can be compared to 'Lady with the five factors of the beauty' in Thailand.

That is a lady whom every woman wants to be and every man wants to have as a wife. The 'Five factors of the beauty' mean beautiful features, wealthiness, intelligence, good birth and elegance, and virtue. I think those undoubtedly represent Japan. Japan is blessed with beautiful nature, economically wealthy, rich in marine resources, has advanced technology and knowledge has, inherited traditional culture and customs, puts the senses of respect and humility into practice and is full of virtues.

I'm sure that I'll miss Japan.

---

## The Youth Invitation Programme

---

Sawapat Mongkolchai  
Administration (National Government) Group

It takes much time to judge the essence of one thing, whether it is a living creature or not, by putting it aside. The superficial aspect affects our judgment very much. Japan is well known as a leader in advanced technology and the global economy, but foreigners seldom notice its sensitivity behind those images.

This Youth Invitation Programme can be said to be a good opportunity for us to learn about the delicate and elaborate Japanese culture behind its advanced technology.

We learned this kind of real image of Japan for one month in the nation. Japan tries to take responsibility as an economically advanced country. It also preserves its own culture while introducing Western culture, too. Moreover, it tries to accept various things with harmony as well as to study incessantly.

We came to realize these things when we stayed with some Japanese families. Although we stayed for only three days, this experience was very precious, and something we never had in other places.

On the last day of the programme, we were confident that we understood the civil servant and administration system. That is to say, Japan, with few resources and little land, has successfully developed *because it has kept strict and well regulated systems*.

The scars of World War II still remain in the minds of the Japanese people; therefore, they have the strong desire for peace. I think that Japan, which paid a big price and sacrificed a great amount in the war, has a role in appealing for peace to the world. Friendship and peace are really important.

This programme, even though a very small exchange, will play an important role in the establishment of peace. We are proud that we also contributed to world peace, even if just a bit, by *participating in the Youth Invitation Programme*.

---

## I Will Never Forget You

---

Metha Sereethanawong  
Local Development Group

"I will never forget you." These were the last words from Ms. Ando, of my host family. Those words also express the same feelings as mine.

That was the most unforgettable moment for me who arrived in Japan on July 29, 2000, as a participant of the Youth Invitation Programme.

It was a very hot day. I went to see a community baseball game with Takuya-kun of my host family. I not only enjoyed the game but also got impressed with how the children learned a lot of things through their game.

One of them was that all the children practiced baseball in a well organized way. Even the children on the bench earnestly encouraged the players in the same way by shouting in a chorus of voices. All the players cooperated to organize their equipment nicely. Therefore, I felt their spirits would make them win the game cooperatively. There were no grown-ups to give them orders. No child showed dissatisfactions or made complaints. Even though some of them were ordered to change, no one complained and just smiled. If there were some mistakes, no child spoke ill of the others.

Unfortunately, my preferred team was defeated. Laughter turned into tears. In the meeting after the game, the catcher, a mere little child, spoke out first and apologized. I also got tears but felt refreshed.

No child blamed anyone else, and all the children had own satisfied looks on their faces because they took their responsibility. Those who practiced hard, those who encouraged the players on the bench, those who supported them behind the scenes, and a boy who apologized at last feeling his responsibility, they were all very, very great!

I will never forget their sincere hearts.



---

## Dear Diary

---

Sumana Koedkanmag  
 ASEAN Comp.  
 Economy (Trading) Group

Guess what? Can you believe how fast time has surely flown during my stay in Japan with JICA — the Youth Invitation Programme? 28 days have been "too excellent to be true." Let me briefly tell you how I have been carried away with such a wonderful experience.

Basically, my story has gone through two simple paths. The first route is what I have learned in Japan in the field of economy. We visited many international trade-related organizations — both public and private such as the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, JETRO in Tokyo; the Asia-Pacific Import Mart, Moji Customs Headquarters, the Higo Bank, and the Hirata Machinery Factory during the Kyushu programme. Every visit was very informative, and our exchanges of ideas yielded fruitful discussions. I did not only gain knowledge from those firms, but I also learned the differences among ASEAN nations.

My trip was not only educational but it was also great fun. Here is how my second route of experience has been. The JICA Youth Invitation Programme certainly gave me the greatest opportunity to share and learn Japanese and about other ASEAN cultures. Since the first day when I arrived in Osaka, I have learned new things every day. Keeping my dear diary, exposing unknown language and a totally unfamiliar environment was extremely challenging. I had to make a wild guess and kept my fingers crossed that the stuff I bought was what I really wanted! Yes, there was the risk of buying the wrong items. But as I told you, it was fun to give it a shot.

No, no! This has not been the end of my cultural experiences yet. I was very impressed by participating with Japanese youths in the Learning Japanese on the Move, the In-house Seminar in Yamanashi, as well as the group discussion in Fukuoka. Each session brought forth different atmospheres in terms of formality, diversity of people I have met, and various topics. However, I concluded that every session certainly affirmed and strengthened the good

relationships and deepened understanding among the Japanese counterparts and ASEAN participants. You would not believe that such short period of time could create such delightful friendships.

Other new experiences were a kind of culture shock. I was stunned by busy cities like Tokyo and Osaka. Have you ever seen "a flow of people on streets and subways?" It seems that those two cities never sleep. Lights and people are everywhere, no matter how late at night it is.

The state-of-art is not the only thing Japan can offer. This country is also rich in traditions, values, and nature. The Homestay was an outstanding chance to experience the Japanese day-to-day life style.

Trust me that Japanese people are very nice and friendly. It is beauty amidst the busy hi-tech society. It was very nice the way people opened their homes and hearts for us with very warm welcomes.

I am very thankful to every sponsor including our lovely coordinators. They have done an awesome job and have put so much effort into taking very good care of us. Without them, this programme would not have been as marvelous as it has been.

Dear diary, as I mentioned earlier, time really does fly. Nevertheless, this Japan trip is one of the most memorable times of my life. And I am certain that this will be the start of long-lasting friendships among Japanese, ASEAN friends and me. All right, I will have to wrap up my story with you here, for it is time to tell everyone back home how remarkable my trip was.

## ■ Asia

### ■ Viet Nam

#### Memories of My Journey

---

Nguyen Van Hung  
Education Group

Encounters with you and me  
Encounters we never expected  
Encounters we had, coming from far  
The earth gave us these encounters

On a sunny day I stepped into Japan  
Where beautiful memories came out  
This land full of dreams  
Opened my heart  
It welcomed me just as an old friend

The most beautiful days  
When I was filled with happiness  
They made us understand each other

I wonder  
Why time passed so quickly  
Why time changed our encounters into good-by

You gave me beautiful and warm smiles  
Your endless affection is still lingering in my heart

---

#### A Lot of Unforgettable Memories

---

Vu Chi Mai  
Civil Servants Group

'Although Viet Nam is far from Japan, our hearts are close. It's something like the strong ties of Mt. Fuji and Mt. Cheonsons.'

We always remembered these lyrics all through our 28-day stay in Japan.

All of nature, the environment, scenery, and smiling faces of our Japanese friends were refreshing. They made us feel at home, although we were somewhat homesickness. Our hearts were full of good memories and deep impressions.

The Japanese friends welcomed us with warm

smiles and words as if we had been their old friends or family members who came back from faraway after a long interval. They waved to us with tears and shouted 'Sayonara' when we separated. We really became very close and liked each other.

We learned and shared experiences, and visited various places under the warm atmosphere of friendship between Viet Nam and Japan.

There was no end to the looks of satisfaction on our faces and our laughter.

Japan is an advanced industrial country. Japanese society is something like a big machine which continues to work without a stop as a system. But there was nothing regulating the feelings our Japanese friends gave to us. They were just the feelings of people in a country of cherry blossoms for Viet Nam. I will never forget my 28-day stay in Japan, even after I go back to Viet Nam. Although we can't regain the passed time, the kindness of my Japanese friends has become unforgettable memories.

I hope that the friendship between Viet Nam and Japan will grow just the way of cherry blossoms become pink and lotus flowers smell sweet. Let's love peace together and raising the flowers of our friendship over the Pacific Ocean.

---

#### Japan and My Enjoyable Days

---

Nguyen Thi Thuy Ha  
Economy Group

I tried to see as much as I could in Japan, which has been said to be a country of Mt. Fuji and cherry blossoms. I got good impressions everywhere.

Tokyo and Osaka are modern and big cities where big companies, political and administrative organizations and places of entertainment are concentrated. Kyoto, an old city boasting old buildings constructed with traditional techniques, symbolizes the history and culture of Japan.

I was impressed by Hiroshima, which has recovered from the ruins of the A-bombing at remarkable speed.

What I especially have to write is about Japanese food. I tried various kinds of Japanese food and enjoyed their taste and decorations.

I was fascinated by elaborate craft works and

elegant flower arrangements when I visited various places and by the lively martial arts.

I was given the chance to experience Japanese lifestyle for three days. I was treated as a real family member and felt as if I had been at home in Viet Nam. I will cherish this precious memory of my homestay in which I experienced ordinary Japanese life.

I was impressed by the Japanese youths who had made efforts for the development of Japan. I, moreover, came to understand how Japan had developed through hearing lectures and observations. I suppose that there are many things that we have to learn from Japanese to develop our nation.

While I stayed in Japan for one month, the images of the Japanese people filled with kindness, diligence, and warm hospitality, beautiful nature, and traditional culture came to be engraved on my mind naturally.

I will say 'See you again.' I shall visit memorable places again. I shall have the chance to meet my dear friends again.

I also want to share what I experienced and learned in Japan with my friends.

Thanks to JICA, the host families, and earnest coordinators, I spent one month usefully. I deepened my understanding of the Japanese and their society through this exchange, and came to like Japan much better.

---

## Development of Agriculture in Viet Nam

---

Vo Duc Trong  
Agriculture Group

We were given the opportunities to know the situation of agricultural products, Japanese culture, and Japanese people during our short stay in Japan thanks to the government of Japan, various organizations concerned, and the Japanese people.

We had a close to the national characters of the Japanese people of welcoming their guests and loving peace. In addition, we came to understand the development of agriculture.

Japanese agriculture under the present situation aims not only at high efficiency but also at products safety and conservation of the natural environment.

We would like to utilize these results as lessons for our own work.

One of them is to think always about diversity in the development of agriculture, process of products, and consumption, and to give quality the first priority.

Another important thing is the existence of agricultural cooperatives.

They make farmers establish their social positions in an early stage. In other words, agricultural cooperatives enable farmers to improve their technology, financial ability, and potentiality. They become bridges between the government and farmers and have the roles of developing and stabilizing agriculture, agricultural districts, and farmers.

In addition, I associated with Japanese youths, experienced Japanese lifestyle, and learned about Japanese culture and history.

Our Japanese friends and host families showed their sincerity to us. I learned many good things like harmony, a strong sense of responsibility, punctuality, and so on.

I would like to make use of what I learned from large and small-sized management systems, technical skills, productive experiences, and so on for the modernization of the industries that are under development in Viet Nam.

---

## One Moment in Time

---

Nguyen Ngoc Linh  
ASEAN Comp.  
Environmental Protection Group

One month in a man's life is quite a moment. But if time could be measured by its value, last month in Japan for me was a particularly long and precious period that in my whole life filled with beautiful memories and opportunities to discover new things and to live in warm friendship among our group's participants and Japanese counterparts.

This very well designed and successful programme has provided us with a panoramic view about the country and the people of Japan — a land of high technology and modern punctual life. We visited the Crane Reserve and Kushiro Marshland, observed recycling, sewage disposal centers, etc. and realized

what great efforts the Japanese government had made in trying to protect and preserve the environment especially bio-diversity. The lectures and observations which I attended made strong impressions on me. I believe that in relation to my specific field, I benefit the much from what I had heard and saw here through the programme.

Never in my life can I forget the wonderful memories of the In-house Seminar and Homestay when I learned how to communicate in Japanese, how to dress in kimono, make Japanese tea and how to live as a member of my host family. I will also remember the images and tears of our Japanese friends and ASEAN participants at Kushiro airport the day we left. I found that no matter what your nationality is we all have the same language — the language of the heart.

Finally, I would like to thank JICA for the meaningful programme, and from the bottom of my heart I would like to thank Ms. Mikiko-san, Ms. Watanabe-san and all people who took care of us during our stay in Japan.

At the moment the Japanese hardest word for me to say is "Sayonara."

## ■ Asia

### ■ East Timor

## My Excursion to Mount Tateyama

---

Gastao Francisco de Sousa

ASEAN Comp.

Public Utilities (Telecommunication) Group

On Monday afternoon, September 12, 2000 at 16:30, I left Yamada Village to go to the Toyama Kouseinenkin Kyuka Center to take a rest before climbing the mountain, whose altitude is about 3,015 m above the sea level. I spent the whole night in the hotel, and took a dinner with my friends from the ASEAN Components Public Utilities (Telecommunication), the Coordinators from the Youth Invitation Programme, International Hospitality and Conference Service Association (IHCSA), and Federation of World Youth Toyama.

In the morning, I woke up and looked outside, but the weather was very cloudy and raining, and I thought that this wasn't a good time to have a excursion to Mt. Tateyama. That was the first time I took a bath in a hot springs, and I felt very refreshed after that.

After breakfast, my friends and I took the bus, which went along the Tateyama Kurobe Alpine Route, running across the majestic Mt. Tateyama. Sometimes the bus went under a tunnel for about 5 minutes, and then let me see the beautiful and fantastic scenery/landscape of the Mt. Tateyama, even though it was cloudy and raining. At 12:00, I took lunch at altitude of about 1,900 m, and it made me have more of an appetite to eat everything which was served at the table.

After lunch, I went to feel, see and touch the snow, because that was my first time to see the snow. Moreover, I took some pictures, and I felt that maybe I was in the winter season, because I didn't know what winter is like.

I went to the Hell Valley, and I could smell the sulfur. It was very interesting for me because I never had such an experience before. After that I went back to Toyama by the some route. I hope that this will not be my last journey to Mt. Tateyama.

■ Asia

■ Bangladesh

## A Glorious and Significant Observation Tour for Bangladeshi Teachers

Md. Farid Uddin  
Education Group

Under "The Japan-South Asia Youth Invitation Programme 2000," we visited Japan from 7 June to 4 July, 2000. Through this visit we learned about the education system of Japan prevalent at the secondary level. The visit was very fruitful to us, because the school education system of Japan is very good as well as well equipped. The method of teaching and learning, and classroom teaching technique followed by Japanese teachers are very methodical and skillful. We also observed the duty and functions of the head of the institution in a school.

The homestay was a good part of the programme; through it we came to know about the Japanese family life style and their traditional culture. We will not forget the homestay; the memory will live on because their wonderful hospitality really touched our hearts. The natural features of Japan are very beautiful, as are its mountains, too.

Finally, we will make use of our acquired experience and knowledge in class teaching, in administrative management, in laboratory experiments, in upgrading class teaching mechanisms, in utilization of science education in the practical field, and hope this will all have a positive outcome for our country, Bangladesh.

■ Asia

■ Bhutan

## A Train Journey

Kunzang  
Education Group

It was a fine Saturday morning when we were granted the opportunity to make use of some Japanese volunteers. We decided to proceed to Ibaraki Station to go to Nippon-bashi to do some personal shopping. We went to Ibaraki Station by a shuttle bus. We got down from the bus, and the volunteers told us that we need to take a subway to get to Nippon-bashi. Our hearts filled with joy to experience the train journey.

Our volunteers led us to a ticket counter. There was nobody at the ticket counter only the ticket counter machines, which function automatically in issuing the tickets. The volunteers told us to put yen coins into the slots of the ticket counter machines. It was a big surprise to see that the tickets and change out once we pressed the buttons. We proceeded further to wait for the train. Before we proceeded to wait for the train, we passed through the entrances by inserting our tickets into the holes of the entrance gates. Unfortunately, one of our friends forgot to check in the ticket, and the entrance gate closed on him automatically. He was very shocked and embarrassed when everyone laughed at him. It was a good experience for all of us.

"Experience makes a man perfect."

■ Asia

■ India

## Destination Japan—A Journey Towards Peace

---

Sanyukta Shukla  
Education Group

*"The year ends reviving old desires and memories. This is not the end; this is not even the beginning of the end. But this is the beginning of the beginning."*

Yes, come December 5th and we are ready to fly back to India. It does not mark the end of our relation with Japan, but a new chapter of friendship. And a journey towards peace has begun in our heart.

The word "Japan" will bring back fond memories of our coordinators and host families, who made us feel at home away from home during our brief relation with them. A quiet walk along the roads with beautiful *maple and cherry trees made us all feel romantic* again. The similarities between our traditions and culture have created a bond between India and Japan.

All of us might forget everything, but the conviction that humanity cannot coexist with nuclear weapon can never be taken out of our minds.

We all will live for the next many years not only to tell the tales of our visit to Japan but also to propagate the seeds of world peace for the generations to come.

Thank you.

■ Asia

■ Maldives

## An Unforgettable Experience

---

Ilyas Ibrahim  
Education Group

"The Youth Invitation Programme" is a very useful programme. Through this programme I have experienced and observed many things, such as Education System, traditional culture and everyday life of the people along with its developed industries. The Japanese people are patriotic, polite, punctual, active, hardworking, friendly and helpful. I will never forget my host family and their kindness. They treated me like their own family member. The places I visited were so beautiful. I took a lot of photographs from those places with my Japanese counterparts and my friends.

Indeed I am very happy that I was invited to this Youth Invitation Programme. The experience that I gained in Japan will be implemented when I go back to my respective country.

■ Asia

■ Nepal

**Miracle of Japan**Gopal Prasad Lamsal  
Education Group

Japan, it's a country of wonderful life

When I wrote Kanji with black ink, I saw Japan  
We say 'Namaskar' (hello) from Nepal to Japan  
We saw 'Chamatkar' (the miracle) of Japan

The flash sparked here and there  
The bridge was across the sea  
We were charmed by their way of speaking

Let us bring our bags  
We finally came to Tokyo

We were loved in Saga Prefecture  
Saga was like 'Swarga' (a paradise)

There was rubble in Hiroshima before  
There are skyscrapers in Hiroshima now

We love Saga very much  
We got aboard the Shinkansen  
It runs the fastest in the world  
(Based on an original poem rhymed in Nepalese.)

■ Asia

■ Pakistan

**Dreams Come True**Abid Quddus Qazi  
Medical Fields (Doctor) Group

It had always been my dream to visit Japan. Although my elders' advise "thou shall not dream, thou shall not regret" is mostly true, once in a lifetime dreams become a reality. This is what has happened here.

I heard that Japan is a very technologically advanced country, but I never thought that here reality would also become a dream, a sweet soothing fantasy whether you are asleep or awake. With flowers and fragrances all around, the magic of technology even in the most unimaginable places, smoothness and harmony everywhere, not only on streets but even in the tides of the sea. Though buildings and skyscrapers have grown like mushrooms, they could not cloud the purity of people and their expressions. Advances in technology have not blurred the basic human nature of the Japanese people. Their everyday life is full of button pushes and automation, but in the evening when they reach home, they love to eat simple foods with chopsticks and enjoy sleeping best on Tatami floors.

Beauty is the other name of the Japanese people. They are not only beautiful in facial appearance but internally, too. Their radiant Kimono, the artistic masterpieces, the calligraphy, the decorative styling, the presentation of food, flower arrangements, and Bonsai are a few of the visible expressions of their inner beauty. I feel people here do enjoy life, but even more so life itself enjoys being in the Japanese nation.

## ■ Asia

### ■ Sri Lanka

#### Once in a lifetime

---

Pelenda Pathirage Preeni Vinodanie Dias  
Education Group

Dearest Japan:

I started dreaming about visiting you since 1987. Now my dream has come true. It is a "once in a lifetime experience," and I'll never ever forget this visit to you. When I stepped into you from Sri Lanka, my heart beats went up, and my heart calmed down with the smell of your warm hand in hand welcome.

It was an unforgettable and golden experience to be in you. I was lucky enough to have a chat with your sons and daughters: Osaka, Tokyo, Niigata, Shizuoka, Okayama and Hiroshima. I never felt alone in you, because 'you and I,' Japan, were the same. I met nice active people and beautiful areas here. 'Work on time' is another experience I appreciated about you.

Finally, let me say "experiencing you in my life" will be a long-lasting journey for me. When I leave you, my eyes will give you a 'tear drop' to keep you in my heart forever.

I will love you forever.

Loving.

## ■ Asia

### ■ Mongolia

#### Unforgettable Memories

---

Sonomjamts Baigalnaa  
Local Administration Officer Group

I've noticed that there is just one day left before our departure.

One month has passed by so quickly. I was so surprised to see high buildings and busy streets on arriving at Narita Airport that I wondered whether I would get used to them. My one-month stay is filled with unforgettable memories. We became good friends with our Japanese counterparts, and came to understand each other by discussing the problems of the economy, politics, society, and so on during the In-house Seminar.

I was impressed that our Japanese counterparts were interested in the present situation of the Mongolian economy and made efforts to explain the differences between the Japanese economy and the Mongolian one in detail. Even though we live in different countries and speak different languages, we have the same purposes and wishes as long as we live under the same sun. I felt the diligence and the kindness, and came to have a sense of respect for the Japanese people by experiencing their daily life and the customs when I stayed with Mr. Adachi's family for two days.

When I arrived in Fukui Prefecture, which is surrounded by snow-covered mountains, I felt a certain friendliness as if I had been in Bayanhongol, my hometown. I became on good terms with the local primary students while taking school lunch, playing the games, and drawing pictures together, just as if I had gone back to my own childhood days. It was so painful to part from them that we were moved to tears. I will never forget the students who walked after us and shook their small hands with ours. I am sure that the students will not forget us, either.

Hiroshima was a beautiful city. It was painful when I learned what war is like and how horrible the World War was at the Peace Memorial Museum. Not only the Japanese people but also people all over the world should not forget the day of August 6, 1945.

When I saw the Golden Pavilion Temple, gazed at



the Japan Sea from the cliff of Tojinbo, and walked around on Miyajima Island, I said to myself, "I will come back to Japan again." I learned a lot of things in the Youth Invitation Programme. After I studied the languages (English, Japanese), which are the base of better communication, I will come back to Japan.

I sincerely appreciate the Government of Japan, JICA, JICE, the World Youth Visit Exchange Association, and Fukui International Association for implementing this programme. I can say that Mongolian youths are ready to deepen friendship between Japan and their country. My one-month stay in Japan was unforgettable and will remain as wonderful memories in my life.

## ■ Asia

### ■ Kazakhstan

#### A Warm Country, Japan

Saltanat Idulisova  
Central Asian Countries Comp.  
Economy Group

There was comfortable fine weather during our stay in Japan. I recognized Japan's originality and the attractiveness which were unique to it during the warm and friendly atmosphere. I experienced that friendship and mutual trust, based on individual exchanges, and mutual understanding are important. The homestay with the Japanese family and exchanges with my Japanese counterparts gave me unforgettable impressions.

I also got a strong impression of Mt. Fuji, the beauty of the land of Hokkaido, the scenery of Hiroshima, and the look of streets in Tokyo. These all made strong impressions on me. We played volleyball, sang songs, had enjoyable exchanges, and deepened our mutual understanding, while overcoming the language barrier.

During the specialized programme, the specialty of the participants was taken into consideration. The materials given to us were useful. I was most interested in the lecture on "Development of the Economy and the Present Situation of Japan" and the visit to the Nomura Research Institute.

The Edo Tokyo Museum was helpful in understanding the history of Japan.

We will learn about the problems and the unique features of in organizing business more deeply, and examine the problems if there is an opportunity for us to talk with specialists in the economy.

Our homestay will remain in our hearts forever. We sensed their hospitality, understanding, and interests in us. We learned about the culture and customs of Japan. We also have a custom of hospitality in our country, therefore, we could feel and understand the warmth and consideration of the Japanese people.

Although we visited Japan in winter, we came back home with a warm affection and respect toward the nation. We appreciate the Japanese people for allowing us a big discovery. It was our discovery of

Japan.

With respects

On behalf of the Central Asian Group

■ Asia

■ Georgia

**Dear Everyone**

---

Levan Revaz Chorgolashvili  
Caucasian Countries Comp.  
Economy Group

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the persons concerned in the implementation and the management of the programme as well as in the participation and support for its success.

The Japanese lessons were impressive. We came to like the Japanese language and tried to use it. I will continue to study it. I feel a little sorry that the time for Japanese lessons was too short. I think that future participants will be pleased if time for this gets increased.

The most enjoyable and unforgettable time was the In-house Seminar at the Shuzenji Youth Hostel. We, from various countries, there became on good terms each other. I think that the best way to communicate and to become good friends with our Japanese counterparts is to share accommodations and meals together. Recreational activities and cultural presentations from each country group were very useful in creating a friendly atmosphere. It would be good if the number of these kinds of exchange programmes were increased in the whole programme. The In-house Seminar was held only for three days, but we became eager to deepen the friendships which we had developed by sharing the time together during the In-house Seminar in Shuzenji. We understood each other, learned about the culture and traditions of each country, as well as what the Japanese youths are interested in and how they lead their lives.

The visits to JR East Japan Co. and Oi Rolling Stock Maintenance Plant were also very meaningful. We were surprised by the accuracy of the implementation of the train timetable and by its computerization as well.

I would like to suggest that more visits to major companies like JR be included in future programmes.

I cannot forget the wonderful time that I spent in a homestay with a Japanese family. We felt as if we

were real family members then.

Of course, we had known before coming here that the Japanese people are good at welcoming guests, and we reconfirmed that during our homestay. It was if we could have parents, brothers, sisters, and relatives in Japan. It was painful in part from them. I hope that someday I will receive my host family at my home in my country. I am grateful to the organizers of the Homestay Programme.

It was hard for me to think how Hiroshima had recovered as a new city after the A-bombing. I felt keenly how important peace is to the world after watching the video and seeing the exhibitions at the Peace Memorial Museum. The films shown to us made us so shocked that we could not stop our tears. We are sure that we will make the utmost efforts to show the video lent by the Museum and to convey the knowledge about the tragedy of the A-bombing not only to the people in our country but also to people all over the world. I think it would be really wonderful if the next participants could have the time to the dedicate flowers to the Monument of the A-bomb victims. We walked around in Hiroshima's downtown with painful feelings after learning about the tragedy of the A-bombing. Hiroshima is a modern city where youths are leading cheerful lives. We felt comfortable about the present situation in Hiroshima. I was sorry that we stayed there only for one day.

It is hard for me to write about all the impressions I have about my stay in Japan concisely. The warm exchanges with the Japanese people and other good memories still remain in our hearts. We were impressed by the rich culture and diligence of the Japanese people. Their respects for the tradition and their modern life are well integrated and contribute to the development of Japan. I hope that our country will provide other countries with assistance in the same way as Japan does now.

Therefore, I don't want to say 'Good-by' now. I just say, 'Ja, Mata.'

Thank you very much for giving us such wonderful days and moments.

We are looking forward to having the Japanese people to come to Georgia and other Caucasus countries.

## ■ Pacific

### ■ Papua New Guinea

#### Japan, A Role-Model for a United Earth

Apelis Benson  
Education Group

Japan is an island country with a population of 126 million people. The country has a land area of approximately 378,000 square kilometers and has four main islands with the biggest Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu and Shikoku the smallest. The official language of the society is Japanese, and it is a medium of instruction from pre-school to higher educational levels. This was some information I knew about before taking my wonderful tour of the country.

As I began my stay in Osaka, I was amazed to know that almost the whole world was involved in various programmes sponsored by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). At one stage I thought the exercise was very expensive to manage. However, I later realized that it was very vital that mutual understanding prevails among nations of the world.

As a non-Japanese speaker in the friendship programme, I found it very difficult to communicate with my wonderful Japanese friends although I wanted badly to express myself freely. However, this did not bother me so much as I always carried with me the "Nihon-go," Japanese language booklet everywhere I went around in Japan, indeed I found it interesting speaking the Japanese language word by word in shops; during discussions, school visits and many encounters.

I realized that the notion of the "Known to unknown" principle of learning was a reality in the education system. And therefore the elementary to higher educational levels involves just practicing this principle of learning. It is very true that knowledge is grasped well in a language familiar to a learner. When I reflect on this, I now understand why not many of my people are illiterate. On the other hand, English should be considered I think for fair communication.

As a participant from a country with cultural diversity, I was impressed with the programme's interest in presenting many traditional customs, values

and beliefs. And so many these sites have become major tourist attractions. There indeed is pride about the country's history. I've learnt a lot and am confident my country can be proud of my contribution when I implement my knowledge to the young people of Papua New Guinea. Furthermore, the traditions of generosity, peaceful environment and warm welcome by the people have given me lots of experiences to take back to my country. I'm convinced that this is the role model of prosperity and longevity, and that is what my country badly needs.

I wish I could stay longer, so I could learn more about this role-model country and be perfect with the Japanese language. However, I must leave to tell my people in my country about Japan, the role-model for a united and peaceful world.

---

## **Japan—Expect the Unexpected**

---

Goru G. Babona  
Rural Development (Economy) Group

For all the participants, leaving the Pacific tranquility and entering metropolitan Japan seemed like a fantasy. Nevertheless, our hectic month-long moving about and enjoying in the spirit of friendship extended by the Japanese were memorable experiences.

Whilst engaging in exchanges through various activities, we noticed some social, economic and political similarities. However, looking at the technological gaps in infrastructural developments, we found out that the concept of rural development is different between PNG and Japan.

Whilst most Japanese citizens receive enough basic services, PNG has not yet achieved these goals. Thus, fostering good relations is vital for technological transfers to enhance socio-economic development in the rural sector of PNG. Likewise, we have witnessed some of the evils of technological advancement in various forms of pollution. These experiences have taught us the importance of making sound policy decisions beneficial to our people to prevent negative impact on our nation's ecosystem.

Therefore, developing human resources through education and maintaining a functional social structure

are vital for sustainable development.

Obviously, our activities covered various aspects of the Japanese lifestyle from food to clothes. Also, the beautiful Mt. Fuji, the traditional Asakusa and scenic Miyajima gave us deeper insight into the rich heritage of Japan.

Moreover, observing the horrific results of war in Hiroshima strengthened my appreciation of Japan's role in promoting peace and harmony. The experience will last forever within me now I have entered and left in the land where you always can expect the unexpected.

Sayonara.

## ■ Pacific

### ■ Fiji, Samoa

#### Great Nihon and Abason, Arigato

Shareen Lata Khan  
Vinod Lal  
Kilikamesa Eli  
Pacific Comp.  
Social Development (Education) Group

#### GREAT NIHON

The Youth Invitation Programme

Though only a month long

Gave me life-long memories

So great you are — Nihon

Thought going to a foreign land

Would give me a terrible end

But now I prefer to call it a homeland

With people so soothing, comforting, loving,

caring ...

Nihon — my everlasting friend

Regardless of age, race and colour, OSIC—the  
home for all

With friendly faces and oishii meals

Never made me homesick at all

Modernized yet not so westernized

Nihon — you have restored your culture

Temples and shrines, castles and gardens, so  
beautiful and adorable

Deep in the mountains, so cool and natural

Yet warmth and hospitality, dwell in the hearts of  
people

Giving us pure Japanese lifestyle and experiences

Aba-son you are unique and special.

The Peace Memorial Park melted my heart

Let's join hands, to promote peace

Nihon's everlasting wish

My heartfelt gratitude to — JICA — Arigato  
gozaimashita

Nihon — the great !!

Sayonara, Nihon !

#### ABASON, ARIGATO

Words of a language are not enough to explain and  
express the heartfelt impressions and the grateful  
emotions I have for the new insights due to the loving

care of the Abason people.

However, I have put it this way. Hospitality and  
faithfulness, respect and protectiveness, comfort and  
sociable, kindness and friendliness, as well as  
loveliness, are what we experienced in this wonderful  
and absolutely beautiful place. I'm sure all of us from  
the Pacific Component Social Development Group  
have really found happiness all the time and  
wonderful peace of mind since we arrived.

Therefore, there is nothing we can do and have  
nothing to give you to repay your fruitful contribution  
to this programme, except one thing. From the bottom  
of our hearts, we can only say, "Thank you, thank you,  
thank you very much." May each and everyone be  
richly blessed and may your future dreams be  
completely fulfilled.

■ Pacific

■ Micronesia

## My Experience in Japan

---

Gloria Megeg  
Pacific Comp.  
Economic Development Group

Our first impression about Japan was of a country with technological experts. Our stay in Japan during a month has proved this belief.

During the last 4 weeks, we have experienced different types of cultural exchanges, skills, friendship and economic activities between the Pacific Island and Japan.

We learned that all these experiences had given each one of the Pacific participants in the Economic Group useful and interesting ideas as well as topics to share among other Pacific participants.

The Economic Group experienced so many activities given by the Japanese Youth Invitation Programme. One of our best moments of all was the homestay. We learned so many things about the Japanese family and their ways of living. Our host families welcomed us to their homes as one of their family members.

We, the Economic Group, would like to thank the JICA officials for giving us this opportunity to come to Japan.

Furthermore, we want to give a special thanks to our coordinators, Mikiko-san, Akiko-san and Nakamuro-san, for all their generosity and efforts during our stay in Japan for this Youth Invitation Programme.

We had a successful programme during the past 4 weeks, and we will all return to our countries and will share we learned from this excellent programme.

■ Pacific

■ Niue

## A Dream Come True

---

Terriane Vaine Leki Mokoia  
Pacific Comp.  
Environmental Protection Group

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the utmost generosity of JICA, Japan Overseas Cooperative Association (JOCA) and JICE and the people of Japan for inviting me as one of the ambassadors representing my country, Niue, to join this Youth Invitation Programme for Pacific Islanders. This was a wonderful opportunity of a lifetime and a dream come true for me to finally set foot in Japan, the land of modern technology.

I've been filled with pure excitement and it has been an eye opener for me to experience the Japanese culture and lifestyle for a duration of 4 weeks and for the first time in my entire life, for that matter. The warm sincere welcome and acceptance I received from Miss Junko Kato's whole family in Shimane, as my host family, truly made me feel so right at home. "Arigato gozaimasu" from the bottom of my heart to them for being perfect hosts and making this experience so exciting and enjoyable. But I, for one, feel sad that the homestay was only 3 days and 2 nights.

Within 4 weeks I have mastered the art of adjusting to running with time, accepting technology, and learning about the Japanese system of their efforts and their contributions in becoming an environmentally friendly. And, of course, eating with chopsticks is a far cry from eating with fingers. I thoroughly enjoyed everything, and as each day of my experience in Japan had surprises for me.

Thank you very much for the Programme design to interact and share views among to youths of today for a cleaner, green environment and for the leaders of tomorrow. To Mr. Yosuke Nagashima, Ms Kiyoko Shimada and Ms Naoko Kijima, I bow my head in respect to all of your hard work in putting up with us.

I will return home in high spirits with admiration for and good memories of Japan. I guess I am going home with reality waiting for me at the door, all the

while knowing that this experience is a dream come true. Sayonara, Arigato gozaimasu, Japan.

Monu Tagaloa Kia Monuina (Good luck from the bottom of my heart)

From Niue — the Rock of Polynesia

## ■ Africa

## ■ Ghana

### Japan — The Land of Beauty

---

Edith Naa Dedei Quaye

English-speaking Countries:

Female Teachers Group

Japan has always been perceived by me as one of the Asian countries that has developed very well technologically and was doing well economically, but my visit to Japan has really enlightened me.

The Japanese, right from their childhood, are taught at both home and school to be time conscious, determined, hardworking, honest, warm-hearted, non-racist, and to have respect for culture and tradition. These factors can be identified in the content of their educational system.

The people are really daring, diligent, caring and happy with their jobs. They do not see the several rocky mountains, islands, scarcity of good agricultural land and land mostly covered by snow for almost a quarter of a year as obstacles. Instead, they rather work extremely.

The beautiful country with infinite beautiful scenery, traditional and cultural preservation, is all testimony to your commitment.

Japan is really a land of beauty, with very warm-hearted, loving and kind people.

## ■ Africa

### ■ Malawi

## Exchange of Knowledge

---

Boniface Banda  
English-speaking Countries:  
Health and Medical Service Group

*It was my first time to visit Japan. I did not have in my mind a vivid picture of Japan. But I was fortunate to be included in the Youth Invitation Programme 2000, in which we interacted with Japanese society.*

The programme was well arranged. We visited a lot of cities in Japan. Travelling by air, coach, train and ship, it was fantastic.

We exchanged knowledge on culture and medical services through the homestay, In-house Seminar, lectures and visiting historical places, where we learned that the Japanese respect their culture and are dedicated to their work.

We also had a chance to exchange some knowledge on the improved technology in the medical field, like the use of mobile CT Scan to detect cancer of the lung early among both the urban and rural populace.

I cannot forget the knowledge gathered when we associated with our Japanese counterparts how to approach different social and medical problems.

## ■ Africa

### ■ Mali

## In the Country of the Rising Sun

---

Fatomata Sabe  
French-speaking Countries:  
Female Teachers Group

*On a sunny day, November 23, 2000, my destiny began to move toward the Pacific Ocean to meet peace-loving people. I called the Japanese people the people of the country of rising sun; those who are not only peace-loving but also brave, diligent, orderly, and hospitable.*

Japan is a country of warm welcomes and hospitality, and it attracted me more as a foreigner with its advanced technology.

The most impressive thing during my stay in Japan was the Japanese family. I believe that a family is the primary unit in society and something which reflects it. I had waited for the homestay with some anxiety. But all of the Iorio Family took good care of me and I was surprised that I could easily share the room with Kayo-san, a daughter of my host family. My host mother welcomed me with her heart-warming dishes, which I ate together with my host family.

I never forget how painful I felt at the time I had to say good-bye to her.

She said over tears, "Fatou-san, I hope you enjoyed being with us. We were very glad to have you in my family. I will write to you. I want to see you again. Have a nice trip in Japan. My father, mother, brother, and I like you very much."

I will never forget this moment forever.

I learned how deeply the Japanese people had made efforts to foster friendship with other people in the world through my stay with the Japanese family. I also realized it while visiting Hiroshima.

I do hope that cooperation between Africa and Japan will be fruitful and continue for a long time.



## ■ Africa

### ■ Morocco

#### Flowers in Autumn

Malika Tibhiri

French-speaking Countries:  
Health and Medical Service Group

About Japan?

When I first stepped into this place, a lot of words were lingering in my mind and mixed feeling came to me. I admit I was cautious about being an unknown country.

But as the days passed, this closed-looking country gradually came to open up as if each flower petal had unfolded. When I woke up, a lot of smiles welcomed me and I only smiled back to them.

The time I spent at the aquarium in Osaka was impressive. The natural environment was given over to living creatures there. I got such a strong impression when my eyes met those of fish. Someone's eyes replied to those of the others. I was delighted with the warm communication in which only eyes and motions were used.

After leaving a big city, various kinds of scenery appeared in a good-balanced way in my eyes. Whenever I walked in the gardens or hills, I got a deep feel for the dignified and silent cosmos. Leaves, turned into vivid colors like the sun or flame, responded to a little breeze. And they grazed my head quietly before falling down to the ground. That scenery was so excellent and delightful that I can not express it in words.

## ■ Africa

### ■ Senegal

#### Discovery of Japan

Addoulaye Mountaga Sall

French-speaking Countries:  
Natural Science Teachers Group

During the Youth Invitation Programme of JICA, we were favored with accommodations, meals, transportation, and so on. The programmes were all carried out on schedule.

We widened our knowledge covering the history, culture, and technology of Japan through various observation chances and a lot of lectures.

Japan, with a lack of resources, made efforts to develop personnel to make up for it.

It has put emphasis on a very excellent education system, in which regulations, discipline, accuracy, and eagerness toward jobs were placed in an important position.

One of the unforgettable things during our stay was our homestay.

It was indeed a wonderful experience. We learned about the warm hospitality, politeness, and generosity of the Japanese people. What nice people they are! I felt confident that the world could be one through getting to know such people. Although races are different, friendship can overcome such barrier. A sense of solidarity will develop, and peace will continue forever.

Lastly I would like to give some suggestions for the improvements related to the implementation period and the contents of the programme.

First, the programme should be implemented in August or September, since schools in Africa are closed during these months, allowing us to stay in Japan comfortably.

Secondly, the contents of the programme should be more focused on our individual specialties as a whole.

Thirdly, the materials given to us should be translated into French.

## ■ Africa

### ■ Zambia

## The Japanese Challenge

---

Happy Mulwe  
Felix Banda

English-speaking Countries:  
Natural Science Teachers Group

Coming to Japan on the Youth Invitation Programme was for us and many other participants an excellent opportunity to see and experience the technological break-throughs for which the Japanese people have gained global acclaim. But for us, the trip and experience became an enormous challenge, which will last forever.

As we beheld the spectacular beauty of the architecture, maximum land and meticulous resource utilization, it became clearer that the Japanese people are great planners. The marvelous rebirth and superb beauty of the once ruined Hiroshima pointed to the resilience of Japan's hard-working people.

Walking on the jam-packed streets of metropolitan Tokyo, we saw multitudes moving as fast as the "Shinkansen" observing time like the soldiers of war. Commitment to duty like a bee, made me realize why the people are prosperous. But even more astounding was their unity of purpose.

We were impressed with the overwhelming hospitality, respect and the unpretentious love that the people of Japan have for others. We have truly never felt so much of home away from home as we freely mingled with the Japanese people.

Truthfully, the Youth Invitation Programme has sent us home with renewed vigor to educate people about the absolute necessity of planning, hardwork, commitment, love, resilience and resolute determination.

We shall forever be ambassadors of peace. Long live the people of Japan.

## ■ Latin America

### ■ Chile

## Education in Japan from the Point of View of Latin American Countries

---

Ivonne Ruiz  
Bairon Valle  
Justa Galvez  
Latin American Comp.  
Teachers Group

Cultural exchange enables us to judge the development of one country. This time we could see the educational system of Japan from the different point of view (that of Japan) by sharing the experiences of both Japanese and Latin American teachers.

The education in Japan is appropriate to the needs of the times. The reasons are as follows.

First, an educational budget is emphasized, and suitable facilities and tools are well equipped in all schools. That is a particularly remarkable aspect in education for the handicapped.

Secondly, the management systems and the school districts of every prefecture, city and town, and area enable the governing bodies to take responsibility for education, while having teachers, parents, and students involved in them.

Thirdly, the curriculums are varied, emphasizing science, technology, culture, customs, and traditions (through lessons in music, literature, cooking, martial arts, and technical arts).

These systems have enabled the Japanese to develop their level of science, technology, and economy to a high level. But follow-up examinations are necessary. Teachers' frequency shifts, especially those in schools for the handicapped, should be done in accordance with the needs of the schools and teachers' specialties and experiences.

Moreover, participation in society and group activities are necessary for the comprehensive development of children and youths.

The promotion of cultivating emotion is also necessary. It will settle the problems of students' enervation, indifference, and aggressiveness.

It will also help students to love and recognize their country, autonomy, families, and themselves, and to recognize that we can and should contribute to society through peace, justice, solidarity, and a sense of safety.

## ■ Latin America

## ■ Jamaica

### The Warm Winter in Japan

Marion Marguerite Wizzard

Latin American Comp.

Social Welfare Group

I arrived in Japan on Thursday, January 18, 2001, tired but grateful the flight had ended. The group was warmly welcomed by two lovely Japanese ladies.

As I awoke on Friday, I wondered what my stay would be like. Not too long afterwards, I realized that it would be one of the greatest work of my life. Why? I was surrounded by a host of Caribbean people whose warmth could be felt as you entered a room. There were three persons from South America, who soon became a part of the Caribbean family.

Great emphasis must be placed on the role played by our coordinators. They did everything in their powers to ensure that we were all doing well. I later discovered that this was the general attitude of the Japanese.

Fear gripped me when I realized that the time had arrived for my homestay. However, upon arrival at the home of my Japanese host, my fears were laid to rest. I immediately became their child. I felt like a princess. The interaction was one I will never forget. I was amazed by their kindness and efficiency and will definitely go back to my country as a Caribbean Japanese.

The lessons taught have made me realize the importance of the welfare system and the bonds of friendship.

JICA, Japanese Association of the Experiment in International Living(EIL), and Okinawa International Exchange & Human Resources Development Foundation(OIHF). Take the example of Bob Marley's song "One Love, One Heart," literally because, indeed, that's what we became.

My stay in Japan can be described in no other way but "Unforgettable."

■ Saudi Arabia

■ Saudi Arabia

## Invitation to Japan

---

Saad Ali Al-Garni  
Education Group

In the name of Allah, the most gracious and the most merciful.

Thanks and prayers are due to Prophet Mohammad, and let peace be upon him.

I'd like to thank you all and especially thank everyone who has participated and helped to enrich and expand our knowledge and awareness about this country in general and about education specifically.

Now, we all know Japan closely. We know how friendly these people are. They like hospitality. We firmly know the old and present civilization of Japan. We realize to the extent of this country's progress in technology.

We have visited a number of beautiful prefectures and cities. We realize the beautiful morals of Japanese in addition to the beautiful nature of this country.

What we have learned and experienced about Japan or its education is worth transferring to our countries. Surely, we will find use for what fits our culture and civilization.

Finally, we regret having to leave this country. We ask Allah to keep this love and friendship between our country and Japan, either at the level of education or at the level of all fields.

I don't say "goodbye" but "see you later in future" for another occasion if Allah is willing.



## 3. Impressions by Japanese Counterparts

---

### Thanks, Our Friend!

---

Kenichi Sawada  
Company Employee

Dave's words that his policy is to make people laugh and feel entertained and to make 3650 people laugh in a year since he guessed he met 10 in a day reminded me that the Filipinos have a cheerful character. They enjoy themselves at the same time as they entertain others. All the Japanese people including me were entertained by their behaviors and felt deep happiness.

On the other hand, I thought we had to learn from their attitude of speaking out their own opinions clearly and logically and accepting others' opinions sincerely.

This In-house Seminar can serve as an incentive of the sort I never had in my daily life, so I would like to convey these impressions to as many friends as I can. If we keep taking part in this kind of international exchange programme positively, I believe the Japanese people will change themselves in a better direction.

---

### That's a Stuffed Animal, Isn't It?

---

Tomomi Sakai  
Company Employee

"That's a stuffed animal, isn't it?" asked the Papua New Guinean youth pointing to a black poodle. That happened while we observed a dog show held at the

hotel during the break. The dog, with its hair trimmed, never moved before taking its entry place. When I replied, "That's real!", he got surprised, and his eyes opened widely.

The kind of a poodle, a dog not moving at all, and artificial trimming; were all things he was experiencing for the first time.

The Papua New Guinean participants spoke with much curiosity to the breeder using some Japanese which they had just learned. They said "Sumimasen?" and got permission to take photos. I found something new in their surprise about something that didn't faze me.

After discussions, Mark-san said as his impressions of Japan that he felt as if he had seen the Papua New Guinea of 100 years from now. Technological innovations such as tall buildings, railways, computers, and so on surprised him.

People living in such places, however, are the same as those of Papua New Guinea.

Take marriage, for instance. One participant told us that in his village, if the first son of family A married the first daughter of family B, then sometimes the second son of family A would marry the second daughter of family B, too. I found similarities to Japan and said with a smile, "The same thing happened in Japan a long time ago. My grandfather and grandmother got married that way, too."

We heard about their peaceful, lives, that they don't have electricity, build their houses on their own without carpenters, and so forth. I recognized that their lifestyle was different from ours but that they lead comfortable lives.

---

## Music Talks

---

Satoko Kobayashi  
Graduate Student

The Vietnamese and Japanese languages were used for communication during the In-house Seminar. Our conversation and discussions were carried out with the help of interpreters. So we often saw our communication freeze when there were no interpreters available.

The ice was broken at the second party. Everyone started dancing one after another in the dark room with music playing like in a nightclub.

Any music was O.K.; sometimes we heard the Japanese songs of the Morning-musume vocal group and Tokyo-ondo (a Japanese folk song). After that, the language barrier was removed and everyone enjoyed dancing and singing, and we all laughed.

Music has a power to remove language barrier. We gave no care to being from different countries. Each one of us was so appealing that I appreciated the encounter during the In-house Seminar.

---

## Feeling which I Cannot Buy

---

Shinya Iwase  
University Student

I am a sophomore at Tokyo University of Agriculture and a plan to go to Indonesia 2 months later. So I decided to take part in this In-house Seminar with the Indonesian Group.

Discussions in which I used the Indonesian language for practice were the best opportunity for learning the language. I never have the chance to use it in my daily life. Although three days and two nights were too short that allow me to remember very many words, I learned a lot of things which I cannot be bought.

The most memorable thing was the friends I made through the exchanges. Although there were the differences in language and culture, I realized the barriers in our minds could melt once we kept on talking without concern about the differences. I

enjoyed every moment more than anything else.

I hope that the training programme that I will have two months later will be the first step in fulfilling my dream.

---

## Impressions of Cambodian Youths

---

Yasunori Kaneko  
Company Employee

The Cambodian youths, whom actually I met, were cheerful and sincere.

Anytime when they danced to music, when they first tried to use the public bath, when they played volleyball and did a relay during the sports exchange, they seemed to enjoy themselves from the bottom of their hearts. We totally got involved in their pace. As for myself, I did exercise for the first time in a long while.

On the other hand, I noticed their strength in overcoming harsh realities. Their opinions exchanged with us in the discussions were full of their patriotism and their sense of responsibility.

I was impressed with the remark by one of them that Cambodia needs to develop people.

---

## "Teri ma kashi (Thank you)," Malaysian Participants

---

Takeshi Miyazu  
Civil Servant

Honestly speaking, the idea of staying with the Malaysian participants for three days and two nights had been nothing but anxiety for me, who had never experienced an overseas trip before I met them.

But once we initially met each other at the Keio Plaza Hotel in Shinjuku, I was impressed by their friendly attitude and I felt ashamed of myself for being a typical Japanese, who does not know how to get along with foreigners.

We deepened mutual understanding through sports and cultural exchanges during the In-house Seminar. The most memorable part was the group discussions.

What impressed me most about the way of thinking

of the Malaysian participants was that they wanted to develop their country by attaining the richness in both spiritual and materialistic terms. I was also impressed that families are the foundation of the country.

It was an enviable way of thinking for us Japanese who either have no spiritual foundation or who have lost it. Such ways of thinking made me feel like changing my attitude toward life. I felt I should cherish the time spent with my family more.

I also met a lot of Japanese participants who openly expressed their opinions and tried to act positively.

I sincerely appreciate the organizers for providing me made with opportunities over three days and two nights to I experience surprises and pleasures I never had in my daily life, and for supporting us. I also am very grateful to both the Malaysian and Japanese participants.

---

## Knowing the Culture and Medical Treatment of Pakistan

Hidetaka Wakabayashi  
Doctor

I realized that I had misunderstood what I had learned earlier about Pakistan after taking part in the In-house Seminar. I had thought that Pakistan was a country of Islam, therefore, the people all have the same religion and each one of them has a similar way of thinking.

Some Pakistan participants claimed that they could not use the same bath with the Japanese participants, whom they had just met for the first time.

Then, we offered to use a public bath, but some other participants said that they should use the same bath since they were sharing the same room with us.

I was upset at that time but now I realize it is only natural that each person has his or her own sense of values even when he or she belongs to the same country and religion.

During the discussions, I was surprised at the nurse's words that there was no rank discrimination between doctors and nurses in Pakistan, and at the fact that there were a lot of marriages between them.

I appreciated the Pakistani participants and the In-house Seminar for breaking my preconceived ideas. I

hope I will meet them in Pakistan someday, and I would like to know more about them.

---

## The World is One

Takayoshi Chiba  
Company Employee

A Vietnamese participant came to the room and said to me with excitement, "We sang 'We are the World' with our Japanese counterparts!" That was the most impressive statement to me during the In-house Seminar. "We are one." That expression is still lingering in my mind.

There were countless differences among us: language, climate, culture, and so on. In fact, I sensed while near the world map differences in each country's culture by seeing participants dance in their national costumes at the Friendship Party. And I felt they came from far. I felt as if I had taken a lesson in social studies with a textbook in my hands.

But the Vietnamese participants' words brought down the barriers from my mind and made me feel the ASEAN countries close to me. I learned through the In-house Seminar that a variety of differences proves the breadth of the world and could be the key to the mutual understanding and unity.

---

## I Felt Close to Asia in Japan

Satoshi Kuji  
Civil Servant

I learned various things among of Asians at the In-house Seminar with the ASEAN Component Group comprised of participants of various backgrounds such as in languages, culture, and so on.

It is not so hard to have exchanges with foreigners as long as we live in Japan.

But the participants had very lively reactions toward what they experienced in Japan, unlike some other foreigners who had already grown accustomed to this country. I was also given a good opportunity in which to learn about Japanese culture with them.

I sensed their interests and expectations about the

policies, diplomacy, and technology of Japan. I want to improve my ability to communicate so that I can better explain my specialty to them.

---

## Sharing Time with Myanmar People

---

Sumiko Manabe  
Teacher

Through the discussions with the Myanmar participants, I found the clear differences between our two countries in the basic educational policy. And we also recognized the strength of their passion and sincerely about developing the people.

Myanmar teachers have been guided by the concepts of the Buddhism. The contents of the education in Myanmar has changed drastically, and the number of new schools has been increasing. Under these circumstances, Myanmar teachers seemed to learn the better points of the educational system of Japan.

I think we should listen to their opinions and suggestions, and deal with the present problems. Our discussions were very fruitful, as was appropriate to the harvest of autumn.

Both the Myanmar and Japanese participants made their cultural presentations, and we enjoyed them with smiles.

---

## Taking Part in the In-house Seminar

---

Hidemi Oba  
Teacher

The In-house Seminar with French-speaking African Countries Female Teachers Group was held in Karuizawa during the winter.

The African participants, saying that the temperature was 34 °C in the morning when they departed from their countries, seemed surprised at the cold sub-zero temperatures.

Each country's educational situation was the topic during the discussions. We learned that their countries weren't blessed in material comforts but the ties

among families and the relationships with neighbors were considered important and children's eyes were shine in a lively way. I felt the most important thing for Japanese children at present is to have mutual sympathy with others.

We introduced children's games and songs to each other. I was so impressed by the beautiful lullaby taught by Rwanda participant that I sang it in mind repeatedly so as not to forget it.

---

## The In-house Seminar with Mongolian People

---

Kazuki Mogi  
Civil Servant

After coming home from the In-house Seminar, I was a bit excited because I experienced something I had not known before. I felt as if I returned to Japan from my first trip overseas. This is because, just by sharing some time with Mongolian youths, I came in contact with Mongolia in the form of both experience and knowledge.

When I think about it, until participating in this seminar, my only knowledge about Mongolia was that it is a country of nomads and Genghis Khan's native land and that some Mongolians are now active in professional Sumo (traditional Japanese wrestling).

But now my knowledge has come to extend to its geography, climate, history, culture, national character, and so on. And I can say that I had an enjoyable time, short though it was, with the Mongolian youths.

This was a major attainment. It is no exaggeration to say that the experience was so wonderful that it was delicious as the strawberries we ate after picking the fruit on the second day. I want to express my sincere appreciation to the youths who participated from both countries and to the staff members.





## 4. Impressions by Host Families

---

### We Are All Brothers and Sisters

---

Yukiko Iitsuka  
Shimane Prefecture

The young person from the Solomon Islands visiting my house was a very quiet lady, and she looked as if she were very nervous and anxious about coming to a foreign country. I was wondering a lot what I could do to please her, but my worries were then solved in an instant.

My nephew, whom I introduced to her, and her son just happened to be almost the same age. So she told us that she had gotten homesick out of concern for her son left behind at home.

She was extremely kind to my nephew. This may sound trite, but at such times I felt that we human beings are all brothers and sisters.

I realized that human bonds, not special treats, are important.

I am looking forward to the day when I can meet another nephew living faraway.

---

### Van-san from Viet Nam

---

Noriko Tange  
Gifu Prefecture

My family received a youth from the ASEAN Component Group last year. This year, too, our homestay guest was to come from Viet Nam, and my family had been looking very much forward to meeting her.

Van-san's unique intonation when using Japanese words like 'Kon-nichiwa' made me feel very friendly toward her. When visiting Inuyama Castle and Meiji Village with her, I also relearned about the history and culture of Japan and tried to explain well them to her.

But what she gave her the most pleasure in trying was the hot spring in Gujo Hachiman. We indeed practiced "naked heart-to-heart communication" there.

The hot spring was a great place for her to get contact in with Japanese people, since she had never had a chance to share a public bath with others before. My family and I were glad to hear her say, "I like it! Wonderful!"

---

### A Young Policeman from Thailand

---

Masae Asano  
Hokkaido Prefecture

As a middle-aged husband and wife, who have finished with raising our children, we have few common topics of discussion and conversations each other. Therefore, to have exchanges with about ten homestay guests at our home a year can be like a breath of fresh air. Ood-san, who came in July from Thailand, was one of our guests.

Since I had heard he was a civil servant employed in the Youth Rehabilitation Section, I had imagined a stern man, but he turned out to be a slim and gentle-looking youth. Perhaps out of professional interest, he wanted to see a nearby police box. And he looked satisfied after he stopped by a police box with my husband on the way back home from a morning walk.

Ood gracefully ate up all of the Japanese-style breakfast and said, "Oishi (delicious)!" almost as naturally as raindrops falling quietly to the ground, even though he knew few words of Japanese. His expression was so wonderful that the sound still

lingers in my mind.

He entered a hot spring bath from which the Japan Sea could be viewed, enjoyed park golf, wrote down some Thai letters for us on a writing pad, and then went back to Thailand like the wind.

This might be too old a thing to cite here; but when I look at his photo, I nostalgically recall the old popular Japanese song about a policeman, which goes, "Hey, young couple whispering to each other on the bench over there, you ought to go home soon 'cause it's getting dark."

---

## A "Yamato Nadeshiko" from 'a Country of Smiles'

Nobuko Chiba  
Hokkaido Prefecture

Thailand is said to be "a country of smiles." In fact, the smiling face of a Thai lady full of purity and gentleness made our family happy during three days. She was a charming lady who always acted with modesty, attentiveness as well as sincerity and was filled with the ambition to improve herself.

I suppose that the word "Yamato Nadeshiko" (meaning a traditional type of modest Japanese lady) was more appropriate for describing her than most Japanese women of today.

Whenever I have a chance to serve as a host family, I always feel that we Japanese, who are supposed to treat our guests from other countries well, end up learning more from them.

I get filled with a strong sense all over again of the depth of the role played by the international exchanges, for I learn from the lively spirits of our guests what we are lacking or have lost.

Although I cannot avoid painful separations every year, the joy of having met wonderful people and the precious memories become valuable treasures for me.

Over the phone on the night prior to her departure, the Thai lady said she regrets having to leave Japan. Our family concluded among each other that we would go to Thailand to visit her someday.

The affection produced among people makes them like the other person's country, too.

I am grateful for having been able to participate in

such an international exchange programme.

---

## A Laotian Relative

Sachiko Kudo  
Iwate Prefecture

The Laotian participant phoned me the night before his departure, saying, "Thank you for everything you did for me, Sachiko-san." I noticed that his Japanese language ability had improved considerably. He went back to Laos after saying good-bye to me in a pleasant voice.

My husband said later that my conversations with him sounded like conversations in some kind of strange English. But we somehow communicated with each other, anyway. We made up for what was lacking in our communication skills by using gestures, writing words on a memo pad, and other ways. All of that was thoroughly enjoyable.

The three days passed so quickly that I wished I could prolong his stay a little.

I have received about ten guests at my house so far. But the young man from Laos seemed like a relative living far away who came to visit us. He heartily ate pickled Chinese cabbage, while saying, "Oishii (delicious)!" When we went to a nearby paddy field because he, coming from a rice-consuming nation, wanted to see it. He looked studiously at the rice plants, from their ears to their roots.

He said that he will raise rice plants and vegetables after returning to his country. My husband and I would like to visit Laos someday to see the rice plants which he will be raising.

---

## Kingdom Dates

Yukiko Yamaguchi  
Tochigi Prefecture

How are you? I guess you may be very tired from the confusion stemming from the differences in our customs and your Saudi Arabian ones during your two-night homestay with us. Looking back at that time, I recall that you didn't use chopsticks at all. You

used a knife and fork with a bowl less than 10 centimeters in diameter like when eating Western food. Moreover after picking apples, we dropped in at a Japanese noodle restaurant, where you had difficulty in eating noodles with a fork, which didn't work as easily as it does with Italian pasta.

When my daughter left our house to go back to her dormitory, we parted by putting our hands up to sort of wave "Goodbye." You were surprised and asked me why I didn't give her a kiss. My husband and I replied with smiles, "We do that just when we're alone with each other."

You seemed impressed with the placing of the furniture in our small house and asked us where we had learned how to arrange it. I was a little perplexed as to how to answer that answer.

While putting one of dates you gave me into my mouth, I am making wish that we will meet you again someday.

---

### Three Enjoyable Days

---

Izumi Tsukada  
Shizuoka Prefecture

A lady named Kanchana-san came to my house. I at first felt a little shy, but I gradually became able to talk with her. We looked at photo albums and a world map, and played badminton outside together. She showed me a book about the tourist spots of Sri Lanka.

Anyway, I enjoyed doing a lot of things with her. We went to Nihondaira on the third day. I had been worried whether we would be able to see Mt. Fuji clearly, but fortunately the weather got clear. However, Mt. Fuji was covered only with a little snow that day.

We also happened to meet one of Kanchana-san's friends by chance in Nihondaira.

I have put up the photo of Sri Lanka given to me by Kanchana-san in my room.

Thank you very much, Kanchana-san !

(the fifth grader at a Primary School)

---

### The Different in the Dietary Habits of India

---

Natsuko Fujii  
Yamaguchi Prefecture

My house is located in the mountainous area of Tokuyama City. Everything, including the house itself, the toilet, bathroom, and so on, is in traditional Japanese style. Deep-san came to my house for a homestay.

I took Deep-san to every place which he said he wanted to visit, such as a zoo, Buddhist temples, shopping, Iwakuni Castle, and so on. Therefore, he looked tired after walking around so much. But he got up earlier than we did in the next morning.

As he didn't eat Japanese dishes and didn't like the taste of soy sauce, we brought rice seasoned with Galam Masala (Indian spice) and some fruit along with us when we went out, and we tried preparing Indian dishes at home for the first time. I was very happy to hear him say, "Oishii (delicious)!"

Deep-san's use of Japanese words like "Oishii" and poses meaning "Chotto, chotto (just a little)" made such an impression on me that I often remember them even now.

Thank you very much for giving me such stimulating days.

---

### Playful Nora-san from Algeria

---

Makoto Ijiri  
Osaka Prefecture

Nora-san from Algeria greeted me in beginner's Japanese by saying, "Hajimemashite. Watashi no namae wa Nora desu (How do you do? My name is Nora.)," and she gave me a red rose. She was a lady with a very charming smile. She was a sub-leader who organized the group. She showed positive interest in everything and asked questions whenever she didn't understand.

Most Japanese get embarrassed when they face a different culture. They do not try to accept another culture and tend to understand it only superficially. I

think that such behavior is far from a true international understanding, and we cannot develop in that way.

I realized through my interactions with Nora-san that the attitude of respecting a different culture and trying to absorb things positively is very important. In addition to that, I also think it important to understand our own culture, arts, traditions, and history and to convey them to others with pride.

---

## **The Aftertaste of My Experience as a Host Family**

---

Yoshinori Ishimura  
Hokkaido Prefecture

I still have an aftertaste from the two enjoyable days I experienced as host for a homestay. Our family had Mr. Shuhrat Fazliddinovich Shamsiddinov stay at our home. He comes from Tashkent, Uzbekistan, which I had visited with a friend and stayed in for about 10 days several years ago. So I enjoyed looking with him at the photos of Humsan, an area outside of Tashkent, and felt some nostalgia.

I was surprised that he soon mastered how to use chopsticks and did so very well, although it was his first time in Japan. Seeing I him buying chopsticks as souvenirs, I got a deep sense all over again of the place chopsticks have in our daily lives.

I came to feel close to his family by watching the video he brought of them. And my wife and I have become filled with dreams of visiting countries along the Silk Road someday. We are grateful to him.

---

## **Host Family—Three Days When We Learned Together**

---

Ichiji Kinjo  
Okinawa Prefecture

Though my first experience with a homestay lasted only a short three days and two nights, I discovered and experienced a lot of things. And I think I was able to learn again a "sense of humanity" common to the world.

A nice young man from the Republic of Suriname

stayed in my house. I had never heard the name of the country before nor its official language, Dutch, spoken either. I joined the welcome party with much anxiety. But such anxiety disappeared soon after I met him and shook hands with him.

That was the moment that I felt in my soul "Ichariba Chode"(which means, "once we meet, we can be brothers" in the Okinawan dialect).

Three days were very short, but I had meaningful and precious experiences during that time. I reconfirmed that we can share the same thoughts, the same feelings, and the same impressions, although we are different in many ways-such as the environment in which we were born, our language, religion, and so on.

I am grateful from the bottom of my heart to Mr. Clyde and the staff members of Okinawa International Exchange & Human Resources Development Foundation for giving me such a great chance and deep impressions.

**Addresses of JICA Offices  
Concerned with this Programme**



★JICA Head Quarters

**Training and Youth Invitation Division,  
Domestic Partnership and Training Department**  
SHINJUKU MYNDS TOWER  
1-1, Yoyogi, 2-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, 151-8558

★JICA Branch Offices and International Centres in Japan

**Hokkaido International Centre (Sapporo)**

Minami 4-25, Hondori-16 chome, Shiroishi-ku,  
Sapporo-shi, Hokkaido 003-0026

**Hokkaido International Centre (Obihiro)**

Minami 6-1-2, Nishi-20 Jo, Obihiro-shi,  
Hokkaido 080-2470

**Tohoku Branch Office**

Sendai Daiichiseimei Tower Bldg., 15F  
4-6-1, Ichiban-cho, Aoba-ku, Sendai-shi,  
Miyagi 980-0811

**Nihonmatsu Training Centre**

4-2, Nagata-Azanagasaka, Nihonmatsu-shi,  
Fukushima 964-8558

**Tsukuba International Centre**

3-6, Koyadai, Tsukuba-shi,  
Ibaraki 305-0074

**Tokyo International Centre**

2-49-5, Nishihara, Shibuya-ku,  
Tokyo 151-0066

**Hachioji International Centre**

2-31-2, Akatsuki-cho, Hachioji-shi,  
Tokyo 192-0043

**Komagane Training Centre**

15, Akaho, Komagane-shi,  
Nagano 399-4117

**Hokuriku Branch Office**

Refare Bldg., 3F  
1-5-3, Hon-machi, Kanazawa-shi,  
Ishikawa 920-0853

**Chubu International Centre**

2-73, Kamenoi, Meito-ku, Nagoya-shi,  
Aichi 465-0094

**Osaka International Centre**

25-1, Nishi-toyokawa-cho, Ibaraki-shi,  
Osaka 567-0058

**Chugoku International Centre**

3-3-1, Kagamiyama, Higashi-hiroshima-shi,  
Hiroshima 739-0046

**Shikoku Branch Office**

114 Bldg., 13 F  
5-1, Kamei-cho, Takamatsu-shi,  
Kagawa 760-0050

**Kyushu International Centre**

2-2-1, Hirano, Yahata-higashi-ku, Kita-kyushu-shi,  
Fukuoka 805-8505

**Okinawa International Centre**

1143-1, Aza Maeda, Urasoe-shi,  
Okinawa 901-2552

★JICA Overseas Offices

**JICA CAMBODIA OFFICE**

House No. 36, Street No. 184, Sangkat Phsar  
Thmei 3, Khan Don Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
[P. O. Box 613, Phnom Penh, Cambodia]  
TEL 855-23-211673 ~ 4, 212142

**JICA INDONESIA OFFICE**

Plaza BII Tower II 27th Floor, Jl. MH. Thamrin 51,  
Jakarta Pusat 10350, Indonesia  
TEL 62-21-390-7533

**JICA LAOS OFFICE**

Home No. 351, Naxay Village Unit 24,  
Wat Sisangvone Road, Saysetha District, Vientiane,  
Lao P. D. R.  
[C/O JICA Laos Office  
P. O. Box 3933, Vientiane, Lao P. D. R.]  
TEL 856-21-414387, 412695, 412694

**JICA MALAYSIA OFFICE**

Suite 29.03, Level 29, Menara Citibank, 165,  
Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
TEL 60-3-21668900

**JICA MYANMAR OFFICE**

(Technical Cooperation Section, Embassy of Japan)  
No. 73, University Avenue, Yangon, Myanmar  
[Embassy of Japan  
No. 100, Natmauk Road, Yangon, Myanmar, P. O.  
Box 841]  
TEL 95-1-527228, 525860, 527180

**JICA PHILIPPINES OFFICE**

12th Floor, Pacific Star Building,  
Senator Gil J. Puyat Avenue Corner Makati Avenue,  
Makati City, Philippines  
[P. O. Box 1026, Makati Central Post Office,  
Makati City, Philippines]  
TEL 63-2-893-3081

**JICA THAILAND OFFICE**

1674/1 New Petchburi Road, Bangkok 10320,  
Thailand  
TEL 66-2-251-1655

**JICA VIET NAM OFFICE**

11th Floor, Office Tower, Daeha Business Center,  
360 Kim Ma Street, Ba Dinh District, Hanoi,  
Viet Nam  
TEL 84-4-8315005 ~ 8

**JICA BANGLADESH OFFICE**

E/8-A, Rokeya, Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar,  
Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh  
IDB-Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational  
Wakf, 12th Floor, Bangladesh  
[Banani P. O. Box No. 9030, Dhaka-1213,

Bangladesh]

TEL 880-2-9126315, 9132535, 9132656, 9114829

**JICA INDIA OFFICE**

2nd Floor, DLF Centre, Sansad Marg (Parliament  
Street) New Delhi-110001, India  
TEL 91-11-331-1990 ~ 4

**JICA MONGOLIA OFFICE**

Zaluuchudin Street 24, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia  
[C/O Central P. O. Box 682, Ulaanbaatar 13,  
Mongolia]  
TEL 976-11-325939, 312393, 329385, 321329

**JICA NEPAL OFFICE**

Tripureshwar, Kathmandu, Nepal  
[P. O. Box 450, Kathmandu, Nepal]  
TEL 977-1-260236, 260199, 260502, 261288

**JICA PAKISTAN OFFICE**

House No. 1, St. No. 61, F-6/3, Islamabad,  
Pakistan  
[P. O. Box 1772, Islamabad, Pakistan]  
TEL 92-51-2822654, 2822674, 2829473 ~ 8

**JICA SRI LANKA OFFICE**

16/2, Gregory's Road, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka  
[P. O. Box No. 2068, Colombo, Sri Lanka]  
TEL 94-1-681248, 681253

**JICA UZBEKISTAN OFFICE**

5th Floor, International Business Center, 107-B,  
Amir Temur Str., Tashkent 700084, Uzbekistan  
TEL 998-71-120-7966 ~ 67, 137-0915 ~ 17

**JICA PAPUA NEW GUINEA OFFICE**

Shop 7A, Second Floor, Garden City, Lot 4,  
Section 18, Angau Drive, Boroko,  
N. C. D., Papua New Guinea  
[P. O. Box 6639, Boroko, N. C. D.,  
Papua New Guinea]  
TEL 675-325-1699

**JICA FIJI OFFICE**

7th Floor, Dominion House, Suva, Fiji  
[JICA Private Mailbag, Suva, Fiji]  
TEL 679-302522

**JICA SAMOA OFFICE**

Mulivai, Apia, Samoa  
[P. O. Box No. 1625, Apia, Samoa]  
TEL 685-22572, 22139

**JICA CÔTE D'IVOIRE OFFICE**

(JICA EN CÔTE D'IVOIRE)  
7 Boulevard Roume, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire  
[04 B. P. 1825 Abidjan 04, Côte d'Ivoire]  
TEL 225-20222290, 20222203, 20218112



**JICA EGYPT OFFICE**

World Trade Center 10th Floor 1191 Corniche El Nile St. Boulak, Cairo, Egypt  
[C/O JICA Egypt Office, P. O. Box 475, Dokki, Arab Rep. of Egypt]  
TEL 20-2-5748240 ~ 2

**JICA ETHIOPIA OFFICE**

Woreda 17, Kebere 17, House No. 222, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
[P. O. Box 5384, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia]  
TEL 251-1-615880 ~ 3

**JICA GHANA OFFICE**

Valco Trust House, Castle Road, Ridge, Accra, Ghana  
[P.O. Box A. N. 6402, Accra-North, Ghana]  
TEL 233-21-238419 ~ 22

**JICA KENYA OFFICE**

The Rahimtulla Tower 10th and 11th, Upper Hill Road, Nairobi, Kenya  
[C/O JICA Kenya Office, P. O. Box No. 50572 Nairobi, Kenya]  
TEL 254-2-724121 ~ 4, 724877

**JICA MALAWI OFFICE**

Area 13-Plots 5 and 6, Development House Ground Floor, Lilongwe 3, Malawi  
[P. O. Box 30321, Capital City, Lilongwe 3, Malawi]  
TEL 265-771644, 771554, 771945, 772234

**BUREAU DE LA JICA AU MAROC**

No. 69 bis, rue Tensift, Agdal, Rabat, Maroc  
TEL 212-3-7686391 ~ 94

**JICA SOUTH AFRICA OFFICE**

1st Floor, Bank Forum Building, Fehrnsen & Bronkhorst Streets, New Muckleneuk, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa  
[P. O. Box 14068, Hatfield 0028, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa]  
TEL 27-12-346-4493, 4528, 4896

**BUREAU DE LA JICA AU SENEGAL**

Immeuble SDIH, 3 Place de l'Indépendance, Dakar, Senegal  
[B. P. 3323, Dakar, Senegal]  
TEL 221-8213366, 8216919, 8221432, 8230022

**JICA TANZANIA OFFICE**

Plot No. 1033/1, Mindu Street, Upanga, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania  
[P. O. Box 9450, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania]  
TEL 255-22-2113727 ~ 2113730, 2117328, 2117356

**BUREAU DE LA JICA EN TUNISIE**

16, Rue Jaafer El Barmaki, Mutuelleville, 1002 Tunis, Tunisie  
[Bureau de la JICA, B. P. 764, 1080, Cedex, Tunis, Tunisie]  
TEL 216-1-786386, 785295, 787831, 785616

**JICA ZAMBIA OFFICE**

Plot No. 59B Mutandwa Road, Roma, Lusaka, Zambia  
[P. O. Box 30027, Lusaka 10101, Zambia]  
TEL 260-1-291075, 294433, 292778

**JICA ZIMBABWE OFFICE**

Southampton Life Centre, 8th Floor, 77 Jason Moyo Avenue, Harare, Zimbabwe  
[P. O. Box 4060, Harare, The Republic of Zimbabwe]  
TEL 263-4-252500, 252501, 252502, 252505

**JICA NIGERIA OFFICE**

2 nd Floor, AP Plaza, Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse 2, Abuja, Nigeria  
[P. M. B. 5090 Wuse, Abuja, Nigeria]  
TEL 234-9-523-2869

**AGENCIA DE COOPERACION INTERNACIONAL DEL JAPON**

Dr. Ricardo Rojas 401, Piso 8, 1001-Buenos Aires, Argentina  
TEL 54-11-4313-8901

**AGENCIA DE COOPERACION INTERNACIONAL DEL JAPON EN BOLIVIA**

AV. Victor Sanjines No. 2678, Edificio BARCELONA Piso 5, La Paz, Bolivia  
[Cajon Postal No. 11447, La Paz, Bolivia]  
TEL 591-2-422221

**ESCRITORIO ANEXO DA EMBAIXADA DO JAPAO**

SCS Quadra 01, Bloco F, Ed. Camargo Correa, 12º Andar, Brasília, D. F. Brasil  
[JICA-Escritório Anexo da Embaixada do Japao Caixa Postal, 09942, Cep 70.001-970-Brasilia-DF, Brasil]  
TEL 55-61-321-6465, 321-9723, 321-9837, 321-0518

**AGENCIA DE COOPERACION INTERNACIONAL DEL JAPON**

Av. Andrés Bello 2777, Edificio de la Industria Piso 27, of. 2701, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile  
[Casilla 16137, Correo 9, Santiago, Chile]  
TEL 56-2-203-3095 ~ 8

**AGENCIA DE COOPERACION INTERNACIONAL  
DEL JAPON**

Calle 72, No. 10-07, Piso 7, Edificio Colmena Santa Fe de Bogotá, Colombia  
[Agencia de Cooperación Internacional del Japón, Apartado Aéreo No. 90861, Santa Fe de Bogotá D. C., Colombia]  
TEL 57-1-345-0055

**AGENCIA DE COOPERACION INTERNACIONAL  
DEL JAPON**

Av. Sarasota No. 20, Edificio Torre Empresarial AIRD Piso 7, La Julia, Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana  
[Apartado Postal No. 1163, Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana]  
TEL 1-809-381-0005

**JICA HONDURAS**

Calle Santa Rosa, Colonia Lomas del Mayab, Casa No. 1346 Tegucigalpa, M. D. C., Honduras Central America  
[JICA HONDURAS Apartado Postal No. 1752, Tegucigalpa, M. D. C., Honduras Central America]  
TEL 504-232-6727, 232-6737, 232-8816

**JICA MEXICO OFFICE**

Ejército Nacional #418-201 Col. Chapultepec Morales Mexico, D. F., C. P. 11570  
TEL 52-55452476, 55452512, 55452519, 55458708, 55459407, 55458574

**AGENCIA DE COOPERACION INTERNACIONAL  
DEL JAPON EN PANAMA**

Edificio World Trade Center Panama, Piso 4, Calle 53 E, Urbanización Marbella, Ciudad de Panamá, Republica de Panama  
[JICA PANAMA OFFICE, 0832-00900 World Trade Center Panama Panamá, Republica de Panama]  
TEL 507-264-9669, 264-9406, 223-3612, 264-9259

**AGENCIA DE COOPERACION INTERNACIONAL  
DEL JAPON OFICINA EXTERIOR EN PARAGUAY**

Presidente Franco y Ayolas, Edificio Ayfra 11° Piso, Asunción, Republica del Paraguay  
[Casilla de Correo No. 1121 (P. C. 1209) Asunción, República del Paraguay]  
TEL 595-21-491154 ~ 7, 490651, 492692, 495234

**JICA PERU OFFICE**

**(AGENCIA DE COOPERACION INTERNACIONAL  
DEL JAPON)**

Av. Angamos Oeste 1381, Santa Cruz, Miraflores, Lima, Peru  
[Apartado Postal 18-0261, Lima 18, Peru]  
TEL 51-1-221-2433

**JICA SAUDI ARABIA OFFICE**

Economic Section, Annex of Japanese Embassy Block No. 55, Amer Ibn Aws Street, Al-Raed District, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia  
[JICA SAUDI ARABIA OFFICE P. O. Box 90552 Riyadh 11623, Saudi Arabia]  
TEL 996-1-482-2212, 482-5611

**BUREAU DE JICA EN FRANCE**

8, rue Sainte-Anne, 75001 Paris, France  
TEL 33-1-40200421

**JICA U. K. OFFICE**

45 Old Bond St., London W1S 4AG, U. K.  
TEL 44-20-7493-0045

**JICA/JOCV BHUTAN OFFICE**

Doybum Lam / Memorial Chorten, Thimphu, Bhutan  
[P. O. Box 217, Thimphu, Bhutan]  
TEL 975-2-322030, 323218

**JICA/JOCV EL SALVADOR OFFICE**

(Oficina Residente Representativa de JICA/JOCV) Calle del Mirador No. 15-288, Colonia Escalón, San Salvador, El Salvador, C. A.  
[Oficina Residente Representativa de JICA/JOCV Apartado Postal No. 01-114, San Salvador, El Salvador, C. A.]  
TEL 503-2630940, 2640739, 2640741

**JICA/JOCV GUATEMALA OFFICE**

(Oficina de Voluntarios Japoneses) 18 Calle, 5-56 Zona 10 Guatemala Edificio Unicentro 12 Nivel Oficina 1203, Guatemala  
[Oficina de Voluntarios Japoneses Apartado Postal No269-A, Guatemala, Guatemala]  
TEL 502-3661919, 3661915 ~ 18

**JICA/JOCV COSTA RICA OFFICE**

Residencial Montealegre, Zapote, Avenida 16 y Calle 29, del Parque de los Mangos, 100mts. Sur, 100mts. Oeste, San José, Costa Rica A. C.  
[Apartado Postal #666-2010, Zapote, San José, Costa Rica A. C.]  
TEL 506-2-253114, 240540

**JICA/JOCV JAMAICA OFFICE**

8th Floor, Island Life Centre 6, St. Lucia Avenue Kingston 5, Jamaica (W. I.)  
[P. O. Box 8202, C. S. O., Kingston, Jamaica (W. I.)]  
TEL 1-876-9294069, 9600021, 9080847, 9080848

**JICA/JOCV NICARAGUA OFFICE**

Hospital Militar, 1 Cuadra al Lago, 1 y 1/2 Cuadra  
Abajo, Barrio Bolonia Managua, Nicaragua  
[Hosp. Militar, 1c. al Lago, 1y 1/2c. Abajo, Barrio  
Bolonia P. O. Box 509, Managua, Nicaragua]  
TEL 505-2668323, 2668347

**JICA/JOCV VANUATU OFFICE**

2nd Floor, Hong Kong & New Zealand House,  
Port Vila, Vanuatu  
[Private Mail Bag 005, Port Vila, Vanuatu]  
TEL 678-23546, 24254

**JICA/JOCV SOLOMON OFFICE**

Lot No. 23, Y. SATO Bld. 1F, Common Wealth St.  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
[P. O. Box 793, Honiara, Solomon Islands]  
TEL 677-22615, 21110

**JICA/JOCV TONGA OFFICE**

3rd Floor, National Reserve Bank of Tonga  
Building, Salote Road, Fasi, Nuku'alofa,  
Kingdom of Tonga  
[P. O. Box 413, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga]  
TEL 676-23072, 24361

**JICA/JOCV PALAU OFFICE**

George Ngirarsaol Commercial Building,  
Koror, Palau 96940  
[P. O. Box 6047, Koror Republic of Palau 96940]  
TEL 680-488-5373, 488-5370

**JICA/JOCV FSM OFFICE**

3rd Floor Martin's Building Kaselelich Street,  
Kolonias, Pohnpei 96941,  
The Federated States of Micronesia  
[P. O. Box G, Kolonias Pohnpei 96941,  
The Federated States of Micronesia]  
TEL 691-320-5350, 5439

**JICA/JOCV NIGER OFFICE**

8 rue des Lac, Ancien Plateau, Niamey, Niger  
[B. P. 10036, Niamey, Niger]  
TEL 227-735569, 732994

**JICA/JOCV BOTSWANA OFFICE**

1st Floor, Plots 896/897 Kaunda Road, Gaborone,  
Botswana  
[Private Bag 00369, Gaborone, Botswana]  
TEL 267-312176

**JOCV MALDIVES OFFICE**

Radiumge-Aage, 1st Floor Galolhu Male, Maldives  
[P. O. Box 2007, Male, Republic of Maldives]  
TEL 960-322049

**JOCV ECUADOR OFFICE**

Robles 653 Y Av. Amazonas, Edificio Proinco  
Calisto, Piso #13, Ecuador  
[P. O. Box 17-21-01466, Quito, Ecuador]  
TEL 593-2-230426, 503780, 503782, 569123

**JOCV MARSHALL OFFICE**

1st Floor, PII Complex, Delap Village Majuro Atoll,  
MH, 96960 Rep. of The Marshall Islands  
[P. O. Box F, Majuro, MH, 96960  
Rep. of The Marshall Islands]  
TEL 692-625-5437, 625-5438

**JOCV BURKINA FASO OFFICE**

Immeuble CGP, 7ème étage Avenue de la  
Résidence du 17 Mai Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso  
[01 BP 1484 Ouagadougou 01 Burkina Faso]  
TEL 226-330766, 330767

★JICA Alumni Association (ASEAN Countries)

[Cambodia]

**JAAC (The JICA Alumni Association of Cambodia)**

JICA Cambodia Office  
House No. 36 Street No. 184, Sangkat Phsar Thmei  
3, Khan Don Penh, P. O. Box 613, Phnom Penh,  
Cambodia

[Indonesia]

**KAPPIJA21 (Keluarga Alumni Program**

**Persahabatan Indonesia Jepang Abad 21)**

National Secretanat: Graha Pemuda 2nd Floor Jl.  
Gerbang Pemuda No. 3, Senayan, Jakarta 10270,  
Indonesia  
E-mail:kappija@kappija-21.com  
URL: <http://www.kappija21.or.id>

[Malaysia]

**PAMAJA (Persatuan Alumni Program**

**Persahabatan ASEAN-Jepun Abad Ke 21,  
Malaysia)**

C/O Look East Policy, PSD, P. O. Box 13008,  
50796 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
E-mail:pamaja@Malaysia.net  
URL:<http://go.to/pamaja>

[Philippines]

**PAJAF21 (Philippines ASEAN-Japan Friendships  
Association for the 21st Century)**

2358 Singalong, Malate, Manila, Philippines 1004

[Thailand]

**FYAA (The Friendship Youth Alumni Association of  
Thailand)**

20 Soi Ramkamheang 11 (Lmpech), Ramlamheang  
Road, Huamark Bangkokkapi, Bangkok 10240,  
Thailand

[Viet Nam]

**VACYF (Viet Nam Alumni Club of Youth Friendship  
Programme)**

64 Ba Trieu Street Hanoi, Viet Nam

[Brunei]

**PERTAB21 (Perubahan Alumni Abad K-21, Brunei  
Darussalam)**

4, Simpang 167, Ban 3, Kgkilanas,  
Brunei Darussalam

[Singapore]

**SAJAF21 (ASEAN-JAPAN Friendship Association  
for the 21st Century, Singapore)**

Apartment Block 639, Hougang Avenue 8, #03-139,  
Singapore

