

1. History and outline of the SWY 2025
See "Attachment 1".

FYI:

For the details of past programs (SWY program FY2019 using a cruise ship, and FY2022 SWY Hybrid combining online and face-to-face exchanges without using a ship due to the global spread of COVID-19), please refer to the following URL:

<https://www8.cao.go.jp/youth/kouryu/en/swy/2022/swy.html> :

(FY2022 (the program without using a ship))

<https://www8.cao.go.jp/youth/kouryu/en/swy/2019/swy.html> :

(FY2019 (the program using a ship))

2. Project Based Learning Session (PBL)

One of the features of this program is Course Discussion and the PBL.

The PBL aims to let Participating Youth (hereinafter "PYs") think about how to deal with social issues in the rural area in Japan in cooperation with people who are working on them onsite and plan practical improvement plans at Shimane that is one of the ports of call, and Course Discussion will be conducted in conjunction with the PBL. In the Course Discussion, participants will discuss various angles on specific themes from a global perspective on what challenges we are facing and how they should be resolved. Then, for the PBL, participants will focus on Shimane, and after providing input on the specific situation in Shimane and the challenges it faces, they will discuss how to specifically address those challenges.

The program recruits 8 Facilitators who take charge of Course Discussion, activity closely linked to the PBL.

We are looking forward to your application.

2. How to conduct Course Discussion

During the program, PYs will be divided into 8 Course Discussion groups and work on different academic discussion themes related to the PBL to be conducted in Shimane, the second port of call.

The Course Discussion is a discussion program conducted under the guidance of a Facilitator where approximately 180 PYs from 13 countries all over the world are divided into groups by themes based on their choice. One group consists of approximately 20 PYs. The flow of the program is as stated in below items from A to D.

- A Basically, Facilitators shall provide PYs with relevant information on the discussion theme from a global perspective and encourage them to think about the theme through discussions for the smooth implementation of the PBL in Shimane.
- B The session will start in Japan in January or in February. The sessions will be basically conducted on the ship.
- C In Shimane, the final port of call, PYs will be engaged in the PBL, making use of what they have learned in the Course Discussions so far. The local people will lead the PBL for each related theme, and Facilitators will join them and observe their activities. A summary presentation of the PBL is scheduled under the leadership of Shimane on the last day of the port of call (Feb. 12).
- D The final session (Summary Forum) will be conducted on the ship on February 20. In the final session, PYs will summarize what they have learned from all programs including programs in Tokyo, onboard and ports of call including Shimane, and present their findings.

The flow stated in the above items from A to D would be a series of programs (the program duration is scheduled to be for 28 days).

Through the lens of Course Discussion, PYs will deepen their understanding on actual circumstances of respective themes and find solutions in the PBL. Course Discussion also aims that PYs to acquire the abilities to communicate in a group of people from different cultural backgrounds and promote mutual understanding through open and vigorous exchange of opinions.

3. Course Themes

Course Discussion will be conducted on the similar themes closely relate to the PBL.

The applicants of Facilitator shall select the field of own expertise and devise the outline of the course that will deepen PYs thoughts by discussing a global perspective of the field in question, and how to connect what discussed into practice to solve actual local issues in Japan (Shimane) for the PBL to be implemented at the final port of call, and submit them with the designated form.

After the appointment as a Facilitator, Facilitators will have the online joint meeting with persons in charge of PBL as described in section 5. In those meetings, Facilitators share their perceptions with local persons in charge, and elaborate the structure of discussion activities.

Theme 1: Community design utilizing local resources

Theme 2: Inheritance of traditional culture

Theme 3: Quality education

Theme 4: Environmental conservation

Theme 5: Social inclusion of migrants in local community

Theme 6: Tourism promotion utilizing local resources

Theme 7: Youth Empowerment in rural areas

Theme 8: Quality welfare services

4. Brief explanation about Shimane

Shimane is in west part of Japan, facing the Japan Sea. It is well known by many historical places such as Izumo Grand Shrine. The population of Shimane is approximately 647,000, which is the second smallest population of all 47 prefectures (administrative divisions in Japan, "Ken" in Japanese) in Japan. In addition, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over is about 33%, which is the third highest among all prefectures in Japan.

Depopulation in Shimane has been continuing for decades, which has led to various challenges such as labor shortage, decline in local industry and culture, and deterioration of social services.

To solve these challenges, the local government of Shimane has implemented various policies and local people have taken many kinds of actions.

In the PBL, PYs are expected to discuss and offer suggestions about each theme in the context of what can be done to resolve such challenges in Shimane.

FYI: The official website of Shimane

[Shimane prefecture: Profile of Shimane prefecture \(the top/profile of prefectural administration, statistics/Policies, Finances/public hearing and public relations/Shimane prefecture\) \(j-server.com\)](http://www.shimane-prefecture.jp/en/statistics/Policies_Finances_public_hearing_and_public_relations/Shimane_prefecture_j-server.com)

5. Detailed Schedule of the Program

Schedule	Format	Contents
Aug. 10 and 17, 2024	Online	Facilitators Meeting (*1)
↓		
Sep. 28 and Nov. 30, 2024	Online	Joint meeting of facilitators and people in charge of PBL (*2)
↓		
If necessary.	Online	Pre-Assignment is set based on the course activity. In order to make the course work productive and constructive, PY will work on this assignment so that they can prepare for the discussions and presentations that they will engage in the course. Facilitator may ask PY to submit the assignment as necessary. (Pre-assignment is not mandatory)
↓		
Nov. 25, 2024 to Feb. 27, 2025	Online	Voluntary activity, committee meeting, preparation meeting for the PBL, discussion, etc. will be implemented by online application (*3)
↓		
Jan. 24 to Feb. 21, 2025	SWY program in Japan	Program in Japan (Tokyo program, onboard activities, port of call activities (the port of calls in Shizuoka (2 days) and in Shimane (5 days)))

* The schedule might be changed if the situation will change.

- (*1) Facilitators Meeting will include an overview of the program, its objectives, and the relevance between Course Discussions and the PBL (3 pprox.. 3 hours, starting at noon (JST) (tentative)).
- (*2) The purpose of the meeting is to exchange opinions with the persons in charge of the PBL in Shimane on the detailed plan and operation of the program so that Facilitators can understand the contents of the PBL and revise the Course Discussion plan necessary for smooth facilitation.
- (*3) PYs will be able to freely participate and interact on this application, which is available 24 hours. Discussion group activities can also be held on this application. This application continues to be available during SWY 2025 program. Although interaction using this application is voluntary, it would be helpful if you could cooperate answering questions about the theme of the course discussion when PYs ask you questions about it.

6. Roles of Facilitators

Facilitators are expected to coordinate and manage the assigned discussion group of multinational PYs. Facilitators shall provide PYs with pre-assignment and guidance regarding the theme to carry out the Course Discussion, coordinate the course contents to promote collaboration between the Course Discussion and the PBL, lead the group during the PBL in Japan, support PYs with the activities related to the discussion, and give guidance and advice to PYs so that PYs can leverage the achievements for post-program activities.

7. Duties of Facilitators

- A Attend the Facilitators Meeting and the joint meeting with the persons in charge of the PBL prior to the program to deepen understanding of the whole picture of the program, Course Discussion and the PBL, to coordinate course operation and structure, and to prepare for facilitation and other tasks.
- B Develop the aims, pre-assignment and session contents of the course in charge.
- C Work with the people in charge of PBL to ensure that the Course Discussion and the PBL are relevant to the program.
- D Response to the consultations from PYs.
- E Operating of Course Discussion during Tokyo Program, onboard activities, ports of call activities, and post-program activity session, as well as accompanying PYs during visits to related facilities and exchanges in line with the theme of the program.
- F Planning, operation and guidance of the presentation of discussion results (Summary Forum) that will be held on February 20.
- G Summarize the activity records of Course Discussion and conduct necessary duties requested by the Cabinet Office.
- H Assist the Administrator, as necessary, at the order of the Administrator during the program.
*The Cabinet Office will entrust some part of operations to a contractor and therefore, Facilitators shall follow the guidance and advice made by the Cabinet Office and the contractor.

8. Qualification of the Facilitators

- A Must be familiar with the selected discussion themes and profoundly knowledgeable in the field.
- B Must have the ability to facilitate the interaction among PYs in terms of research and discussions and to take a role of advisor when PYs initiate plans for projects of the PBL.
- C Must have sufficient command of English (reference level: CEFR C1 or equal ability) to facilitate the discussion on the field.
- D Must be able to participate in respective meetings and the whole program (stated in item 5).
- E Must bear the expense for preparing the equipment required for the online meetings (PC, the environment to access the internet, etc.).
- F Must be in good physical and mental condition.
- G Must cooperate in following with the necessary measures against infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and influenza that requested by the Cabinet Office as deemed necessary (wearing masks, hand sanitizing, inspections, isolation measures etc.)
*If Japanese immigration check became stricter, we may ask you other cooperation to participate in the program.

9. Expenses to be covered by the Japanese Government

- A Economy class round trip airfare to and from the international airport of your own countries, which the Cabinet Office designated to Japan (including fuel surcharge, airport tax and etc., excluding excess baggage fee)
* Facilitators shall arrive in Japan and return from Japan on the flights schedule designated by the Japanese Government
- B Overseas travel insurance fee from the time they left home until returning home.
- C Accommodation and meal fees during the program (January 24 to February 21, 2025), and transportation expenses in Japan necessary for the implementation of the program.
- D Remuneration for the program (estimate amount 463,600 JPY (tax included))
*Items A apply for Facilitators who live abroad only. Domestic round transportation fee is covered for those who Facilitators live in Japan.
*Items B apply for Facilitators who live abroad only. Domestic travel insurance fee is covered for those who Facilitators live in Japan.

10. Number of Facilitators to be recruited: 8

11. Submission Date

By 23:00 on Friday 7, June, 2024

*Online interviews will be conducted from the middle to the end of June after document screening. The final decision of selection is scheduled to be made at the end of July.

12. Documents to Submit

- 1 (one) Application Form (use “(SWY Facilitator) Application Form (EN)”) per theme
- 1 (one) Letter of recommendation (free format) (one recommendation letter will do when applying to 2 or more themes)
 - * Letter of recommendation must be written by a person who can certify the specialized knowledge and experience of the applicant.

13. How to Apply

- (1) Submit an entry with the required information in the application system from the Cabinet Office homepage.
Cabinet Office homepage: https://form.cao.go.jp/youth/en_opinion-0111.html
- (2) Please allow several days for your entry to be processed at the Cabinet Office. After the procedure, you will receive an email from the SWY Unit of the Cabinet Office. Please submit required documents in PDF format by replying back to the email.

14. Contact

SWY Unit,
Office for International Youth Exchange,
Cabinet Office, Government of Japan
TEL: 03-6257-1433 (Weekday / 10:00-18:00)