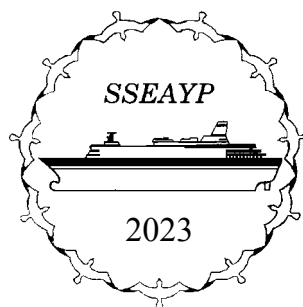


International Youth Exchange 2023 - Report - The 47th Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program



International Youth Exchange 2023 -Report-

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Preface

The Cabinet Office, the Government of Japan, has implemented International Youth Exchange Programs, which aim to foster healthy growth of youths who will be the core force of the next generation, by promoting friendship and mutual understanding among youths, while broadening their international view, as well as nurturing the spirit of international cooperation.

Especially, the Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) was launched in 1974 as a joint program between Japan and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member countries. It aims to promote friendship and mutual understanding among the participants of each country as well as to broaden their perspectives on the world by participating in various activities such as discussions, homestay, and interaction with local youths while living together onboard the ship and in the countries to be visited. Consequently, the participants are expected to show leadership in various sectors of society amidst the progression of internationalization.

This year, the Program was implemented in a hybrid format, combining a two-day online exchange with a ten-day face-to-face exchange which includes the local program.

In the local program, participants visited Yamagata, Yamanashi, Aichi, Nagasaki and Kagoshima prefectures by groups and paid a courtesy call on the respective prefectural governments, interacted with local youths and experienced homestay. In addition, the representatives of participants had an audience with Her Imperial Highness Princess Kako of Akishino and paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Mr. KISHIDA Fumio in Tokyo program. Participating Youths also engaged in discussions in various fields and cultural performance. I am certain that through these activities they promoted mutual understanding among them as well as gained lots of valuable experiences to grow as leaders with a broad perspective.

Since the year 2023 marks the milestone of the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, with the presence of Ms. KATO Ayuko, Minister of State for Youth Affairs of the Cabinet Office, the commemorative event for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation was held at the hotel in Tokyo to express our gratitude and to request further cooperation to the governments and the alumni associations of the participating countries, and all parties concerned.

This report records the various activities of the Participating Youths during the online exchange and face-to-face exchange in Japan. I hope that this report will be of use for your understanding of the fruits of SSEAYP.

Lastly, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the governments of the participating countries, the alumni associations, the host families, local public organizations, youth organizations and all those who gave their gracious cooperation in this Program.

March 2024

YUFU Wakako

Director General for International Youth Exchange
Cabinet Office

International Youth Exchange 2023

The 47th Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program

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