

# JENESYS2019 ASEAN Inbound Program 19th Batch Program Report Japanese Multiparty Democracy Country: Cambodia

# 1. Program Overview

As part of JENESYS2019, ten young politics oriented Cambodians visited Japan for nine days from January 23 to 31, 2020. Under the theme of "Japanese Multiparty Democracy", the delegations attended a lecture by an expert and observed law-making administrative and judicial organization in Tokyo. In addition, they visited Hachioji City, Tokyo and observed the actual practices of local election including voting and vote counting work. Afterwards, they visited Tokushima to observe the work of local government and cultural facilities to understand more about Japan, as well as deepened engagement with local people through the experience of international exchange activities in the region. At a reporting session before leaving Japan, they presented its action plan (activity plans after returning home) for sharing their experiences gained in Japan. Through this program, young politics oriented Cambodians, who lead the next generations, deepened their knowledge on Japanese Multiparty Democracy, and it is expected that they apply it to their own democratic development in future.

#### [Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants]

10 persons from Cambodia

#### [Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo, Tokushima Prefecture

#### 2. Program Schedule

January 23rd (Thu)

[Arrival]

[Orientation]

[Lecture] Lecture from an expert (Chihiro OKAWA, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Kanagawa University)

[Courtesy Call] Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Foreign Minister Motegi

January 24th (Fri)

[Observation] The Supreme Court

[Exchange] Meeting with Japanese involved in Cambodia Peace Process

### 【Observation】 Tokyo Tower

```
January 25th (Sat)
 [Observation] Hachioji City, Tokyo
 Briefing from election administration commissions of Hachioji City
 Observation of Election Campaign, early voting in Hachioji City
January 26th (Sun)
 [Observation] Moto-Hachioji the 6th polling station
 [Observation] Briefing of voting and vote-counting in Hachioji City and observation
January 27th (Mon)

    Travel from Tokyo to Tokushima Prefecture

 [Courtesy Call] Tokushima Prefecture Government Office
 [Exchange] Tokushima Commercial High School
 [Observation] Awa-Odori Kaikan (Traditional Dance)
January 28th (Tue)
 [Observation] Kamiyama Town (Satellite Office)
 [Exchange] Kamiita town, Takashi Elementary School
 [Observation] Naruto Uzushio (Naruto strait whirlpools)

    Travel from Tokushima to Tokyo

January 29th (Wed)
 (Observation) The House of Representatives
 [Courtesy Call] Japan-Cambodia Parliamentary Friendship Association
January 30th (Thu)
 [Workshop]
 [Reporting Session]
January 31st (Fri)
 [Departure]
```

#### 3. Program Photos



January 23rd 【Lecture】
Lecture from an Expert



January 23rd 【Courtesy Call】
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(Foreign Minister Motegi)



January 24th 【Observation】
The Supreme Court



January 25th 【Observation】
Briefing from Election Administration
Commissions of Hachioji City



January 25th 【Observation】

Briefing from the Election Administration

Commissions of Hachioji City



January 25th 【Observation】

Voting Simulation



January 26th 【Observation】

Moto-Hachioji the 6th Polling Station



January 27th 【Courtesy Call】

Tokushima Prefecture



January 27th 【Exchange】

Tokushima Commercial High School



January 27th 【Observation】 Awa-odori Kaikan



January 28th 【Observation】
Kamiyama Town (Satellite Office)



January 25th 【Exchange】
Kamiita Town, Takashi Elementary School



January 29th 【Observation】
The House of Parliament



January 29th 【Courtesy Call】

Japan-Cambodia

Parliamentary Friendship Association



January 30th
[Reporting Session]

#### 4. Voice from Participants (Extract)

- When chances are there, I would like to introduce the education system which is economical and easy for the children of Japan and Cambodia. Which will strengthen the relationship between two countries since we have very similar cultures. The democracy in Cambodia has short history but functional and united by citizens, which certified the peace and sustainable development of the country.
- My personal view on Japan is the advance industrialized nation that modernized in all sectors. The people of Japan are kind, friendly, most importantly they are curious on their career and have high obligation on what they are doing. They respect the law of traffic and the people of Japan are the cleanest people because you take care in cleaning your surrounding environment every time. I was impressed all the place I was visited and electoral campaign and the counting of ballot. Beside of that, I was very much interested to Business School and Primary School that how Japan educates their children in participating in social work from the young age. Based on what I observed and learned the politicians are mature enough and they respect the

rule of laws. They put the national interest above their own personal interest. Most importantly, they allow open political debate in which any accusation could not lead to defamation at all. Moreover, the political campaign are fair allocated to all political parties to participate which is the vital factor for free and fair election as well as democracy. They may debate critically in the senate or congress but they are Japanese ordinary citizens or they are friends in their daily lives.

All places and meetings arranged for this program were very useful and educational for the Cambodian delegates. Advices given by senior Government officials especially the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu and Representative of the Government, H.E. Mr. KONO Masaharu were very useful, relevant and encouraging. I was amazed and had learned a great deal during the visit to Tokushima. The visit of Tokushima Commercial High School and learning about how young students are educated on business concept, creativity, ethics and kindness to other country are unforgettable. Learning about local elections (direct votes) and being able to observe the real election campaign and vote-counting was very useful and appreciated.

#### 5. Impressions of the Host

• We sometime receive delegations from overseas, but this was the first guests from Cambodia. The program for the delegation of politicians tend to be mere courtesy calls, but in this program, the politicians are young and from multiple parties, and they were very enthusiastic and asking various questions. Urban concentration is the worldwide issues, we are honored that if our initiatives help them. I appreciate it for them to travel to Japan from a long distance.

#### 6. Dissemination by the Participants



# [Courtesy Call] A post about Government Representative

Mr. Kawano Masaharu, Government Official, Special Envoy for the Middle East Peace, attended the peace process of Cambodia 30 years ago. Young generations need to consider the followings which are very important for peace building in Cambodia;

- The leadership of two key players in Cambodian politics, King Norodom Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen, lead to the Peace and Paris Agreement.
- Building peace and solving political crisis in Cambodia depends on our own leadership, and we should be independent from any other foreign power.

## [Courtesy Call] A post about MOFA

Representative of young politicians from Cambodia visited Japan's new foreign Minister. He praised Cambodia's efforts for peace building in the field of democracy, human rights, and rules of law. Besides, He promised sustainable support for young politicians to achieve the same goal regardless of the political differences.



Although the climate of Japan is not suitable for agricultural products, 129 million Japanese are not short of vegetables. The Japanese are healthy and have a life expectancy of 82 years or older.

#### 7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

- Sharing about education systems in Japan with colleagues, friends, and students.
- The election system, combination of proportional representation and direct election, which is feasible and effective in Cambodia. I would like to suggest the idea to key politicians.
- Promoting the work ethic and cultures of civil servants and politicians. As the next steps, we need to achieve the solidarity and unification among politicians of Cambodia, which was repeatedly advised through this program.
- Sharing the learnings gained in Japan to own families, friends, communities, political colleagues, and Cambodian citizens at any opportunities.
- Passing on the importance of strong democracy system to achieve a long-term, comprehensive and sustainable development in terms of the rule of law, democracy, freedom, economy and society.

Project implementing body: JTB Corp.