

Study Visit Programme in Japan

By Ms Chonchanok Promsit
Grade 10, Udonpittayanukoon School, Thailand



When I knew that we had won the first place of SEMEO JAPAN, it was so unbelievable. I never have an experience about a study visit program abroad before. So this is my first time to join this program. I felt very thankful to SEMEO JAPAN for giving us opportunities and seeing the importance of our project. And I appreciated how well-organized it was. I sometimes thought that it would be hard to live in Japan. Or it would be uncomfortable to study with Japanese students. But we could make it through easier with your help. And I see how much all of you try to share and teach knowledge to us.

You also brought us to many great places such as Tokyo National Museum and Asakusa Temple. From this Study Visit Program I gained a lot of worthy things. I learned Japanese words that they use in daily life so I could use this for communicating. I made new friends here and learned how Japanese students study. All students were active and lovely. They weren't shy to talk to us. It surprised us a lot even though the language was sometimes a problem between us. However, we still could build great relationships together. Not only with Japanese students, but also with the Japanese people in general. They were so kind to us and tried to greet us in Thai. And the significant things which I've got from this Study Visit program and can apply to improve myself are how to discipline myself, such as not being late, being on time, and being active of learning. Not only studying from textbooks but also practice studying musical instruments to improve and relax our minds.

Therefore, I would like to say thank you to all of SEMEO staff and everybody who were involved in this project. I'm going to take the things that I've got from this Study Visit for improving myself to be better and sharing the benefits with others.

(Note: The write-up is original from the student)

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By Ms Tonchanok Niphannon
Grade 10, Udonpittayanukoon School, Thailand



First of all, I want to thanks MEXT (the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) for the 2014 SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award, and also, for the Study Visit Program to Japan.

The trip was exciting, beneficial, and very educational for me. Japan is every kid's dream because of its culture, people, food, and much more. Sometimes when you have high expectations, then you might be easily disappointed. But not for me, it exceeded all my expectations. Japan was just perfect.

I was so excited because I got to meet Mr. Tomochiro YAMAMOTO, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. He was very kind and he made all of us felt at ease when talking with him. He told us so many interesting things about Japan that we didn't even know. We also took pictures with Mr. YAMAMOTO and exchanged souvenirs with him.

Everyone at Ichikawa Gakuen School was very friendly and helpful. It was a very nice private school and we participated in many school activities. I learned to write with Chinese brush which was very challenging and kind of difficult for me, but Physical Education class was fun. Mathematics and English class made me realized that Japanese students are very studious. I had a good time playing games with other Japanese students and also had lunch with them.

There were so many things to try in so little time when it came to Japanese foods. I enjoyed Japanese foods a lot especially the Udon and Ramen was surprisingly good. Foods in Japan did not just taste delicious; it also looked delicious because of its presentation.

Another surprise when it came to food was to see so many vending machines in Japan. There were vending machines everywhere which was very convenient. But I have to admit, I was more surprised with the high-tech toilet. Well, more like confused because of all the buttons next to the toilet seat. It was pretty awesome once I know all of its functions.

Japan was simply so intriguing. This trip was so beneficial for me because I understood more about Japanese culture from talking with everyone that I have met; from visiting all the great places, from trying many delicious foods, and observing the architecture and the surroundings. Seeing how Japanese people are so polite, friendly, and very efficient, I know that I can improve myself in so many way, but mostly by study harder and by manage my time more efficiently.

Everything about Japan was amazing. I had so much fun and the time went by so fast because the next thing I knew is that it is time to pack my suitcases and leave for Thailand. I will definitely go back to visit again when I have a chance.

(Note: The write-up is original from the student)

My Wonderful Trip to Japan

By Ms Kamonrut Koobubpha
Grade 11, Udonpittayanukoon School, Thailand



In the year 2014, I received wonderful news from my teacher that our school has won first place. It was something that we were very proud of but what excited me most was the fact that we would be able to go to Japan! This was my first time traveling to another country without my parents. And suddenly the day I've been waiting for has finally come, on the first week of February, the second I stepped foot onto Narita Airport, my excitement has overwhelmed me once again. There were Japanese people surrounding me and I suddenly realized that I was in the country that has been known for their culture and neatness. Everything around me was different from where I once was and I told myself that "I will use every second here to the best of my ability".

This study trip to Japan has benefited me in so many ways. First, I received great experiences that I will carry throughout my life. The 3 days that we stayed in Japan taught me to be more responsible, to volunteer, and to put the public and national interest before my own. In terms of education, my friends and I had the opportunity to study in Achikawa School with the Japanese students and I realized that it was not surprising that they were so intelligent. They put their studies first, both students and teachers, and everybody knew what their responsibilities were and carried them out efficiently.

Everything that I've learned from this study trip will help to fill the gaps that were missing in my life and will help me to be a valuable global citizen in the future. From now on, I will be well-organized, I will be on time, I will focus on my studies, I will do good for the community, and I will put the public and national interests before my own, all because of my trip to Japan.

(Note: The write-up is original from the student)

My Impressive Trip to Japan by Kantawan

By Ms Kantawan Magkunthod
Grade 11, Udonpittayanukoon School, Thailand



I've always imagined Japan to be a magnificent country - and I was not wrong. When my school and I had first gotten the news that we had won, we were psyched. It was such an honor to be crowned winners of the SEMEO Japan ESD Award, and it thrilled the entire school. It was such a rewarding feeling to see the hard work of our teachers, principals, staff, and students pay off. As if that wasn't already exciting enough, myself, three other teammates, my teacher, and my principal received the opportunity to go to Japan.

We were greeted with a warm smile from the coordinator of SEAMEO. She was very lovely to us, and was a great guide along our trip. I believe that all of the representatives of Udonpittayanukoon School enjoyed her company. We also had other two coordinators from MEXT, Mr. Kenji and Ms. Ai who were super friendly and fun to have around.

What I was pleased with most about our study trip was that we had the honor to meet the deputy prime minister of MEXT. He was welcoming, kind, and very down to earth. Kenji said that he had never met him before either (even though they work at the same place) which surprised me and made me appreciate the trip a lot more. Other than that, the entire trip was fascinating. We got to see many wonderful sites such as the Tokyo Tower, Asakusa Temple, and Tokyo's landscape. We had the chance to learn and spend a day with the Japanese students of the UNESCO School which we all enjoyed very much. Not only was this a study trip, but it was also a once in a lifetime journey.

I believe that each and every one of us gained tons from our trip. We gained knowledge, not only about Tokyo, but also about how to make our school a better place. Such as the respect that the Japanese people have for each other that amazed all of us. We also got to share our culture with the Japanese and I think that is what benefited us most. Sharing cultures does not only create a bond among two or more countries, but it also makes the cultures more valuable and creates multiple friendships along the way.

(Note: The write-up is original from the student)