60th Anniversary of Japan-Laos Diplomatic Relations
International Exchange Program among Senior High School Students
JAPAN⇔LAOS TEENAGE AMBASSADORS (LAOS PROGRAM)
PROGRAM REPORT

We have carried out the Teenage Ambassadors Program for Japanese and Lao high school students. The achievements of the program are summarized as follows.

I. Period: From 28th September to 5th October, 2015

II. Major Participants:
- 20 students from Kyoto Prefecture – Ritsumeikan Uji High School
- 20 students from Vientiane High School
- H. E. Mr. Hiroyuki KISHINO, Japanese Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Laos
- Mr. Kazuyuki Nakane, Parliamentary Vice-Ministers for Foreign Affairs
- H. E. Mr. Phankham VIPHAVANH, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Ministry of Education and Sports
- Ms. Keomanivanh PHIMMAHAXAY, Deputy Director General of Senior Secondary Education
- Mr. Tetsuo SHIBATA, Chief Representative from JETRO

III. Location: Laos (Luang Prabang, Vientiane)

IV. Objective of the Program:
This program aims to provide senior high school students of Japan and overseas the opportunities to study the diversity of culture and values of each other’s countries through the mutual exchange.

V. Contents of the Program:

① Courtesy Activities
- Courtesy visit to Lao Government 1st Oct. (Thur.) in Vientiane
  (Visited H.E. Mr. Phankham VIPHAVANH, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Ministry of Education and Sports)
- Welcome Reception at the Embassy of Japan in Lao People’s Democratic Republic 1st Oct. (Thur.) in Vientiane
  (Visited H.E. Mr. Kishio, Japanese Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Laos)
- Jetro Vientiane Office (Visited Mr. Tetsuo SHIBATA, Chief Representative) 1st Oct. (Thur.) in Vientiane

② Historical & Cultural Understanding Activities
- Visiting World Heritage Temples 29th Sep. (Tue.) in Luang Prabang
- Observing Night Market 29th Sep. (Tue.) in Luang Prabang
- Visiting Water Tank Facility for Safe Water 29th Sep. (Tue.) in Luang Prabang
- Religious Mendicancy, Weaving & Dyeing Textiles 30th Sep. (Tue.) in Luang Prabang

③ Exchange Program
- Visiting Thapene Primary School (built by the support of AEON 1% Club) 29th Sep. (Tue.) in Luang Prabang
- Vientiane High School Visit, Trial Enrollments 2nd Oct. (Thur.) in Vientiane
- Homestay (2 nights) 2-4th Oct. (Fri.-Sun.) in Vientiane

† Commemorative photo with host family
VI. Activity Report:

【1】[Courtesy Activities]

◆ Courtesy Visit to the Government of Laos 1st October in Vientiane

(Quotes from Japanese students’ speech)
We believe that we can deepen the friendship more than before through the exchange activity this time. We would like to build a strong relationship with our Lao friends, host families, and Lao teachers by exchanging opinions about experience in Laos.

(Quotes from H.E. Mr. Phankham’s speech)
It is 60th anniversary of Japan-Laos diplomatic relations this year. 4 elephants were donated from Laos to Kyoto city, and 300 cherry blossom trees were donated to Laos from Japan. I would like students from both countries to become a role model of others by learning each other’s cultural background and taking leadership.

↑ Japanese students giving speech to Deputy Prime Minister

↑ H.E. Mr. Phankham VIPHAVANH, Deputy Prime Minister giving speech to students from both countries

↑ Japanese student presenting a gift to Deputy Prime Minister

↑ Japanease student talking with Deputy Prime Minister

↑ Commemorative Photo at Ministry of Education and Sports
Welcome Reception at the Embassy of Japan in Laos  1st October in Vientiane

(Quotes from H.E. Mr. Kishino’s speech)
It is your special rights to experience the different environment where you can exchange opinions with Lao students and experience homestay. I believe that this experience will make your way of thinking and life more fruitful. I would like all of you to take this great opportunity to learn something from others and deepen the friendship.....

(Quotes from Mr. Nakane’s speech)
I am very glad that I can meet you all here in Vientiane, Laos. I heard that cherry blossoms donated from Japan to Vientiane High School have bloomed. I strongly believe that cherry blossoms in Vientiane symbolize the partnership and cooperation of Japan and Laos.....

(Quotes from Ms. Keomanivanh’s speech)
Asian countries will grow more and more in the near future, and I was very glad that mutual exchange program between Japan and Laos has started. This kind of program will be the great opportunity for students from both countries to expand the global point of view. I would like all of you to experience Lao culture as much as you can during homestay.....
Speech by Japanese students

Although it is very short to stay in Laos, we hope that we can make good memories by taking this great opportunity. We would like to share the great experience in Laos with our friends and family even after going back to Japan to become a bridge connecting Japan and Laos.

Speech by Lao student

In July, we went to Japan to learn your culture. It was very precious experience indeed. And now, it will be our turn to give our Japanese friends a memory that we hope that it can build a deep bond between Laos and Japan.

Commemorative photo at the Embassy of Japan in Laos

Japanese student (upper right hand corner) asking questions to Mr. Shibata, Chief Representative

Japanese student presenting a gift to Mr. Shibata, Chief Representative
[2] [Historical & Cultural Understanding Activities]

◆ Visiting World Heritage Temples  29th September in Luang Prabang

↑ Japanese students posing in front of Wat Xieng Thong

↑ Japanese student taking photo of the town of Luang Prabang at the top of Mount Phousi

◆ Observing Night Market  29th September in Luang Prabang

↑ Night Market where there are variety of goods lined up along the side walk

↑ Japanese student negotiating the price of T-shirt

◆ Visiting Water Tank Facility  29th September in Luang Prabang

(Quotes from Lecture)
Water pipes are connected to the tank made of concrete, which is built on the mountainside, so it makes it possible to supply the spring water to the water facility in the village.....

↑ Principal of Thapene Primay School giving lecture about water tank facility built by the support of AEON 1% Club and UNICEF, and student washing hands with purified water (right).
◆ Religious Mendicancy  30\textsuperscript{th} September in Luang Prabang

![Japanese student giving sticky rice to monks walking on sidewalk in early morning](image)

◆ Weaving & Dyeing Textiles  30\textsuperscript{th} September in Luang Prabang

![Japanese students grinding leaves to make dye](image)

![Japanese student experiencing winding thread](image)

![Japanese student experiencing weaving](image)

![Japanese student showing completed textile](image)
【3】【Exchange Program】
Visiting Thapene Primary School  29th September in Luang Prabang

↑ Lao Primary school students welcoming Japanese students
↑ Japanese students playing rope jumping with Lao primary school students

↑ Japanese students presenting soccer ball and skipping rope in the bag to Principal of Thapene Primary school ↑
↑ Lao primary school students showing physical exercises

Vientiane High School Visit, Trial Enrollments  2nd October in Vientiane

↑ Japanese students greeting with a high five with Lao students
↑ Lao students helping Japanese students during geography class
**Homestay (2 nights)  2-4\(^{th}\) October in Vientiane**

↑ Japanese student chatting with host family  
↑ Japanese student looking at the scenery from Tuk Tuk with host family

**Farewell Party  4\(^{th}\) October in Vientiane**

I expect that the bonds generated by the mutual exchange among young generations like you through this program will become stronger in the future…..

↑ Speech by the Principal of Vientiane High School

↑ Japanese student taking photo with host family  
↑ Japanese student enjoying dinner with host family

↑ Speech by Japanese student

Even though English did not work as much as I was expecting during homestay, I managed myself to communicate with host family members. I thought that it was important to try to communicate in every possible way to understand each other. I was so happy that the host family treated me like I was one of their family members…..
I learned so many things about Japanese culture through this program from my pair. Also I appreciate that I was given the opportunity to learn how to behave like an ambassador. It was too short to stay with my pair for homestay, and I thought that it would be great if I could spent more time with my pair.....
I was affected by many good things experienced in Laos, because those experiences were very new to me. Also Laos became more familiar than before through the activities of this program. Lao people were very relaxed, kind, pure, and very friendly.

It was a great opportunity for me to participate in this program, because it made me reexamine myself. Everything was fresh to me in Laos, and there were many things that were different from what I was thinking in everyday life.

This program makes me think to learn more about leadership and setting goals through teamwork from the experience in Japan and Laos. I share many things with my pair, and found both good and bad things in life style. However, I would like to make good things useful for my life from now on.

What I got the most through the experience in both Japan and Laos was that I could build a very good friendship between Japan and Laos. I also could learn many different cultural aspects through the activities in this eventful program.

It was very meaningful for me to actually see the cultural difference by participating in this program. Students must have enjoyed the mutual exchange with Lao students. I hope that the relationship built among students from both countries during this program can be connected to some other new international opportunities in the future.

It is very nice to deepen the understanding about each other’s way of thinking and culture for students from both countries. This mutual exchange program will be the base to be able to open up the new future for both Japan and Laos.
Lao, Japanese high school students promote cultural exchange

Times Reporters

The Aeon 1 percent Club is running a mutual exchange programme between Japan and Laos called the Teenage Ambassadors, taking place in Laos from September 28 to October 5.

Some 20 Japanese high school students and 20 Lao high school students visited the Embassy of Japan in Vientiane on Thursday for the programme’s welcoming ceremony.

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr Kazuyuki Nakane, who also visited Laos incidentally, joined the ceremony and wished all the participants a meaningful experience which will enrich their lives.

The Aeon 1 percent Club, with funds provided by the leading Aeon group companies, started the teenage ambassador programme in 1990 to deepen exchanges for both Japanese and foreign high school students, touching upon the culture and histories of each country and learning the various sense of values. Until now a total 2012 students from 18 countries including Japan have joined this project and deepened friendships by visiting each country.

In this memorable year of the 60th anniversary of Japan-Laos diplomatic relations, high school students from Laos visited Japan in January to deepen their friendships on a private level. High school students from Laos partnered with Japanese participants through lessons in high school and the programme, including playing in the snow.

This time, Japanese high school students from Kyoto prefecture visited Laos and participated in lessons at local high schools, home-stay experiences and lectures on the economic situation in Laos. They also visited an elementary school built with the support of the Aeon 1 percent Club, and enjoyed cultural experiences such as religious customs, dyeing and weaving. On receiving their courtesy call, the Ambassador of Japan to Laos, Mr Hiroyuki Kishino, extended a heartfelt welcome and encouraged students from both countries to create a bridge of friendship between Japan and Laos.

Lao and Japanese high school students pose for a group photo with Ambassador Hiroyuki Kishino, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr Kazuyuki Nakane, and other officials at the Japanese Embassy in Vientiane.
(Contents of the article is almost the same as the articles in Vientiane Times on the previous page)