Japan ↔ Cambodia
Teenage Ambassadors 2017
Japan Program Report

AEON 1% Club Foundation
To whom it may concern:

AEON 1% Club Foundation

November 1, 2017

Japan ⇔ Cambodia Teenage Ambassadors

Japan Program Report

We are deeply grateful for your continued understanding and cooperation with the undertakings of the AEON 1% Club Foundation. A report on the matters referred to in the heading is provided below.

I. Exchange Period: September 11 (Mon.) ~ September 17 (Sun.)

II. Participants:
Japanese high school students (Prefectural Tottori Nishi High School) 16 students
Cambodian high school students (Bak Touk High School) 16 students

III. Visited Locations: Tokyo, Tottori City and Kurayoshi City in Tottori Prefecture

IV. Project Objective
This project is an exchange program with the aim of enabling participants to learn about the cultures and diversity of values of each others’ countries through mutual exchange between the next generation of high school students in Japan and overseas.

V. Exchange Program Contents:
1) Courtesy visits
   - Courtesy visit to Diet Member Shigeru Ishiba, and September 12 (Tues.), Tokyo
   - Courtesy visit to Ministry of Foreign Affairs September 12 (Tues.), Tokyo
   - Welcome Party at Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Japan September 12 (Tues.), Tokyo
   - Courtesy visit to Tottori Prefecture Board of Education September 14 (Thurs.,) Tottori City

2) Historical and cultural understanding activities
   - Observation & Learning Program September 11 (Mon.), Tokyo
     - Visit to Sophia University, lecture by Professor Yoshiaki Ishizawa, September 12 (Tues.), Tokyo
     - Director of Asia Center for Research and Human Development
     - Edo-Tokyo Museum September 13 (Weds.), Kurayoshi City
     - Storytelling event of regional folktales at Kamo Shrine September 14 (Thurs.,) Tottori City
     - Visit to Tottori Sand Dunes September 14 (Thurs.,) Tottori City
     - Visit to Tottori Sand Museum September 14 (Thurs.,) Tottori City
     - Hands-on Experience Program September 14 (Thurs.,) Tottori City
     - Sand sculpting experience

3) Exchange Activities
   - Homestay September 15 (Fri.) ~ 17 (Sun.) Tottori City
   - School visit & classroom experience September 15 (Fri.) Tottori City
   - Farewell Party September 17 (Sun.) Tottori City

VI. Features of the Exchange Program
High school students from both countries attended a lecture given by Professor Yoshiaki Ishizawa of the Sophia Asia Center for Research and Human Development (former Dean of Sophia University) on initiatives to preserve Khmer culture. Furthermore, students listened to a powerful live storytelling of folktales at Kamo Shrine in Kurayoshi City, and through a separate project run the Foundation, came into contact with culture of Japan and of the local region.
VII. Scenes from Activities:
1) Courtesy Visits

◆ Courtesy visit to Mr. Shigeru ISHIBA-Diet Member from Tottori prefecture, Sept. 12

Cambodia was the first place where the Japan Self-Defense Force was active overseas. As well as performing repairs on bridges and roads, civil servants also went to help support the country in carrying out democratic elections for the first time. Thanks to such activities, the connection between Japan and Cambodia became deeper. To the Japanese high school students, I say please learn much about history such as the facts of the Cambodian civil war. And please try talking to your Cambodian partners, who have worked hard to improve relations with their neighboring nations, about what kind of relationship Japan should build with North Korea, China and others in future.

↑ High school students from both countries listening to a lecture by Mr. Shigeru ISHIBA-Diet member

↑ Cambodian high school student presenting a gift to Mr. Shigeru ISHIBA-Diet member (Ms. Lim Sodavan)

↑ Japanese high school students interacting with Mr. ISHIBA

◆ Courtesy visit to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Q&A Session, Sept. 12

↑ Commemorative photo in the Press Conference Room

↑ Cambodian high school student asking a question (Mr. Chheng Menglim)

↑ Japanese high school student asking a question (Mr. Toya Shiinoki)

↑ Mr. Masaki KAWAGUCH-Negotiator of First Southeast Asia Div. Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Dept. Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs receiving a gift from a Cambodian high school student (Ms. Koeut Solina)
◆ Welcome Party at Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Japan, Sept. 12

▲ Commemorative photo at Welcome Party at Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Japan

(Third row from the front, from left) Mr. Masaki KAWAGUCHI-Negotiator of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Junko MIHARA-Diet member, Mr. Tetsuro FUKUYAMA-Diet member, Mr. Koichiro GEMBA-Diet member, Takuya OKADA-Founder of AEON 1% Club, H.E. Ms. Chea Kimtha-Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Japan, Hiroshi YOKOO-Chairman of AEON 1% Club, Mr. Masaharu NAKAGAWA-Diet member, Ms. Yuko OBUCHI-Diet member, Motoya OKADA-Councilor of AEON 1% Club, Naoki HAYASHI-Former Chairman of AEON 1% Club

▲ Greetings from H.E. Ms. Chea Kimtha-Ambassador of Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Japan

(Excerpt from speech)
This program is a fitting initiative for this year, the 65th anniversary of the commencement of diplomatic relations between Japan and Cambodia. I value this project highly, as deepening our understanding of other cultures from a young age leads to the strengthening of the relationship between both nations. Cambodian high school students, you need to prepare for future competition for the sustainable development of our country. Please enjoy your stay in Japan and gain a lot of knowledge.

▲ Greetings from Mr. Katsunobu KATO-Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare

(Excerpt from speech)
I have taken part in this high school exchange program eight times over five years from 2013, meeting around 400 high school students. Tottori, which you will visit next, is a wonderful place full of nature and warm-hearted people. Please enjoy delicious food, and link your experiences there to your future activities.

▲ Greetings from Mr. Kazuyuki NAKANE-State Minister for Foreign Affairs

(Excerpt from speech)
Next year a Japanese Consular Office is due to open in Siem Reap, and I am pleased by the progress of the friendship between our two nations. I hope that all of you high school students will exchange many opinions about the future of both countries, and will become a link between nations like Neak Loeung Bridge.
(Excerpt from speech)
Cambodian high school students, please make many treasured friends in Japan. And please return again next time as exchange students to Japan. I hope you will contribute to the friendship between our nations and that you, the young generation, will carve out the path to the next era.

(Excerpt from speech by Ms. Srey Madarya)
This program unquestionably contributes to the friendship between our nations. Moreover, we can deepen our understanding of the cultures of both countries. Japanese people are extremely polite, hardworking, and patient, and I wish to learn all these things from you. Also, I want to share the valuable experiences I have gained here with my friends when I return home.

(Excerpt from speech by Mr. Shion Matsubara)
Thank you for hosting this meeting for us today. From tomorrow, our activities will take place in our hometown, Tottori. Our world-renowned products are pickled scallions and pears. Tottori is also famous for its sand dunes. I hope to treasure the encounters made through this exchange, and to create precious memories together.

(Mr. Yasuhide NAKAYAMA-Diet member)
High school students interacting with guests

Performance by Cambodian high school students
“Coconut dance”

Performance by Japanese high school students
“Tottori Shanshan umbrella dance”
Tottori Prefecture is a very beautiful place. We want to come again.

(Excerpt from speech) While Tottori is the lowest-populated prefecture in Japan, it is a place of abundant nature and delicious food and water. Now, especially, is the best season for pears and seafood. In this globalized society, there are situations that one country cannot solve alone, instead reaching a solution through putting together views from multiple nations. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to others’ opinions and background context, rather than just your own assertions. Through this program, I hope that you high school students will deepen your mutual understanding, and contribute to the development of both our nations in a leading role.

(Excerpt from speech by Mr. Long Sombathreach) We have left our own country for the first time to visit another. We are constantly amazed by all the wonderful experiences the people of Japan have given us. Yesterday afternoon, we watched a Japanese theatrical performance at Kamo Shrine in Kurayoshi. We are grateful to Japanese people for the support they have given Cambodia up to now. We are truly touched by your friendship and hospitality.
2. Historical and Cultural Understanding Activities

Visit to Sophia University, lecture by Professor Yoshiaki Ishizawa, Sept. 11

The talk featured the Angkor Wat monument and its background and history, and its importance. Professor Ishizawa also kindly informed students about research attempting to clarify through experiments how the monument was build 800 years ago; about the fact that many monuments and work of art belongs to museum survived the events of the civil war unharmed; and about how Sophia University is supporting the progress of research by Cambodians. He also spoke about how Cambodia is the only nation to feature a monument on their national flag, and that this expresses how Angkor Wat has become a symbol of the Cambodian people.

* Professor Yoshiaki Ishizawa: Received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, known as the Nobel Prize of Asia, in July 2017 in recognition of his achievements

↑ Lecture on preservation of Khmer culture

↑ Cambodian high school student asking a question

(Excerpt from question by Ms. Var Sovabrathana)
You told us one hypothesis of the ancient construction method, but are there any other theories?
Prof. Ishizawa's answer: There are many theories, and we are carrying out our research by testing them one by one. The research is still ongoing.

(Excerpt from speech by Mr. Bun Hak)
We are grateful for this magnificent lecture about the help you are providing to preserve Cambodia’s heritage. Angkor Wat has long been a leading tourist site in Asia. While tourism brings economic benefits, it may also lead to the destruction of the monument. Now there are cultural and educational measures in place, and many points of caution are instructed during visits for the preservation of the monument.

↑ Speech by a Cambodian high school student

↑ Taking a commemorative photo with Professor Yoshiaki Ishizawa (center), Mr. Masuo KIMURA-Exective Director of Chancellor's Office of Sophia School Corporation (center left), Hiroshi Yokoo-Chairman of AEON 1% Club (center right), and an AEON Scholarship student at Sophia University, who also participated (back row, far right)
◆ Edo-Tokyo Museum, Sept. 12 (Tokyo)

↑ Appreciating museum exhibits from the Edo period

↑ Japanese high school students explaining the museum exhibits in pairs

◆ Storytelling event of regional folktales at Kamo Shrine, Sept. 13 (Kurayoshi City, Tottori Prefecture)

(Excerpt from speech by Mr. Hout Kim Hay)
Although we also have regional tales in Cambodia, this was the first time we have seen this style of one person taking on various different roles to tell a story.

↑ Cambodian high school students sharing his impressions

↑ Cambodian high school students striking a pose in front of giant sand sculptures

↑ High school student presenting a gift to Ms. Atsuko ASANO

↑ Taking a memorial photo, mixing guests with hosts

◆ Visit to Tottori Sand Dunes, Tottori Sand Museum, Sand Sculpting Experience, Sept. 14

↑ At the sand dunes, with the Sea of Japan in the background

↑ Cambodian high school student trying her hand at sand sculpture

↑ Cambodian high school students strike a pose in front of giant sand sculptures
3. Exchange Activities

School visit & classroom experience, Sept. 15

Greetings from Mr. Kagata-Vice principal of Tottori Nishi High School

(Excerpt from speech)
A warm welcome to the Cambodian students. Prefectural Tottori Nishi High School is the oldest school in this prefecture, with a 145-year history. This building was created with the newest technology in Japanese architecture, with a seismic retrofit of the school building on the concept of coexisting with the historic site, incorporating natural light and wind while feeling a sense of history. Although our time together will be short, please enjoy it fully. I hope your circles of friendship will expand through sharing various experiences.

Speech by a Cambodian high school student

(Excerpt from speech by Mr. Kea Sothearith)
I wish to thank the Principal and all others who have welcomed us here for this visit. I have seen many things during my first visit to Japan, and yet there are still so many things I want to learn about, such as beautiful nature, the environment, cutting-edge technology, your culture of respecting people, and the politeness of the Japanese people. Today I especially wish to learn about the Japanese education system.

Taking classes in pairs

Scenes from a discussion about similarities and differences between schools in Japan and Cambodia

Experiencing Japanese calligraphy

Trying out a naginata pole sword
Cambodian high school student learning how to make and eat *norimaki* sushi rolls for dinner, and trying them for the first time (right)↑

Struck by wind and rain due to a typhoon, students from both countries gather in the school gym and play five-a-side football.

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<th>Comments from Prefectural Tottori Nishi High School host families (excerpts from questionnaire)</th>
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| This was the first time we have hosted a homestay. Our family, which is usually busy with separate activities, gathered to spend time together, so it was a very meaningful time for us.  
I feel like my daughter has also grown as a person. Thank you for providing this opportunity for us.  
(Parent of Mr. Matsubara, the exchange partner of Mr. Kong Arunputhirith) |
| Without taking part in this exchange, I would not have learned what kind of country Cambodia is, or what language they speak.  
I’m looking forward to seeing how my daughter will develop when she visits Cambodia next.  
(Parent of Ms. Nakamura, the exchange partner of Ms. Cheng Sreylinh) |
| We shared a valuable experience as a family. It seems like my son’s interest in other countries and in speaking English has grown, and he has gained some goals for his university life in future.  
This experience has also given him more confidence. I think it’s a wonderful program.  
(Parent of Mr. Matsumoto, the exchange partner of Mr. Hout Kim Hay) |
| This opportunity has made these unique experiences possible for my son. I had a renewed sense of how important it is not only to learn, but to try doing things.  
(Parent of Ms. Igi, the exchange partner of Ms. Kheang Lykeang) |
Farewell Party, Sept. 17

High school students of both countries, their host families and guests take a commemorative photo

Mr. Yamamoto - Principal of Tottori Nishi High School making a toast

Greetings from Mr. Masami SHIRAISHI - Store Manager of AEON Tottori Kita

(Excerpt from speech)
I am sure that through this exchange and the homestay, the Cambodian high school students have been able to experience Japanese culture for themselves and further expanded their ways of looking and thinking. The students of our school have surely also have felt the joy of a meeting of minds that transcends country and culture. It is important for the young generation to deepen their understanding; I believe it will lead to the creation of rich futures for both countries. I hope that your friendships will grow even stronger with the visit to Cambodia in November.

Together with Mr. SHIRAISHI and Mr. NAKABAYASHI

(Excerpt from speech)
Thank you for visiting the AEON Tottori Kita in this program. I was pleased that you ate a lot of Tottori’s famous Nijisseiki pears and seemed to enjoy their taste. We have a saying in Japan that “rain settles the soil”, and in the same way, I hope that your friendships will overcome this Japanese typhoon to become even stronger.

Together with host families
Performance by Japanese high school students

Performance by Cambodian high school students

Speech by a Cambodian high school student

Speech by a Japanese high school student

High school students of both countries sing “We are the World” while watching highlights of their activities

High school students of both countries embrace in a sad farewell

(Excerpt from speech by Mr. Ly Chunvira)
This is the final day of our stay in Japan. We have learned deeply about Japan’s culture and traditions, and its differences with Cambodia. We have learned so many beneficial things. We will never forget any of the time spent in Japan. We had so much fun, and are sad to leave Japan. Japanese people have welcomed us warmly. We are looking forward to welcoming you next time in Cambodia.

(Excerpt from speech by Ms. Saki Nakamura)
Cambodian students, how was your stay? I think you are probably used to left-hand road traffic now. This seven-day exchange was a precious time of deepening the friendship between us, and we also learned about the differences between our countries. Some of us might regret that we didn’t communicate as well as we wished, or speak English so well. But we will meet again in November, so we will be able to grow a little more by then. See you again soon.
### 4. Feedback from Participants (excerpts from speeches and questionnaires)

#### Cambodian high school students

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<th>Mr. Hout Kim Hay</th>
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<td>I have learned about Japan’s culture, traditions and history through this program. I was also able to find out about lifestyles, ways of thinking, and the education system. And I thought that Japanese people were so kind, handsome and cute. I was treated to wonderful food during the homestay. I especially loved tempura and katsudon.</td>
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<th>Ms. Var Sovanrathana</th>
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<td>I experienced such things as Japanese traditional dance, culture, food, and famous tourist sites in Tottori. During the classroom visit, I was able to make many friends and become classmates, as well as learning about the education system. And during the homestay, I learned how to cross the road in a way that I had not experienced in Cambodia, and the family taught me about the custom of saying greetings at mealtimes and how to eat Japanese food. Also, I went shopping with my friends for the first time. I wished I could visit for a longer time.</td>
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#### Japanese high school students

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<th>Mr. Wataru Tokuni</th>
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<td>When I heard that we were going to meet students from Cambodia, for some reason I imagined them to be standoffish, but I was surprised to find that their sense of humor and values were very similar to us. We could be frank with one another in English, and they gave us presents too. I felt that Cambodians are very kind. I wish I had been able to fully express the things I wanted to say to them.</td>
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<th>Ms. Haruhi Ideno</th>
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<td>This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that we couldn’t have had at school. I realized that if we use gestures and feel strongly that we want to communicate, we can get our thoughts across even if we don’t have perfect grammar. Although it was a short program, it was a good exchange because we overcame differences in nationality to become friends with our partner students and the others too.</td>
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#### Accompanying teachers

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<th>Mr. Nget Chansok, Department of Education Youth and sport Phnom Penh Municipality Head Office</th>
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<td>This program has taught the high school students from both countries about having a high level of responsibility for communicating, time, and the effects of their actions. They particularly learned about how to tackle teamwork and how to spend time with the homestay parents, and they were able to spend time together as if they were old friends. I love Japan and the Japanese people. I hope that my country can become a developed nation like Japan.</td>
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<th>Ms. Ouk Samphoas, Bak Touk High School</th>
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<td>I am truly grateful for this program. Personally, I was impressed by the lecture on Angkor Wat at Sophia University, and felt that it was a great honor. Japanese people are kind, friendly, honest, considerate of others, and a little bit strict in their work. I also felt confidence in Japan’s safety. We high school students were able to develop our friendships and gain understanding of each others’ countries.</td>
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VIII. Published Articles

● Newspaper

Mainichi Shimbun, morning edition, Sept. 15 (Fri.)

● Online

Sept. 19, 2017