

Learning "Japan" through history, culture and language is a key to success of your stay in Japan. In this issue, we are introducing the program which enables you to learn Japan from many aspects, and Japanese language learning tools. We hope you enjoy this issue.

Have you heard of the program for "Understanding the Japanese Development Experience"? Here is the report of summer 2023 for those who could not take part. For those who did not know about this program, please contact each JICA Domestic staff for how to join it.



## What is the program for "Understanding the Japanese Development Experience"?

This program is a joint effort by JICA and its partner universities to provide JICA Scholars with a broad overview of Japan's modern development and its history beyond the university framework. These programs are conducted as an online program as Japanese Modernization Lecture Series as well as a face-to-face program with field trips and group discussions, and cultural activities.

### Program report from International University of Japan in Niigata



Experiencing Zazen ( Japanese Meditation)

#### Feedback from the participants



Brainstorming new ideas by having numerous discussions and debates helped us understand different perspectives on the issues Japan and other countries face and how we can all continue to work together.

Exchange meeting with IUJ students embraced creation of new networking, sharing of knowledge and experiences regarding the life in Japan.



Trying Local Traditional Dance



Group Photo in front of a Local Food Factory

#### An Example of the program, Summer 2023

- Day 1**
  - Lectures (Manufacturing in Japan etc.)
  - Field trip (A memorial hall)
  - Exchange with IUJ Students
- Day 2**
  - Lectures (Branding etc.)
  - Field trip (Food processing company etc.)
  - Group discussion
- Day 3**
  - Lectures (History of Modern Japan etc.)
  - Group discussion
  - Japanese Cultural Experience (Kimono dressing)
- Day 4**
  - Lectures (History of Agriculture in Japan etc.)
  - Group discussion
  - Exchange meeting
- Day 5**
  - Group Presentations with IUJ students

# An Interview from a JICA Participant



**Ms. Siti Asah Binti Md Ali**

Malaysia / Agriculture Studies  
Networks for Food Security /  
Iwate University

Ms. Siti Asah participated in the program in July 2023. In interview, she shared her thoughts on the lectures she attended.

## What prompted you to join “Understanding the Japanese Development Experience”?

I’m interested in finding out how Japan was able to recover from the World War II. This experience offers valuable insight and a key lesson that I can learn from Japan.

## Which program did you find the most interesting?

History of modern Japan. I am astounded by Japan's remarkable transformation from the ravages of war to becoming a developed nation, all while steadfastly preserving its cultural heritage. I find myself inspired by the innovation and advancement of Japanese technology. The spirit of dedication and continuous improvement is the essence that enables Japan to thrive as a developed nation and lead the way in technological advancements.

## What was the one thing that you found the most different from your country?

The Japanese people's hospitality and politeness foster a welcoming atmosphere in which individuals prioritize the needs of the community over their interests, thereby contributing to a secure and well-organized society. Furthermore, the Japanese demonstrate an unmatched level of punctuality and service.

## How will you utilize what you have learned from the program?

The Japanese work ethic is characterized by hard work, loyalty, and dedication to achieving personal and professional goals that I can take as inspiration and try to incorporate into my working life after graduating.



## Introducing Japanese Learning Materials



Learning Japanese is not only learning the language but learning Japanese society itself. It gives you a chance to interact with Japanese people including your professors, classmates and neighbors, and it might help you for participating in internships for those who are eligible.

The Japan Foundation introduces various Japanese learning tools on their website. There are many useful materials for all levels of learners especially for beginners and intermediates. How about using this website to learn Japanese efficiently?

### **IRODORI Japanese for Life in Japan** **Click here!**

Irodori is a Japanese textbook that has Japanese teaching materials for people living in Japan. You can learn Japanese on various aspects of life such as working in Japan, shopping, going on trips, having meals, interacting with other people, etc. In addition, you can download the textbook and audio for free. This textbook is geared towards beginners.

### **Marugoto** **Click here!**

Marugoto is a textbook that teaches both Japanese language and customs as a whole. You will learn about Japanese culture while touching upon various topics such as travel, food, festivals, manga, etc. They also have a substantial e-learning support. It introduces a real-life communication among Japanese speakers as well as the life and culture behind it. This textbook is geared towards beginners to intermediate Japanese learners.



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**CONTACT**



If you have any comment, suggestions or ideas please contact us!  
Your stories and photos in Japan are most welcomed to be shared.  
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