

## **JENESYS 2012 Baguio-Benguet Youth Ambassadors [Final Report]**

The JENESYS 2012 Baguio-Benguet Youth Ambassadors Group is composed of youths from different schools in the Baguio/Benguet region who were chosen to represent the Philippines as goodwill ambassadors to Japan during the year 2012. The students who were able to participate in the JENESYS Programme (Japan East-Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) on the year 2012 were the privileged batches who experienced the fifth and last year of the program.

The youth ambassadors who went to Japan last April-May 2012 are the following:

- **Kevin John Bumahit**  
Benguet State University  
*Veterinary Medicine*  
Batch 4, Wakayama Group
- **Trisha Joi Esperanza**  
University of Baguio  
*Psychology*  
Batch 3, Fukuoka Group
- **Marviguél Cayat**  
University of the Cordilleras  
*Hotel and Restaurant Management*  
Batch 4, Aichi Group
- **Rex Nario**  
Saint Louis University  
*Mechanical Engineering*  
Batch 3, Hokkaido Group
- **Erjo Coscolluela**  
University of Baguio  
*Mass Communication*  
Batch 3, Osaka Group
- **Vincent Navarro**  
University of the Philippines Baguio  
*Fine Arts*  
Batch 4, Hokkaido Group
- **Jayvee Dacumos**  
Saint Louis University  
*Civil Engineering*  
Batch 4, Wakayama Group
- **Jasmin Tosay**  
Benguet State University  
*Information Technology*  
Batch 2, Kyoto Group  
*(Recently Joined)*

The youth ambassadors were able to come up with a set of activities in order to give back to the local community what we learned from the experience. Through this, the ambassadors believe that citizens of the area will be enlightened and pushed to do more for the country. The events planned were supported by the National Youth Commission Baguio Regional Office (as part of a MOA) and their staff, namely Sir Jun Angeles and Ma'am Cherry Carag. The first accomplished activity they had as a group was the talk for the meeting of the Cordillera Youth Leaders. This was held at Camp Allen on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, 2012. Batches 3 and 4 had separate presentations about their own activities and lessons learned in Japan. After the presentation, the group had their first meeting, where they discussed the activities to be done and made plans for the following weeks. The minutes of the meeting are attached to this report.

The public forums were held at the Japanese Film Showing event at the Baguio Cinematheque with the cooperation of Mr. Hidenobu Oguni. The dates of the public forum were the

7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of July, 2012. Each forum was an hour long, held from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. The audiences both times were composed mostly of students from different universities. There were also some Japanese people present during the forum, and on the 7<sup>th</sup>, there was a South African woman who offered her opinion when the members asked the audience questions. She gave a positive response to both the Philippines and Japan, telling how she appreciated how the two countries share similar values (family centered, kindness, etc), and also said that what the ambassadors are proposing now in lieu with the experiences learnt is something to reflect on. In total, the group reached to about 100 people through the forum.

Jasmin Tosay of Batch 2 joined the group at this time and contributed to the success of the forum.

The forum presentation contained the experiences and knowledge that the members gained and wanted to share to their fellow Filipinos from the JENESYS Program. The first part was about the Great East Japan Earthquake that occurred last March 11, 2011. It included the summary and statistics of what happened during and after the disaster. The members also highlighted the recovery efforts of Japan, as well as the various qualities (attitude and aptitude) characteristic in the Japanese people that helped them with their swift revival. The presentation also contained other observations about their culture and tradition, environmental awareness, and scientific and technological innovations. The members took turns in reporting each point. At the end of the forum, the ambassadors gave their suggestions to the audience on what we can do in relation to disaster management (creating better disaster management and relief systems, better information dissemination, supporting in the long-run, etc.), as well as stressed the point on the importance of the youth in the act of volunteerism for their country.

Along with the forum, the group was also successfully able to exhibit the photo caravan in several places. The photo caravan consisted of three displays: one showing pictures of Japan's culture and tradition, another with various topics such as technology and environment, and the main display showing Japan's recovery efforts after the 3/11 disaster. All photos presented in the photo caravan were taken by the Baguio Youth Ambassadors when they were in Japan. The photo caravan was displayed at the venue of the forum during both days (7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>), and was also displayed during the Japanese Film Festival at the University of the Cordilleras (July 11 and 12). The exhibit will be installed from August 5 to 28 during the Tanabata Festival at the Baguio Museum.