

Meiji University's SEND Program



What is SEND?

Student
Exchange
Nippon
Discovery



A Program Promoted by MEXT

Among exchange programs to be implemented between Japanese and ASEAN universities with the assurance of credit transfers and grade management, MEXT calls programs that have the following elements "SEND":

- 1) Programs that aim to train students to become experts who can serve as cultural bridges between Japan and ASEAN countries in the future.
- 2) Programs providing Japanese students who study abroad to learn different languages and cultures while deepening their cross-cultural understanding by supporting local students in learning Japanese language or experiencing Japanese cultures.

<Reference: <http://www.mext.go.jp/english/highered/1326678.htm> >

(SEND is an acronym coined by MEXT)

So what is **SEND** all about?



Assisting with Japanese language learning at local educational institutions



Exchange activities using Japanese



Introducing Japanese culture

SEND aims to **promote the cross-cultural understanding** of **Japanese participants** by having them carry out exchange activities with local students and introducing Japanese language and culture.

In 2013 and 2014, SEND activities were held as part of the Short-term Study Abroad Program between Srinakharinwirot University (SWU) in Bangkok, Thailand, and the School of Political Science & Economics of Meiji University.

Summary of the Program:

Students of the School of Political Science & Economics, as participants, attended special lectures on Thai politics, economics, and society, and Thailand's relationship with international society. The lectures were conducted in English by SWU faculty members. The program also included visits to ministries and government agencies of Thailand, facilities, various Japanese companies based in Thailand, and historical sites.

SEND:

The program participants visited SWU's Prasarnmit Secondary Demonstration School in 2013* and the Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology in 2014 to hold SEND activities with the help of **Program Assistants (PA)**.**

***For 5 days, 150 minutes/day (each students participated for 2 to 4 days)**

****For 2 days, 90 minutes/day (each student participated for 2 days)**

Examples of SEND Activities (2013)

Srinakharinwirot University Prasarnmit Secondary Demonstration School

📌 SEND activities were held during classes for students who chose Japanese as their second foreign language.

First Day

- Self-introduction in Japanese
- Assisting with Japanese language classes
 - ✓ In classes using a textbook, participants helped with pronunciation, kanji, grammar (the distinction between *imasu* and *arimasu*), and quizzes.



Second Day

- Picture quiz
 - ✓ The Thai students looked at pictures drawn by the Japanese student and competed to see who could write down the names of the most pictures in Japanese within the time limit.
- Japanese song
 - ✓ The Japanese participants sang “Tondetta banana” [The Banana that Flew Away], and the Thai students tried to write down the lyrics.
- Learn the Thai language
 - ✓ The Thai students taught the Japanese participants the Thai words for *imasu* and *arimasu*, which was studied during the first visit.
- Calligraphy
 - ✓ The Thai students practiced writing the characters for *Nihon* [Japan] and *hanabi* [fireworks] with the Japanese participants.



Examples of SEND Activities (2013)

Srinakharinwirot University Prasarnmit Secondary Demonstration School

! SEND activities were held during classes for students who chose Japanese as their second foreign language.

Third Day

➤ **Question race**

- ✓ Students competed to see who could make the most questions to which everyone in the group answered, "Yes."

➤ **Naming activity**

- ✓ After asking questions about one another's birthdays, favorite colors, the meaning of their names, and other things, Thai students were given Japanese names; Japanese students, Thai names.

Fourth Day

➤ **Making Thai desserts**

- ✓ Participants made *khanom tom*, a traditional Thai dessert using coconut, with Thai students.

Fifth Day

➤ **Peer-introduction in Japanese**

➤ **Making *karuta* cards**

- ✓ In groups, students made *karuta* cards for all 46 characters of the hiragana syllabary (with texts to be read and corresponding picture cards), exchanged card sets between groups, and then held a *karuta* tournament.



Since activities mainly took place in mixed small groups of Thais and Japanese, there were many opportunities for positive exchanges!

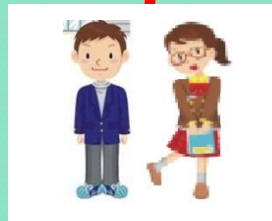
Who will be involved in SEND?

Illustrative chart

A teacher as a supervisor
for the short-term study
abroad program



- The two PAs serve as aides to the supervisor and help to run the short-term program. (This includes not only SEND activities but also **all other aspects of the program.**)



- SEND Program Assistant for Japanese Language Education (PA)
- Program Assistant (PA)



Meiji University's
students in the short-
term program



High school or university where
SEND is held

SEND Activities

- Before SEND activities are conducted, the PA makes advance preparations with the local Japanese teacher.
- The PA answers questions from participants about Japanese-language education.
- The PA needs to show leadership so that the undergraduate participants can carry out the SEND activities smoothly.

About the PA (Program Assistants)



SEND Program Assistant for Japanese-Language Education

- ✓ A person majoring in teaching Japanese as a second language and Japanese linguistics.
 - ✓ A person who has taken classes on Japanese-language education, or who has taken the Japanese Language Teaching Competency Test.
⇒ **We recruit graduate students who are studying to become Japanese teachers.**
-



Program Assistant

- ✓ A person who has studied abroad in that country and who is familiar with the local language and circumstances.
- ✓ A person who is interested in Japanese-language education and who is considering studying in that field.

Why do we need a PA (Program Assistant)?

In terms of teaching Japanese and about Japanese culture

- ✓ Few participants of SEND have taught Japanese as a second language. What would you do if you are asked a difficult question about the Japanese language while conducting SEND activities?



If a graduate student majoring in Japanese language education were there with you, he or she would give you advice about how to answer when a local student asks you a challenging question. Such graduate students are aiming to become Japanese teachers, and study such matters on a daily basis. They are in the process of becoming Japanese language education professionals. In addition, they help to coordinate all SEND activities with the local Japanese teacher.

In terms of experiencing a foreign environment for the first time

- ✓ The common language for local students and participants of SEND is English. But since English is not a native language for either of them, it takes more time than usual to communicate with each other—especially between those who have just met.



If there is a PA, who has already studied in that country, has a good command of the local language, and is used to the local students, he or she can help both parties understand each other, encourage shy students, and liven up the participants as a SEND mood maker.

(In other words, the PA helps you to use your limited time effectively.)