

Outline of the International Youth Development Exchange Program 2021 (online) (Tentative)

1. Aims and objectives

The International Youth Development Exchange (INDEX) is a program developed in 2019 on the occasion of Imperial Succession, through the previous programs (started in 1959 as “Youth Goodwill Mission” and have continued as “International Youth Development Exchange Program” since 1994, which was combined with “Invitation Program” started in 1962). The aims of the INDEX are nurturing Japanese youths who can demonstrate leadership in the global society and who will make a contribution to the social activities, with the objectives of promoting mutual friendship and understanding between Japanese youths and the youths from other countries, broadening the international perspectives of youths, fostering the spirit of international collaboration and developing their ability to put into practice.

Considering the uncertain situation of COVID-19, we must make a decision that the INDEX 2021 should not be conducted in-person due to the difficulties to sufficiently secure the safety of the participants and the persons involved.

Therefore, the INDEX 2021 will be conducted on-line, applying the features of the INDEX over the past years. The objectives of the INDEX 2021 is nurturing youths who have the international perspectives along with the complicated global society by conducting the discussions and multi-case study, based on the themes relating to the global social issues, between Japanese youths and the youths from 4 countries.

2. Outline of on-line exchange

1) Participating countries of International Participants and themes: 2 countries from each region, 4 countries in total.

Europe (IT, Information Technology): Federal Republic of Germany and Republic of Estonia

Central, and South America (Disaster Management): Dominican Republic and United Mexican States

2) Number of participants (64 in total)

32 for Japanese Participants and 8 for International Participants from each participating country

3) Number of days and time of year

3 days with each region, January to February, 2022

4) Program contents

Plenary session: opening and closing address, icebreak and orientation

Group discussion: the discussion and research study on multiple cases to understand the similarities and differences (i.e. multi-case study) are conducted on the relevant themes by groups, comprised of the Japanese and International Participants

Presentation and others: The results obtained by the study and discussions are presented by the above groups