

Impact of the Twinkle Student-Exchange Program on Students from ASEAN Countries

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ABSTRACT

Purpose – This study aimed to determine the impact of the implementation of the Twin College Envoys (TWINCLE), a student-exchange program of Chiba University in collaboration with MEXT on ASEAN students.

Method - This study analysed the effect of the program, especially for ASEAN students, using students' comments on activity reports via text-mining methods. This program consisted of three major activities, namely; a teaching internship in a high school; a science educational experiences such as laboratory visits and science experiment classes, and study of Japanese culture.

Findings - According to the analysis, terms such as “laboratory coursework”, “culture”, “school visit”, “workshop”, “Twinkle program”, “culture”, and “Japanese” are extracted with “good” and “learning” as categories to explain the program contents. Cluster analysis reveals three groups of students based on their ward usage. However, the groups have many similarities in ward usage.

Significance - The results suggested that TWINCLE ASEAN exchange students have positive impressions of Japan and the Japanese culture by participating in the program.

Keywords: Science education, Exchange program, Teacher internship, ASEAN students