

Recent Topics of the MSP

○ MSP 6th batch begins in full swing!

This year's Maritime Safety and Security Policy Program (MSP), which is in its 6th year, started under very different circumstances from previous years because the global threat of infectious diseases profoundly impacted our program. The 6th batch consists of seven students from four countries: two from Sri Lanka, one from Thailand, two from the Philippines, and two from Japan. This program started in October, but there was no prospect of them coming to Japan at the end of September.

We discussed how to build face-to-face relationships among the 6th batch under unusual circumstances, and as a result, we used email to share information frequently, including chats, and held weekly Web meetings to deepen our understanding of each other.

Thanks to the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) for expanding the online classes, we had no major problems with our daily studies, but I still felt that I wanted to get rid of the hurdle of not easily have discussions before and after classes.

However, in mid-November, all of the 6th batch were able to come to Japan, and after a two-weeks quarantine period, we were all able to meet up in Tokyo on December 4. We were able to start the program in earnest two months later than usual. Because we had been holding weekly Web meetings, we communicated smoothly even though we were meeting face-to-face for the first time. I felt again the importance of daily communication and the joy of building even deeper human relationships from now on.

Although it is a short period of one year, I would like to concentrate on my studies to contribute to the development of the Japan Coast Guard in the future. Since the time spent in Japan is two months shorter than usual, we would like to cherish each day, make our life in Japan even more dense, and deepen the relationships among the 6th batch.

(Prepared by Taki Yohei : Japan Coast Guard)

(December 25,2020)

