



## **Japan's Friendship Ties Program (U.S.A.) KAKEHASHI Project Program for Congressional Leaders**

### **1. Program Overview**

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan's Friendship Ties Program, 9 Congressional leaders visited Japan for 7 days from August 20 to August 26 to participate in the program aimed at promoting their understanding of Japan with regard to Japanese politics, economy, society, culture, history, and foreign policy. Through lecture by ministries, visiting historical sites, experience of traditional culture, participants enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to improve their understanding of Japan.

#### **【Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants】**

United States of America: 9 participants

#### **【Prefectures Visited】**

Tokyo, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Kyoto

### **2. Program Schedule**

August 20 (Sun.)	Arrival at Narita International Airport
August 21 (Mon.)	[Lecture, Exchange] Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) [Lecture] Kantei [Lecture] Ministry of Defense [Courtesy Call] Member of the House of Representatives [Exchange] The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (The ACCJ)
August 22 (Tue.)	[Observation] Tsukiji Fish Market [Lecture] National Security Secretariat (NSS) [Lecture] Japan Coast Guard [Exchange] Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Tokyo Centre Move to Hiroshima by Shinkansen bullet train / [Observation] Shinkansen driver's cab (JR TOKAI)
August 23 (Wed.)	[Lecture] Testimony by an A-Bomb survivor [Observation] Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Atomic Bomb Dome [Observation] Iwakuni Base (Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force & US Marines) Move to Kyoto by Shinkansen bullet train
August 24 (Thu.)	[Cultural Experience] Zazen Meditation and Tea Ceremony

[Observation] Tofukuji Temple, Fushimi Inari Shrine  
 [Observation] Gekkeikan Okura Sake Museum  
 August 25 (Fri.) Move to Tokyo by Shinkansen bullet train  
 [Exchange] MOFA young officials  
 August 26 (Sat.) Departure from Narita International Airport

### 3. Program Photos

	
<p>【Lecture】 Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>【Lecture】 Ministry of Defence</p>
	
<p>【Observation】 Tsukiji Fish Market</p>	<p>【Lecture】 Japan Coast Guard</p>

	
<p>【Lecture】 Testimony by an A-Bomb survivor</p>	<p>【Cultural Experience】 Zen Meditation and Tea Ceremony at Shorinji Temple</p>

#### 4. Voice from Participants

◆ It genuinely was a great trip, filled with a full and educational program. I learned much about the Japanese people, culture, history, defense and politics. All that in such a limited amount of time was and is remarkable. I cannot wait to come back to Japan, and bring my family as well.

◆ I appreciated the openness with which MOD and MOFA shared information of mutual security interest. The trip quite seamlessly mixed government relations meetings with cultural experiences. This contributed to a greater understanding of Japan's past, future & relationship with the U.S.

◆ MOFA presentations were very informative and highly technical, providing starters with a deeper understanding of TPP-11 and the opportunities for continuity to promote U.S. – Japan economic ties. The visit with the representative of OECD was also very instructive for understanding the challenges Japan faces, the opportunities for U.S. and Japan to work together to share lessons learned and promote economic growth together.

The visits to the Hiroshima Peace and Memorial Park and the lecture by the Peace Volunteer were very special. As a professional working to advance the goals of nuclear non-proliferation, I identified with the work of the memorial, museum and the advocacy of the volunteers. I think it is a visit that should be on every security professional's trip / itinerary to Japan.