



KAKEHASHI Project (USA)

Inbound Program for Japan Bowl Batch

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under “Japan’s Friendship Ties Program”, 23 Students (including 2 chaperones) that ranked top scores in 2015 National Japan Bowl visited Japan. During the 8 day program from August 4th to August 11th, the participants studied the Japanese government, society, history, foreign policy, and much more. The participants aim to promote Japan through mediums such as SNS.

2. Participating Countries and Number of Participants

USA (23 Participants)

3. Prefectures Visited

Tokyo and Hiroshima Prefecture

4. Program Schedule

August 4th (Tue) Arrival at Narita International Airport
Orientation

August 5th (Wed) ~ August 9th (Sun)
Visit to Hiroshima

【Cutting-Edge Technology】 Mazda Factory, Mazda Museum

【History】 Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park

【History】 Kintai-kyo Bridge

【History and Nature】 Miyajima, Itsukushima Shrine, Floating of Paper Lanterns (Toronagashi)

【Courtesy Call/Lecture】 Hiroshima City, “Procedures for Peace”

【School Exchange】 Hiroshima Kokusai Gakuin High School

【Experience of Local Culture】 Homestay





【Culture】 Fudenosato Kobo (Japanese Calligraphy Class)
Workshop

August 9 th (Sun)	Move to Tokyo by Shinkansen
August 10 th (Mon)	【Courtesy Call】 Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology 【Courtesy Call】 Embassy of The United States 【Courtesy Call】 Imperial Highness Princess Takamado 【Observation】 Harajuku 【Reception】 American Center
August 11 th (Tue)	【Lecture】 Ministry of Foreign Affairs “US-Japan Relations” Reporting Session DC group departure from Narita International Airport LA group departure from Haneda International Airport

5. Program Photos

Inbound Program for Japan Bowl Batch Photos

	
8/4 Orientation (Tokyo)	8/5 【History】 Peace Memorial Park (Hiroshima City)
	
8/6 【History and Nature】 Itsukushima Shrine (Hatsuka-Ichishi City)	8/7 【School Exchange】 Hiroshima Kokusai Gakuin High School (Kaita Town)

	
8/8 Homestay (Kumano Town)	8/9 Workshop (Kumano Town)
	
8/10 【Courtesy Call】 Imperial Highness Princess Takamado (Tokyo)	8/11 Reporting Session (Tokyo)

6. Voice from Participants

◆ U. S. A. High School Student

I was most impressed by the Mazda Factory Museum visit and the visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. It seemed that we spend a lot of time at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial but we didn't waste any of that time. Each time we visited, we learned something new or came to better understand the long-lasting effects of the A-bomb and Hiroshima's efforts for peace. I truly feel like now I can take part in the efforts for peace. I really enjoyed my stay and I feel like now I have a different perspective on Japan. The Mazda Factory visited showed the passion Japanese people put into their products and gave me a great appreciation for Japan's goods. The homestay was my absolute favorite part of the trip. Being able to experience everyday Japanese life seems to me to be the best way

to learn about the real Japan.

◆ **U. S. A. High School Student**

During this trip, the things that impressed me the most were the manners and morals that Japanese people go by in their daily life. A Japanese effective expression, 気を使う (ki wo tukau) is a perfect expression to describe the hospitality that Japanese people, for example our home stay families who went out of their way to make us comfortable in any way possible. During this home stay, there has definitely been cares of me or my roommate making simple mistake such as forgetting to say 「いただきます」 (Itadakimasu) at the beginning of a meal. However, as understanding as they were, they did not mind at all. I wish that American households can also adopt Japanese like style of hospitality. Japanese home are also very neat and everything has a purpose. I think that Japanese people hold cleanliness as something very important and that is evident within their homes in big or small ways. Also I always respect the fact that Japanese people talks in different ways depending on who they are talking to (formally vs. casually). This, I think, is definitely a very impressive characteristic in Japanese people's lives.

◆ **U. S. A. High School Student**

I was very impressed by the traditional culture of Japan that's still prevalent in daily life. They are very honorable and considerate of others in everything they do which is a culture that is not really present in America. They are very environmentally friendly in order to preserve a clean world for future generations. All of the institutions we visited on this trip seemed to care a lot about providing comfort and convenience for visitors. There were paper fans given out at tourist sites, something with maps or other useful information on them for convenience. During the school exchange, the tea ceremony club helped to show me how the traditional culture of Japan emphasizes thoughtfulness and a host taking good care of his/her guests. I really saw this culture of thoughtfulness and consideration everywhere we went in Japan. Even the 6 year old boy in my home stay house was very considerate, helping carry bags and hold doors and clean the table without needing to be told. I think that in America, we sometimes get too focused on individuality to remember to take care of others and be considerate. It really impressed me how prevalent this traditional thoughtful culture is in Japan and I will share this with my family and friends and try to imitate it in my own life because I believe it is a good culture that is worth adopting.

◆ **U. S. A. High School Student**

I was most impressed by the politeness of everybody. I knew that Japanese people were polite, I've heard it plenty of times from my Japanese teacher (who is Japanese) but even more so than I imagined. Especially cashiers/store workers. There are lots of things I'd like to share, the above mentioned but also the level of technology. Besides the toilets

being amazing, everything at the airports were very advanced.

7. Action Plan Presented at the Reporting Session by Participants

<h3>Our Findings in Japan</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative Science • Robots • Chindogu • Skin products • Eco-Friendly cars 	<h3>Our Action Plan</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin bridging the gap • Sharing what we have learned • Social media and conversations • Japan' s economic structure, manners, and technology
<p>Group A “Gaijin Declaration of Heiwa”</p>	<p>Bridge the gap between Japan and U.S. through sharing what they’ ve learned</p>
<h4>Action Plan</h4> <p>Title: - The Go to Japan Initiative</p> <p>Why: - To destroy the misconceptions of Japan - To convince Japanese students to continue with their Japanese studies</p> <p>When: - The beginning of the school year</p>	<h4>Action Plan cont.</h4> <p>What/ How:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Media (ex. Twitter, Instagram, Facebook) - Send teachers across the US photos of the kakehashi trip - Present to Schools in our counties about the trip - Convince students to continue their studies (apply their knowledge, visit Japan, tell their families)
<p>Group B “The Go to Japan Initiative”</p>	<p>Encourage students to continue their Japanese studiesby visiting Japan, etc</p>
<p>Mission statement— to take Hiroshima's attitude of peace, setting aside differences to work for the future, to handle social issues in the US</p> 	<h3>COLLECTIVE ENDEAVORS</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media outreach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook page, Instagram, Tumblr (blogging platforms), Twitter • School outreach: presentations, clubs • Mayors for Peace 
<p>Group C “Reflections”</p>	<p>Share the KAKEHASHI experience through SNS, Schools, and Mayors for Peace</p>



Posts on Instagram



daniel @bxstos · 8月8日

すごく暑いからこれは天国だ
#akehashi2015



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