



## **KAKEHASHI Project (USA)**

### **Inbound Program for High School/University Students**

### **Program Report**

#### **1. Program Overview**

Under “Japan’s Friendship Ties Program”, 77 high-school and university students (including 6 chaperones) who are interested in Japanese culture visited Japan. During the 8 days program from October 14 to October 21, 2015, the participants studied the Japanese government, society, history, culture, foreign policy, and much more. The participants aim to promote Japan through mediums such as SNS.

#### **2. Participating Countries and Number of Participants**

USA (77 Participants)

#### **3. Prefectures Visited**

Tokyo, Chiba, Saitama and Fukushima

#### **4. Program Schedule**

October 14(Wed)

Arrival at Narita International Airport

October 15(Thu)~October 20(Tue)

Orientation

【Lecture】 “Japan’s Foreign Policy” by the North American Affairs Bureau, MOFA

【School Exchange】 Saitama University

【History and Culture】 Senso-ji Temple

Local Program

\* Chiba

【Courtesy Call】 Kamogawa City

【History and Culture】 Mt.Myokoan, Zinzou-ji Temple, Experience of wearing Kimono, Tea Ceremony

【Local Industry】 Farm Experience in Kamogawa “Min-nami no Sato”

【Homestay】 Farmstay, Meeting Hostfamilies, Farewell Party

【Nature and Environment】 Oyama-Senmaida, Kamogawa Sea World

【Workshop】

【Cutting-Edge Technology】 Tokyowan -Aqualine, Umihotaru

\* Fukushima

【Courtesy Call】 Minami-Aizu Machi

【School Exchange】 Minami-Aizu High-School

【Homestay】 Ina no Sato, Rice reaping Experience, Tanose-Furusato Park BBQ, Farewell Party

【History and Culture】 Maezawa Village

【Cutting-Edge Technology】 Sumita Optical Glass.,inc

October 20 (Tue)

Move to Tokyo

【Reporting Session】

October 21 (Wed)

【History and Culture】 Senso-ji Temple

Departure from Narita International Airport

## 5. Program Photos



10/15 【Courtesy Call】 Minami-Aizu City (Fukushima)





10/16 【Courtesy Call】 Kamogawa City (Chiba)



10/17 【Homestay】 Ina no Sato, Rice reaping Experience (Fukushima)



10/18 【Nature and Environment】 Oyama-Senmaida (Chiba)

	
10/19 【Nature and Environment】 Kamogawa Sea World (Chiba)	10/19 【Cutting-Edge Technology】 Sumita Optical Glass.,inc (Fukushima)

## 5. Voice from Participants

### ◆ U.S.A. University Student

What impressed me most during my visit to Japan was the society and overall outlook. Everyone I encountered in Japan was extremely kind and considerate, which, to someone from America, was significantly overwhelming. I was also surprised by how advanced technology has become in Japan. This was evident after visiting the Glass company and talking with the students from Shibaura Institute of Technology. Overall, I came to fall in love with Japan's culture and traditions during this trip.

### ◆ U.S.A. University Student

I am very impressed with the way the Japanese economy has grown despite the lack of resources. I think a large part of that is that all jobs are well respected and employers take care of their people. This is something the USA lacks and we need to learn from Japan. Also, I found the way people treated each other with such respect is very important and distinctive from any other culture. Organization and preciseness also really stood out to me. It's something I haven't witnessed anywhere else in the world. The low crime rate is probably directly correlated with having such an organized society, accomplishing this level of order. I think is very impressive and important of the culture.

### ◆ U.S.A. University Student







The people of Japan are what impressed me the most during my stay here. The people are welcoming,, considerate, and very hard-working. They have such high standards for hosting that I was taken aback. However, the people are not the only impressive things about Japan. The scenery is breathtaking-I have never seen so much green or so many mountains in my life. The views from wherever you are, are always amazing-be they the rice paddies or the ocean. Lastly, the great traditions and high esteem for ancestry also impressed me. The people are so reverent and try so hard to keep their culture alive

and thriving.

### ◆ U.S.A. University Student

The sheer beauty of Japan is beyond breath-taking and is not only found in the ever changing mountainous views but also in the kind hearts of the Japanese citizens. Never in my life have I met so many kind people in a single place. When I am surrounded by strangers I am incredibly uncomfortable but I've found that in the gregarious and humble country, that fear is alleviated. No matter where I've gone, be it a richly cultural town or a large industrial city, the Japanese people have treated me with the utmost respect and care. I hope to inspire more people to follow the example set here in Japan.

## 7. Action Plan Presented at the Reporting Session by Participants

<p><b>Thoughts after experiences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aesthetically pleasing</li> <li>• Imports 99.7% of resources</li> <li>• Considerate, hardworking, and proud people</li> </ul>  	<p><b>Plan after departure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create individual videos sharing experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make video brief with a key message</li> <li>• Send video to a designated editor</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Editor puts videos together and uploads on YouTube <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Editor sends link to other Group A members</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Share video through social media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classmates, school personnel &amp; administration,</li> <li>• Board of Trustees and City Council Members</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  
Findings in Japan	Action Plan
<p><b>CULTURAL ASPECTS CONT'D</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religion</li> <li>• Traditions</li> <li>• <i>Omotenashi</i> - Spirit of Hospitality</li> </ul> 	<p><b>ON CAMPUS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Japanese Club</li> <li>• University Newspaper</li> <li>• Student Published Magazines</li> <li>• School Website</li> <li>• Social Media &amp; Blogging</li> <li>• Promote U.S. Japan Initiative</li> </ul> 
Findings in Japan	Action Plan



<h2>How our perspective of Japan changed</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modernization vs. Traditional</li> <li>• Spirituality imbues everyday life</li> <li>• Family and Respect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Open to others</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<h2>Our Action Plan</h2> <p>Facebook: <a href="#">Kakehashi Project 2015</a></p> <p>Instagram: <a href="#">kakehashi_project</a></p> <p>Twitter: <a href="#">@kakehashi_2015</a></p>
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Findings in Japan	Action Plan
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