



KAKEHASHI Project

Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA) University Students Batch No.5

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under "Japan's Friendship Ties Program", 47 university and graduate school students from United States visited Japan. During the 8 days program from January 7th to January 14th, 2016, the participants studied the Japanese government, society, history, foreign policy, culture and much more. The participants aim to promote Japan through mediums such as SNS.

2. Participating Countries and Number of Participants

USA (47 Participants)

3. Prefectures Visited

Tokyo and Miyagi Prefecture

4. Program Schedule

January 7th (Thu)	Arrival at Narita International Airport
January 8th (Fri)	Orientation, 【Lecture】 "Japan's Foreign Policy" by the North American Affairs Bureau, MOFA 【Observation】 Edo-Tokyo Museum, Asakusa
January 9th (Sat)	Move to Miyagi Prefecture 【Courtesy Call】 Osaki City Office Homestay
January 10th (Sun)	Homestay
January 11th (Mon)	Farewell Party with Host families 【Culture Experience】 Kokeshi Doll Painting 【Observation】 Lake KEJONUMA Bird Watching
January 12th (Tue)	【School Exchange】 Tohoku University 【Workshop】
January 13th (Wed)	Move to Tokyo 【Observation】 Imperial Palace, Akihabara 【Reporting Session】
January 14th (Thu)	【Observation】 Meiji Jingu, Harajuku Departure from Narita International Airport

5. Program Photos /University Students Batch No.5



1/8 Edotokyo Museum (Sumida-ku, Tokyo)



1/9 Courtesy Call and Introduction of the Region: Osaki Municipal Government (Osaki City)



1/10 Homestay (Osaki City)



1/11 Cultural Experience: Kokeshi Doll Painting (Osaki City)



1/12 School Exchange: Tohoku University (Sendai City)



1/13 Reporting Session (Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo)

6. Voice from Participants

◆U.S.A Student

One of the things that particularly impressed me was the willingness of the Japanese people to share their culture with foreigners. Cultural exchanges are difficult in that both sides of the exchange have to be open – the giving culture in its opening of borders and the receiving end in its openness in discussing and experiencing a foreign culture. The people of Japan have been absolutely incredible. By opening their homes, schools and thoughts, we were able to really immerse ourselves in the culture. There's only so much you can learn in a classroom and I think that the KAKEHASHI Project does an incredible job at doing exactly what the name prescribes- bridge cultures through understanding. The people of Japan have left me with an overall consensus on my impression of them: warm, open and willing to bridge the gaps between 2 very different cultures. It's an impression that I hope to share with many upon my return to America.

◆U.S.A Student

Throughout the past several days, what impressed me the most are the natural scenery and the manners and friendliness of the Japanese people. Especially Miyagi prefecture, Naruko Onsen, the natural surroundings, the mountains, the snow are all very beautiful. As for the customer service, I believe it is top notch. One particular thing I found interesting was how the cashier people repeated the amount of money they received. On the other hand, the homestay experience was very amazing. I love how they were welcoming and kind. I'm afraid there were much more I could do in return for their help, but didn't manage to. I do not know if they were satisfied with me, but I was very happy talking with them. If I could come back, I'll definitely visit them again and repay them. I also learned a lot from the homestay family, not only cultural aspects but also about the damage, reconstruction, and sites of Ishinomaki, where the Tsunami hit in 2011, Also how Matsushima was also damaged, but thanks to the numerous islands, the damage was mitigated.

◆U.S.A Student

What impressed me most was how tenacious and strong of heart the Japanese people are. We all hear about how kind and friendly Japanese are, but we never really see more than that in media. I visited Matsushima with my host family, an area which was highly devastated by the 2011 great earthquake. I expected to see more damage and aftereffects, but instead I saw a thriving tourist spot full of people carrying their lives without any easily visible consequences. However small traces of the tsunami remained. I was therefore surprised to see that the people were very enthusiastic and full of warmth despite the tragedies of 2011. It strengthened my heart to see Japan pull a full recovery and even more so to see Japan reach out to the international community to expand their influence. I only wish I had even half the strength of the people I met here in Japan, which is what I wish to convey to friends, family, and my community in general once I return to America I have loved my time spent


here in Japan and even the thought of leaving in just few days is enough to bring tears to my eyes. I will make it my lifelong goal to spread information about Japan and to someday return to the place where I made such unforgettable and wonderful memories. Thank you.

◆U.S.A Student

My time in Japan was one of both surprising and pleasant. Being of an Asian background myself Japanese food, lifestyle and manners were not too much of a shock for me. However the traditional architectures and natural landscape of the country completely knocked the breath out of me. I was very impressed and touched by the people of Japan and how they tried to preserve the traditional culture of Japan even amidst the modern technology. Also the streets and towns are amazingly spotless with not a single trash to be found. People are so polite and pleasant at all times. I felt very welcomed. Homestay was also a great experience, trying out authentic food and baths. Overall, Japan was a great experience and a learning opportunity of the country, language and the people of Japan.

7. Action Plan Presented at the Reporting Session by Participants

<div><div><div>Project UNITE</div><div><div>U</div><div>University events</div></div><div><div>N</div><div>News outlets</div></div><div><div>I</div><div>International organization presentations</div></div><div><div>T</div><div>Technological outreach</div></div><div><div>E</div><div>Educational promotion</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>Conclusion</div><div><div>1</div><div>Views on Japan: before and after</div></div><div><div>2</div><div>Talking points & takeaways</div></div><div><div>3</div><div>Proposed course of action</div></div></div>																																			
A Group / Johns Hopkins University	A Goup / Johns Hopkins University																																			
<div><div>ACTION PLAN</div><div><div>○ WHAT WE'LL DO</div><div><div>○ Relay experience to family/friends using pictures, videos, stories, omiyage</div><div>○ Visit local high school and present about the trip</div><div>○ Present to University Of Maryland students about the trip</div><div>○ Create group Facebook page to discuss the trip</div><div>○ Continuing studying the Japanese language</div><div>○ Stay connected to the Kakehashi program and promote its mission</div><div>○ Return to Japan ☺</div><div>○ Host Japanese students</div><div>○ Connect with JAS and JICC</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>Action Plan</div><table><tr><th>WHY</th><th>WHEN</th><th>WHO</th><th>WHOM</th><th>WHAT AND HOW</th></tr><tr><td>Deconstruct misconceptions and fears such as, "I cant get around because i cant speak Japanese"</td><td>Social Media: Before School Starts</td><td>Each student will use social media to polish pictures and experiences</td><td>Other students in the Japanese program</td><td>Posts on Facebook</td></tr><tr><td>"The food is too weird"</td><td>Presentations: First few weeks of class</td><td>Each student will also engage fellow students through</td><td>Students who have taken other japan-related courses</td><td>A video travel diary in YouTube</td></tr><tr><td>"It's too expensive"</td><td>Panel: A month or two after school starts (after study abroad session)</td><td></td><td>Japan Club</td><td>An online illustrated story book posted on Wordpress</td></tr><tr><td>In order to facilitate tourism and studying abroad in Japan.</td><td></td><td></td><td>Other students who might be interested from a study abroad session</td><td>Presentations to Japanese classes and residential communities</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Family and friends</td><td>A presentation and Q&A panel to the entire university community.</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Bloggers</td><td></td></tr></table></div>	WHY	WHEN	WHO	WHOM	WHAT AND HOW	Deconstruct misconceptions and fears such as, "I cant get around because i cant speak Japanese"	Social Media: Before School Starts	Each student will use social media to polish pictures and experiences	Other students in the Japanese program	Posts on Facebook	"The food is too weird"	Presentations: First few weeks of class	Each student will also engage fellow students through	Students who have taken other japan-related courses	A video travel diary in YouTube	"It's too expensive"	Panel: A month or two after school starts (after study abroad session)		Japan Club	An online illustrated story book posted on Wordpress	In order to facilitate tourism and studying abroad in Japan.			Other students who might be interested from a study abroad session	Presentations to Japanese classes and residential communities				Family and friends	A presentation and Q&A panel to the entire university community.				Bloggers	
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<p>After Japan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Presentations • Blog posts and other forms of social media • Sustained contact with homestay families • Reach out to Keio U. international students at W&M 	
<p>B Group / The College of William and Mary</p>	