



## **KAKEHASHI Project**

### **Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA) High school and University Students Program Report**

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

Under "Japan's Friendship Ties Program", 73 high school and university students from U.S.A visited Japan. During the 8 days program from January 19 to January 26, 2016, 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**

U.S.A. (73 Participants)

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

Tokyo, Hokkaido, Osaka and Shiga

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

January 19 (Tue) Arrival at Narita International Airport

January 20 (Wed) Orientation

【Lecture】 "Japan's Foreign Policy" by the North American Affairs Bureau, MOFA

【Lecture on Japanese Culture／Key Note Lecture】 Meiji University

January 21 (Thu) ~ January 23 (Sat) Divide into 2 groups and move to local area

\* Group A・B (Osaka and Shiga)

【School Exchange】 Doshisha University

【Regional Industry】 Torishima Pump Mfg. Co., Ltd.

【Culture Exchange】 Making Japanese Chopsticks experience,  
Forest walking, Bengara-nuri House, Calligraphy

【Farmstay】

\* Group C (Hokkaido)

【Regional Industry】 Calbee, Inc.

【History and Culture】 Hokkaido Museum

【School Exchange】 Ritsumeikan Keisho Junior & Senior High School.

January 24 (Sun) Move to Tokyo

【Workshop】

January 25 (Mon) 【Reporting Session】

【Cutting Edge Technology】 National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan) (B・C Group)

【History and Culture】 Asakusa

January 26 (Tue) Depart from Narita International Airport

## 5. Program Photos



1/20 【Lecture on Japan】 (Tokyo)



1/20 【Lecture on Japanese Culture／Key Note Lecture】 (Tokyo)



1/22 【School Exchange】Doshisha University (Kyoto City) (A・B Group)



1/23 【Farm stay / Exchange program】Forest walking (Takashima City) (A・B Group)

	
<p>1/23 【Farm stay / Exchange program】 Calligraphy (Takashima City) (A・B Group)</p>	<p>1/22 【School Exchange】 Ritsumeikan Keisho Junior &amp; Senior High School (Ebetsu City) (C Group)</p>
	
<p>1/23 【Home stay】 (Sapporo City) (C Group)</p>	<p>1/25 【Reporting Session】 (Tokyo)</p>

## 6. Voice from Participants

### ◆ U.S.A. University student

During my stay in Japan, I was extremely impressed with the Japanese attention to and appreciation of detail. In everything from the way food was eaten and prepared to the relaxing bath at the end of the day, every small thing seemed like a sort of celebration. Things that would have been overlooked in America were recognized by the Japanese people— we saw this in the way that the workers at Torishima Pump Manufacturing Co., Ltd. with such enthusiasm, and the way our tour guide never failed to introduce our bus drivers with praise. If I am able to bring back anything to America from Japan, I sincerely hope that it is this deep appreciation for all of life's gifts which I have seen here, something which seems to escape the rest of the world all too often.



### ◆ U.S.A. University student

I am impressed with a lot of different aspects of Japan. The first thing I noticed was the natural beauty and incorporation of nature into the city. Even coming from my hometown of Alaska, which has a lot of natural beauty, I was awestruck by the rivers running through the cities and the numerous trees. The second thing I was impressed by was how the Japanese citizens interacted with and communicated with me. Despite my lack of experience with Japanese language, cashers were extremely nice and patient, and many spoke working English. On that note, I was very impressed by the Japanese students' skill in English; I couldn't imagine being equally skilled in Japanese. These are the things I would want to share about Japan, the country's beauty culture.

### ◆ U.S.A. High school student

What impressed me most, by far, was the hospitality and kindness shown to me and the other participants by the Japanese people we interacted with. For instance, when one of the participants was lost in Shinjuku station and asked a Japanese stranger for directions, the Japanese person was kind enough to walk her all the way back to her destination. Additionally, during the homestay, my hosts were extremely accommodating and took me to many different places to showcase Japanese society and culture like and onsen. This uniquely Japanese attitude of putting others before oneself left a very large impression on me and I definitely intend to share my experiences with everyone I know and everyone I come to know.

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

 <p><b>Economy</b></p> <p><b>International Relations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third highest nominal GDP</li> <li>• Technology exporter</li> <li>• Natural resources importer</li> <li>• Innovative &amp; detail-oriented</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Action Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facebook page dedicated to Kakehashi Project 2016</li> <li>Article in Cornell Daily Sun</li> <li>Videos depicting the experience</li> <li>Snapchat stories and Instagram photos</li> </ul>
Findings in Japan	Action Plan

<div data-bbox="236 181 783 546"> <h3>Proposal: Japanese Ambassadors @ MIT</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration of ambassadorship + MIT values</li> <li>• Event series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ High visibility (omatsuri, festival)</li> <li>◦ Keynote speakers (Abeonomics, politics, architecture)</li> <li>◦ Cultural immersion (ikebana, tea ceremony, food making)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Resource center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Skype exchange</li> <li>◦ Student self-study</li> <li>◦ Japanese career fair</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Continue collaboration with JICE</li> </ul> </div>	<div data-bbox="810 181 1358 546"> <div> <h3>Before</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Otaku culture</li> <li>• Politeness</li> <li>• Conformity</li> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• Homogeneity</li> </ul> </div> <div> <h3>After</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural differences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Work</li> <li>◦ Security</li> <li>◦ Gender</li> <li>◦ Hospitality</li> <li>◦ Self-care</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Public transportation</li> <li>◦ Safety</li> <li>◦ Clean public spaces</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Japan Internationally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Friendly</li> <li>◦ Fusion of West/East</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </div> </div>
<div data-bbox="236 613 783 1032"> <h3>Findings in Japan</h3> <h4>Homestay Experience</h4>  </div>	<div data-bbox="810 613 1358 1032"> <h3>Action Plan</h3> <h4>Four Main Points</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mass Media (Om EE)</li> <li>- High School Connections</li> <li>- Social Media</li> <li>- Class Presentations</li> </ul> </div>
<div data-bbox="236 1077 783 1099"> <h3>Findings in Japan</h3> </div>	<div data-bbox="810 1077 1358 1099"> <h3>Action Plan</h3> </div>