

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

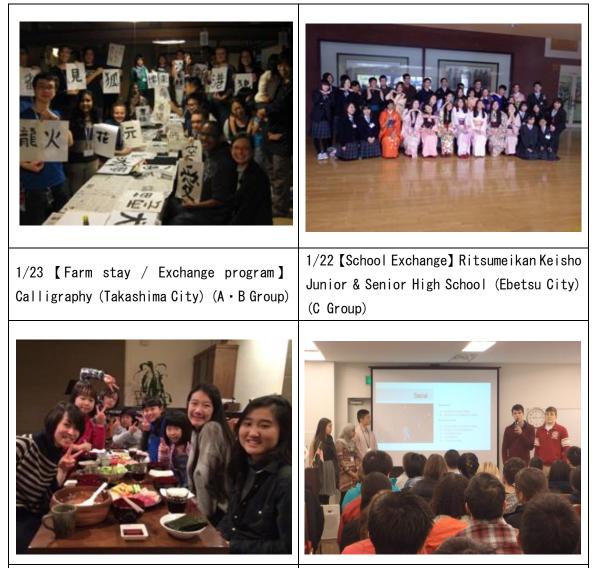
January 19 (Tue) Arrival at Narita International Airport		
January 20 (Wed) Orientation		
【Lecture】 "Japan's Foreign Policy" by the North American Affairs		
Bureau, MOFA		
【Lecture on Japanese Culture ∕ Key Note Lecture】 Meiji University	,	
January 21 (Thu) ~January 23 (Sat) Divide into 2 groups and 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
 Depart from Narita International Airport

5. Program Photos

January 26 (Tue)





1/23 [Home stay] (Sapporo City) (C Group) 1/25 [Reporting Session] (Tokyo)

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 <u>detail</u>. 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., Itd. 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.

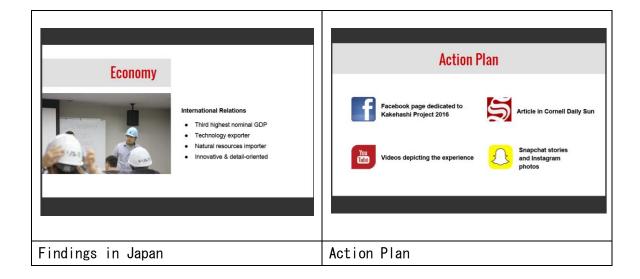
• U.S.A. University student

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 shave my experiences with everyone I know and everyone I come to know.

7. Action Plan Presented at the Reporting Session by Participants



 Proposal: Japanese Ambassadors @ MIT Integration of ambassadorship + MIT values Event series High vishility (omsturi, festival) Keynote speakers (Abenomics, politics, architecture) Cultural immersion (Riebana, tea ceremony, food making) Resource center Skype exhange Sudent self-study Japanese care fair Continue collaboration with JICE 	Before After • Otaku culture • Work • Politeness • Work • Conformity • Gendre • Technology • Gendre • Homogeneity • Belanze • Unifrastructure • Public transportation • Safet • Clean public spaces • Japan Internationally • Finding • Finding • Finding
Findings in Japan Homestay Experience	Action Plan Four Main Points - Mass Media (Om EE) - High School Connections - Social Media - Class Presentations
Findings in Japan	Action Plan