



KAKEHASHI Project

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

1. Program Overview

Under “Japan’s Friendship Ties Program”, 125 high school and university students from U.S.A. visited Japan. During the 8 days program from March 15 to March 22, 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. (125 Participants)

3. Prefectures Visited

Tokyo (All members), Shizuoka (50 participants), Okayama (50 participants), Fukuoka (25 participants) Total of 125 participants.

4. Program Schedule

March 15th (Tue) Arrival at Haneda Airport / Narita International Airport

March 16th (Wed)

【Orientation】

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

【Lecture on Japanese Culture／Key Note Lecture】

【Observation】 Akihabara

March 17th (Thu) ~ March 21st (Mon) Divide into 3 groups and move to local area

1. Group A・B: Shizuoka Prefecture

【Regional Industry】 ASAHI SOFT DRINKS CO., LTD. Fujisan Factory

【Nature】 Shiraito Falls

【Observation of Historical Landmark】 Fujisan Hongu Sengen Taisha

【Courtesy Call／Introduction of the Region】 Mishima City Hall

【School Exchange】 Nihon University Mishima Senior High School

【Homestay】 , 【Workshop】

2. Group C・D: Okayama Prefecture

【History／Traditional Culture】 Kurashiki Bikan Quarter

【Observation of Historical Landmark】 Okayama Korakuen Garden・Okayama Castle

【School Exchange】 Kibi International University Okayama Campus

【Homestay】 , 【Workshop】

3. Group E: Fukuoka Prefecture

【School Exchange】 Seinan Gakuin University

【Courtesy Call／Introduction of the Region】 Fukuoka Prefectural Governmental Office

【Cultural Experience】 Ohori Park Noh Theater

【Observation of Historical Landmark】 Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine

【Cultural Experience】 Experience Japanese Style Wood Art Making

【Homestay】

【Workshop】

March 21st (Mon) Move to Tokyo

【Reporting Session】

March 22nd (Tue)

【Observation of Historical Landmark】 Meiji Jingu Shrine／Harajuku

Departure from Narita International Airport ／Haneda Airport

5. Program Photos

Tokyo

	
<p>3/16 【Orientation】 (Tokyo)</p>	<p>3/16 【Lecture on Japan】 Japan's Foreign Policy (Tokyo)</p>
	
<p>3/16 【Lecture on Japanese Culture／Key Note Lecture】 (Tokyo)</p>	<p>3/21 【Reporting Session】 (Tokyo)</p>

Group A・B: Shizuoka Prefecture



3/17 【Regional Industry】
ASAHI SOFT DRINKS CO., LTD.
Fujisan Factory (Fujinomiya City)



3/17 【Nature】 Shiraito Falls
(Fujinomiya City)



3/18 【Courtesy Call／Introduction of the
Region】 Mishima City Hall (Mishima City)



3/18 【School Exchange】 Nihon University
Mishima Senior High School (Mishima City)

Group C・D: Okayama Prefecture



3/17 【History／Traditional Culture】
Kurashiki Bikan Quarter(Kurashiki City)



3/18 【School Exchange】
Kibi International University
Okayama Campus (Okayama City)



3/18 【School Exchange】 Kibi International University Okayama Campus (Okayama City)



3/19 【Homestay】 (Setouchi City)

Group E: Fukuoka Prefecture



3/17 【Courtesy Call / Introduction of the Region】 Fukuoka Prefectural Governmental Office (Fukuoka City)



3/17 【School Exchange】 Seinan Gakuin University (Fukuoka City)



3/18 【Cultural Experience】 Ohori Park Noh Theater (Fukuoka City)



3/18 【Observation of Historical Landmark】 Dazaifu Tenmangu Shrine (Dazaifu City)

6. Voice from Participants

◆ U.S.A. University student

I really enjoyed the lectures we had the first day – both at Meiji Uni. and from MOFA. It was interesting to learn about Japanese society and politics. Specifically, I enjoyed that we got to hear different opinions – this was much appreciated. I found the discussion of the Japanese constitution and the period after the war to be fascinating. I learned a lot and this greatly contributed to my understanding of Japan.

◆ U.S.A. University student

There are two things I would like to discuss: first, issues surrounding article nine, and second, my homestay . With a policy like article nine still in effect, I thought that the Japanese would have a resentment towards American people. However, as I learned from two of our lectures, the Japanese used demilitarization as an opportunity to invest government resources in things like infrastructure instead of building a military post war. To me, this positive mentality is something that Americans lack but could greatly benefit from if they learned from the Japanese. Even as a long-time student of Japanese language and culture , there is no way I would have learned this had I not participated in such a holistic program. This brings me to my homestay. Although my family showed me things like Japanese stores and the onsen hot springs, what really stood out to me was my host family's genuine commitment to only to showing their students Japanese culture, but also learning about American culture themselves so that they can also further the cause of the Kakehashi program. I was so humbled that they asked me to speak in English with them, and that they taught us how to cook typical Japanese foods. Furthermore, our family surprised us with the ingredients for these dishes so that we could bring them home and prepare them for friends. This has been a life-changing experience.

◆ U.S.A. High school student


I was very impressed by the culture of celebrating children's health. Not only that, the Japanese are very proud of their tradition and culture, especially the family's education. Also their clean environment, by recycling and saving energy.

◆ U.S.A. High school student

I was really amazed by the eco-friendly attitude which Japan showcased in their factories and society in general. The emphasis placed on trash collection and the distinct lack of littering made for many beautiful scenes. I especially liked the Asahi Soft Drink's recycling rate of 100%. The high technology in Japan also shocked me and I was amazed by the preservation of traditional cultures at the same time. The shrines, parks and other natural and spiritual sceneries were respected so much. I will also

share the following: the sheer respect which the Japanese homestay family showed me was amazing. I love the emphasis which Japanese place on respect and I was humbled by the experience and honored to be chosen for it.

7. Action Plan Presented at the Reporting Session by Participants

<div data-bbox="276 528 730 562" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Reflection of our Experiences in Japan</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="276 577 507 734" data-label="List-Group"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pop culture and electronics in Akihabara • Crowds in Shibuya • Developing understanding of Japanese politics and economy at Meiji University lecture • Connecting with students at Kibi University • Cultural and social interactions in homestays • Home-cooked meals • Traditional dress • Buddhist temple and Shinto shrine </div> <div data-bbox="517 600 759 728" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="734 766 775 799" data-label="Text"> <p>W</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="885 528 1283 560" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>1. OUTREACH GOALS: Connections</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="818 607 1069 784" data-label="List-Group"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Share our experiences through word of mouth-encouraging family, friends, and peers to visit and educate themselves about Japan Emphasize importance of maintaining strong relationship with Japan • 2. Educate students at the high school and elementary school level: Use academic connections to present information about this trip, and market this program to increase awareness that opportunities such as this trip, exist. </div> <div data-bbox="1062 609 1326 781" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1318 775 1362 806" data-label="Text"> <p>W</p> </div>
<p>Findings in Japan</p>	<p>Action Plan</p>
<div data-bbox="228 1014 759 1408" data-label="Complex-Block"> <p>Although we knew that Japan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was technologically advanced • Had a large economy • Had hard working, reserved and respectful people • Had a healthy food and lifestyle <p>We discovered that we had much more to learn about Japan and the Japanese people!</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="810 1014 1362 1415" data-label="Complex-Block"> <p>On a campus level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenting to student organizations like JASA, IBC, I-House • Present to Chancellor's cabinet • UMSL Media – Current, UMSL Daily, Department Newsletters, • Report back to classes, photo essay for faculty of missed classes • Study Abroad – possible exchange with Seinan  </div>
<p>Findings in Japan</p>	<p>Action Plan</p>
<div data-bbox="228 1532 769 1901" data-label="Complex-Block"> <div data-bbox="240 1547 304 1626" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="400 1547 647 1626" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Post-Kakehashi Knowledge</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="268 1630 459 1865" data-label="List-Group"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japanese foreign policy • Domestic dynamics • Social <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging population • Tradition v. modernization • Kaishaism • Economic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure and Goods </div> <div data-bbox="517 1630 713 1870" data-label="Image"> </div> </div>	<div data-bbox="810 1543 1367 1890" data-label="Complex-Block"> <div data-bbox="823 1559 887 1637" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="943 1574 1230 1615" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Action Item #4</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="850 1635 1294 1854" data-label="List-Group"> <p>4. Korb School Faculty Brief</p> <p>A. Short term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend a class on East Asia & Japan • Dean, Associate Dean, and Tenured Faculty <p>B. Long term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a regional center: Center for East Asian Affairs </div> </div>
<p>Findings in Japan</p>	<p>Action Plan</p>