



KAKEHASHI Project

Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA) Tomodachi Inoue Scholars 1.

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under “Japan’s Friendship Ties Program”, 25 Americans visited Japan. During the 8 days program from March 5th to March 12th, 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 (25 Participants)

3. Prefectures Visited

Tokyo, Kyoto and Shiga Prefecture

4. Program Schedule

March 5th (Sat)	Arrival at Narita International Airport
March 6th (Sun)	【Orientation】 , 【Observation】 Edo Tokyo Museum, Asakusa
March 7th (Mon)	【Observation】 Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly Move Tokyo to Kyoto
March 8th (Tue)	【Observation of Historical Landmark/ Cultural Experience】 Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kimono Show at Nishijin textile center, Kiyomizu Temple
March 9th (Wed)	【School Exchange】 Shiga Prefectural University 【Nature/Cultural Experience/Regional Exchange】 Farm stay, Calligraphy Experience
March 10th (Thu)	【Nature/Cultural Experience/Regional Exchange】 Making Japanese Chopsticks experience, Forest walking Move from Kyoto to Tokyo
March 11th (Fri)	【Workshop】 【Reporting Session】 【Lecture】 “Japan’s Foreign Policy” North American Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs 【Cutting-edge Technology】 National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation
March 12th (Sat)	【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku Departure from Narita International Airport

5. Program Photos



3/6 【 Observation 】 Edo Tokyo Museum (Tokyo)



3/7 【 Observation 】 Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly (Tokyo)



3/9 【 School Exchange 】 Shiga Prefectural University (Hikone City)



3/9 【 Nature/Cultural Experience/Regional Exchange 】 Farmstay, Calligraphy Experience (Takashima City)



3/10 【 Nature/Cultural Experience/Regional Exchange 】 Forest walking (Takashima City)



3/11 【 Reporting Session 】 (Tokyo)

6. Voice from Participants

◆USA, University Student

Throughout the week, I was continuously impressed by how friendly and welcoming all the local people were to us. Even the individuals who spoke little-to-no English were eager to interact with us. As far as the program, I cannot express my gratitude for all the time, planning, and details that went into making this week unforgettable. We were able to see and experience such a wide variety of places, people, and cuisines, and I feel these elements have provided me with valuable insight to take home. I found that so many things we saw intrigued me, and our guides were able to answer all my questions. My favorite part was our exchange with the university students. We exchanged info, and I hope to meet up with them again someday.




◆USA, University Student

I was most impressed by the humor and lightheartedness of the people whom I encountered while staying in Japan. While I expected hospitality, my expectations were far surpassed by our group's guides and hosts. Not only were they helpful and insightful, they made us feel a part of the culture. Also, they were very humorous, which may have surprised me. In the United States, Japanese-American families can sometimes be stereotyped as serious or stern. This was not my experience at all with the people we spoke with. All of them were funny, welcoming and excited to share their culture with us. Had it not been for our gracious hosts, our guides and everyone else whom we encountered that helped us along the way, I don't believe our trip could have been as fantastic as it was.

◆USA, University Student

One of the first things I want to tell people at home is that Japan is one of the rare countries where hospitality extends far beyond the walls of the kitchen. I was very impressed how much effort was put into making us feel welcome and how happy everyone was to receive us. The Japanese society heavily emphasizes what you can do for others rather than what others can do for you, and I'd like very much to spread this attitude in my environment at home. I'd also want to share that Japan is a place with deep cultural roots and appreciation for tradition and heritage. I feel like in my time here, I've felt like I'm living a cleaner, simpler, lighter life. For reasons I can't yet put my finger on, I feel like I've been spiritually and mentally cleansed and am leaving Japan a new person.

7. Action Plan Presented at the Reporting Session by Participants

<p><u>Observations of Japanese Culture</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect for the collective/group • Respect for authority • Cultural value of maintaining tradition in the modern day 	<p><u>Multi-touch Books</u></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available on iBooks • Multimedia e-reader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text • Pictures • Audio • Video • Infographics • Interactive <p>Available on the iBookstore</p>
<p>Action Plan</p>	<p>Action Plan</p>
<p><u>Connecting National Pride to Personal Pride</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National pride trickles down into personal pride • How to integrate this pride into the American political landscape 	<p><u>Importance of Storytelling</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project: Oral Presentation Manual – Storytelling in public diplomacy • Our storytelling: social media, speaking to communities, etc. <p>“People have asked me how I want to be remembered and I say very simply that I represented the people honestly and to the best of my abilities.” – Senator Daniel Inoue</p>
<p>Findings in Japan</p>	<p>Findings in Japan</p>