



## **Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA) KAKEHASHI Project Japan Bowl Program Report**

### **1. Program Overview**

Under "Japan's Friendship Ties Program", 24 Japan Bowl participants from U.S.A. visited Japan. During the 8 day program from August 3rd to August 10th, the participants studied the Japanese government, society, history, culture, foreign policy, and much more. The participants aim to promote Japan through mediums such as social networking sites.

#### **【Participating Countries and Number of Participants】**

U.S.A. (24 Participants)

#### **【Prefectures Visited】**

Tokyo, Hiroshima

### **2. Program Schedule**

August 3<sup>rd</sup> (Wed)    Arrival at Narita International Airport  
                                 Orientation  
                                 【Lecture】 Ministry of Foreign Affairs North American Affairs Bureau  
                                 "Japan's Foreign Policy"

August 4<sup>th</sup> (Thu)    Move to Hiroshima  
                                 【Cutting-Edge Technology】 MAZDA Factory/Museum  
                                 【History】 Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum  
                                 Peace Memorial Park

August 5<sup>th</sup> (Fri)    【History】 Miyajima, Itsukushima Jinja shrine  
                                 【School Exchange】 Hiroshima Kokusai Gakuin High School

August 6<sup>th</sup> (Sat)~ August 7<sup>th</sup> (Sun)    【Home Stay】 Activities with the Host Family  
                                 【Japanese Cultural Experience】 Calligraphy at Fude no Sato Kobo  
                                 Move to Tokyo

August 8<sup>th</sup> (Mon)    【History / Traditional Culture】 Sensoji-temple, Nakamise  
                                 【Courtesy Call】 Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado  
                                 【Courtesy Call】 High-ranking Government Official  
                                 Reception Party at American Center JAPAN

August 9<sup>th</sup> (Tue)    【Interaction】 Youth Exchange Program organized by Japan Bowl  
                                 Supporters Group (JBSG)  
                                 【Interaction】 Walking Tour around Meiji Jingu Shrine and Harajuku  
                                 Area with Japanese university students who participated in the H.I.H.

Prince Takamado Trophy English Oratorical Contest  
August 10<sup>th</sup> (Wed) Reporting Session  
Departure from Narita

**3. Program Photos**  
**Tokyo**



8/8 【歴史伝統文化】浅草寺

【History/Traditional】Sensoji-temple

8/8 【表敬】高円宮妃殿下訪問

【Courtesy Call】Her Imperial Highness  
Princess Takamado



8/9 【交流】ジャパンボウルサポーターズグループ  
主催の交流会

【Interaction】Youth exchange program organized  
by JBSG (Japan Bowl Supporters Group)



8/9 【交流】高円宮杯英語弁論大会参加者と明治  
神宮・原宿散策

【Interaction】Walking tour around Meiji Jingu  
Shrine & Harajuku Area with the university  
students who participated in the H.I.H. Prince  
Takamado Trophy English Oratorical Contest

## Hiroshima



8/4 【企業視察】マツダミュージアム

【Company visit】 Mazda Museum



8/4 【視察】広島平和記念公園

【Observation】 Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park



8/4 【視察】宮島 / 厳島神社

【Observation】 Itsukushima Shrine, Miyajima



8/5 【学校交流】広島国際学院高等学校

【School Exchange】 Hiroshima Kokusai Gakuen High School



8/6 【ホームステイ】

【Home Stay】



8/8 【文化体験】筆の里工房

【Cultural Experience】 Fudeno Sato Kobo



#### **4. Voice from Participants**

##### **◆ Japan Bowl Participants**

I thoroughly enjoyed the experiences offered by the multiple school exchanges incorporated into this year's Kakehashi Project for Japan Bowl students. The exchanges were once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to connect with Japanese students roughly the same age as us and to facilitate the exchange of culture from a young age, which is when our minds are most open to old and new ideas across the Pacific. Speaking with those the same age is also very comforting and relaxing. I hope to continue contacts with each other and continue relationship I have established as friends with others.

I was extremely impressed by the tour of Japanese manufacture of cars by the Mazda Corporation, a major Japanese industry as well as the visit to government facilities throughout Tokyo. It was exciting to receive a sneak peek inside Japanese companies and government and to take a glimpse of their daily functions on the inside, of which only so much can be seen from the outside.

The homestay left the most impressionable and memorable moments of my stay. I was extremely grateful for the friendliness that my host family took to me with open arms, and it felt, like I was back home. I was able to make many unforgettable memories. My time in Hiroshima will definitely be one of my best in Japan. From Hiroshima-style Okonomiyaki to experiencing local craft in calligraphy in Kumano, the extremely warm feeling that I received under the care of my family will never be replicated.

大変お世話になりました。ありがとうございました。(Written in Japanese)

##### **◆ Japan Bowl Participants**

During the school exchange, I was comparing and contrasting Japan's school to my own school. For instance, the viewing of the Kendo club gave me a perspective on just how different our sports are. Furthermore, wearing slippers was unique to Japan and after, I felt like my school should do the same because the school would be cleaner.

For the company government office, I actually had the chance to talk with an ambassador in Japanese. I was surprised at how many jobs an ambassador will have to do, making me interested in the diversity of the responsibility. This experience made me respect just how much the government they are doing for us, and made me realize why global relations is necessary for a better world. Finally I felt that the home stay made the most impact on me because this was where I felt the most "omotenashi". During my stay, I was enlightened with Japanese manners and cultures that were different than America's. Also, my perception on Japanese people changed from my home stay, and my stereotypes dissipated. For instance, I was talking about the bombings in Japan with my host family, but instead of holding a grudge on America, they had shared that they moved on, and warmly welcomed us.

In conclusion, my Kakehashi trip was a very meaningful experience because of how it impacted my views on Japanese culture and manners.

## **5. Voice from Japanese Participants**

### **◆ Youth Exchange Program: University Student**

It was an amazing experience for us to be able to talk to American high school students. It was refreshing to communicate in both English and Japanese. I was able to interact with them a lot since they were actively engaging with us and showed strong interests in Japan, I felt that the time passed by too quickly.

### **◆ Youth Exchange Program: University Student**

Through the conversation, we could see which part of Japan is interesting to foreign students and what kind of image they have about Japan. That will be helpful to us in the future when we will have a chance to speak with foreigners. What impressed me a lot was that the Japan Bowl participants had a better understanding of Japan than the Japanese students who guided them the manner of offering prayers when visiting Meiji Jingu Shrine. It made me realize how much they are interested in Japanese manners and rules of behaviors in shrines, and how hard they have studied it beforehand.

### **◆ Youth Exchange Program: University Student**

I felt that I rediscovered Japan through guiding Meiji Jingu Shrine and Harajuku area by introducing Japan and Japanese culture to the US students. Improvement should be made to the shortage of the time to guide the area. It was difficult to manage the tour in response to their interests under the limited time, since we don't know the shops in Harajuku well. It would be helpful if we could have a list of what they want to do and where they want to visit so the guiding route could be fixed in advance, hence managing a more memorable guide tour for them.

I really appreciate this opportunity, and it would be great if I could get another chance like this again.

### **◆ Youth Exchange Program: University Student**

I really enjoyed this exchange program with the US high school students, winners of the Japan Bowl, who are very friendly. Through decorating 'Uchiwa' (handy fan) together, we got to know each other and also experienced Japanese traditions. Walking tour around Harajuku area seems to be very interesting for them so please keep it in the program.

It is wonderful that the top performers of Japan Bowl, which I think is also a meaningful program, are given the opportunity to visit Japan. I wish I can take part in this program next year again.

## ◆ Host Family

In the evening of August 6<sup>th</sup>, we went to join the 'Toro-nagashi' (a custom to send off the spirits of the ancestors by floating lanterns on the water of the river). It was a good opportunity to think again about world peace with our children and US students, which I hardly has a chance although we are living in Hiroshima. I appreciate this meaningful opportunity.



## ◆ Host Family

We had worried if we could communicate each other, since it was our first time to accept foreign students as host family. But we were surprised to see how fluently they could speak Japanese. All my family is satisfied with this heartwarming and fulfilling experience and appreciates the chance to get this opportunity. We wish to have more chance for international cultural exchange to introduce Japanese culture to abroad.

## 6. Dissemination by the Participants

 <p>Japan Bowl Hiroshima Peace... フォロー</p> <p>cherry48325さん、 patricia.purpleさん、 vidasemolitasさん、 shinjarさん が「いいね」しました</p> <p>Japan Bowl Through the arch you can see the top of the atomic bomb dome and the flame for peace, which will be extinguished when there are no longer any nuclear weapons on earth. #Hiroshima #Japan Bowl #akehashi2016 #akehashi</p>	 <p>Japan Bowl 筆の里工房 フォロー</p> <p>patricia.purpleさん、 cherry48325さん、 itsunurachristinaさん、 sashayさん、 shinjarさん、 leighcheeさん、 musubitearsさん、 happyflower8787さんが「いいね」しました</p> <p>Japan Bowl The town where we did homestays is Kumano, which is where the calligraphy brushes in Japan are made. Here we are at the Fudenosato Kobo in Kumano experiencing calligraphy with their renowned brushes. Our host families came with us to help us out. #akehashi2016 #Hiroshima #Japan Bowl</p>
<p>アーチを通し見えるのは、原爆ドームと、平和の炎。地球に核兵器がなくなるとき、その火は消える。</p>	<p>ホームステイをした熊野町では、日本で作られる筆の 70%が作られている。ホストファミリーと一緒に「筆の里工房」の名高い筆で書道体験。</p>
<p>Through the arch you can see the top of the atomic bomb dome and the flame for peace, which will be extinguished when there are no longer any nuclear weapons on earth.</p>	<p>The town where we did homestays is Kumano, where 70% of the calligraphy brushes in Japan are made.</p> <p>Here we are at the Fudenosato Kobo in Kumano experiencing calligraphy with their renowned brushes. Our host families came with us to help us out.</p>

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

<p>Hiroshima Peace Memorial</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Very welcoming to all sorts of people</li> <li>•Strong wishes for peace</li> <li>•灯籠流し/tourou nagashi (8/6)</li> </ul>	 <p>Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Continue Japanese studies</li> <li>“Be informed/keep in mind the complexity of international relations – aim to become global citizens</li> <li>“Student Exchange</li> <li>“Internship in related field</li> <li>“Host family</li> <li>“JET/Helping teach English to Japanese</li> </ul>
<p>原爆投下をした米国から来た私たちのこともやさしく歓迎してくれた。原爆についての日米の認識にはギャップがあることを知った。日本についてもっと知りたい人、日本をよく知らない米国の人々へ積極的に情報を提供して、日本をもっと訪れ体験してもらう機会につなげる。</p>	<p>今後も日本語の勉強を継続して、交換留学やホームステイの受け入れ、JETプログラムにチャレンジすることで、日本理解をさらに深める。</p> <p>また、そうした深い日本理解をもって、英語が苦手な日本人の英語学習を助ける。</p>
<p>Japanese people kindly welcomed us Americans, a country that attacked Japan by atomic bomb. I learned there is a gap of understanding about this atomic bomb between Japan and US. What I will do is share information and knowledge of Japan to help a better understanding for Americans that want to understand Japan better.</p>	<p>What we can do is to deepen our understanding of Japan by keep learning Japanese, joining the exchange program and JET program, and welcoming Japanese students by being a host family</p> <p>In addition, we also can help their English by making use of our better knowledge of Japan.</p>