



Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA)
KAKEHASHI Project
Okinawa Program the 2nd Slot Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 23 high school students and 2 supervisors from the United States visited Japan from December 20th to December 27th, 2016 to participate in the program aimed at promoting their understanding of Japan with regard to Japanese politics, economy, society, culture, history, and foreign policy. Through lecture by ministry, observation of historical sites, school exchange, homestay, and other experiences, the participants enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to improve their understanding of Japan and shared their individual interests and experiences through SNS. Based on their findings and learning in Japan, each group of participants made a presentation in the final session and reported on the action plans to be taken after returning to their home country.

【Participating Countries and Number of Participants】

U.S.A. 25 Participants (Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies (LACES))

【Prefectures Visited】

Tokyo, Okinawa

2. Program Schedule

December 20 th (Tue)	Arrival at Haneda Airport
December 21 st (Wed)	[Orientation] [Lecture] North American Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs “Japan’s Foreign Policy” [Historical Landmark] Imperial Palace Move to Okinawa
December 22 nd (Thu)	[School Exchange] Okinawa Prefectural Oroku High School [Observation] Okinawa Prefectural Museum [Cultural Experience] Eisa dance
December 23 rd (Fri)	[Historical Facilities] Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial [Historical Landmark] Shuri Castle [Meeting with Host Family]
December 24 th (Sat)	[Homestay]
December 25 th (Sun)	[Homestay] Farewell Party [Workshop]

December 26th (Mon) Move to Tokyo
 [Reporting Session]

December 27th (Tue) [Historical Landmark] Meiji Jingu Shrine
 Departure from Narita International Airport

3. Program Photos

▪ Tokyo



12/21 [Orientation] (Tokyo)



12/26 [Reporting Session] (Tokyo)

▪ Okinawa



12/22 [Cultural Experience] Eisa dance
 (Naha City)



12/22 [Observation] Okinawa Prefectural
 Museum (Naha City)



12/22 [School Exchange] Okinawa
 Prefectural Oroku High School (Naha City)



12/23 [Historical Landmark] Shuri Castle
 (Naha City)

	
12/25 [Homestay] Farewell Party(Naha City)	12/25 [Workshop] (Naha City)

4. Voice from Participants

◆ U.S.A., High School Student

I enjoyed the Okinawa war speech. It really impacted me and made me see Okinawa in a different way. I think that anyone in Okinawa should go to that museum to learn about the sad history of Okinawa. At first I was nervous at the homestay, soon I felt comfortable and as I opened up, it got more fun. As I had dinner with her family I learned that although we live very far away, our cultures are similar in their own way.

◆ U.S.A., High School Student

The homestay program was one of the most interesting things I've ever done. To experience a culture other than my own in that depth was totally new for me. At first, I was pretty nervous, but my hosts were very welcoming and the experience was far fun than I thought. The school exchange was also very interesting and seeing Oroku High School really broadened my view of education in the world. It made me realize how a school could have both an academic and art focus.

◆ U.S.A., High School Student

The school exchange was very impressive. The song that the marching band showed us was actually the most amazing thing I've seen in a while. All of the people playing instruments were so precise in their timing and everyone paid very close attention to details. Another part that I liked was when we were shown the native culture of Okinawa, with the Eisa dancing and the Sanshin playing. I really liked observing the difference of culture between Japan and America. I also liked seeing the memorial Peace Museum. And noticing that Japanese focus on symbolism and remembrance.

5. Voice from Japanese Participants



◆ School Exchange Program: High School Teacher

The exchange program was a great opportunity for both students and the staff. Through the rare occasion of interacting with students of America, there were many students that had grown interest in international cultures and decided to visit U.S. to broaden their views.


◆ School Exchange Program: High School Student

I participated in this program to see how well my English language skill can be used towards native speakers. When I went to Australia before I couldn't express myself well and the home stay was not very fruitful, but the program this time was very enriching. For the first time I was able to feel that speaking English is enjoyable and made me want to work in an environment that uses English for my future career. I will continue participating in similar programs when I go to a college so I can broaden my horizons.

6. Dissemination by the Participants

 <p>LACES Kakehashi 2016 (@laces.kakehashi.2016)</p> <p>Group shot entering the Shuri Castle #kakehashi2016 #jice</p>	 <p>LACES Kakehashi 2016 (@laces.kakehashi.2016)</p> <p>We have some talent in our group! Eisa dancing at Okinawa University #kakehashi2016 #jice</p>
<p>Message about Observation</p> <p>Shurijo Castle</p>	<p>Message about Cultural Experience</p> <p>We have some talent in our group! Eisa dancing at Okinawa University.</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

	<p>Action Plan Presentation 1</p> <p>To increase interest and education in Japanese language and culture, the students from the LACES Kakehashi project will implement an action plan. 1) Japan night 2) SNS</p>
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