



Japan's Friendship Ties Program (U.S.A.)
KAKEHASHI Project
Program for Congressional Leaders 2nd Slot

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan's Friendship Ties Program, 2 Congressional Leaders from the U.S. visited Japan from September 16 to September 22, 2017 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 interaction with various institutions and visiting historical sites, the participants enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to understand Japan better.

【Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants】

United States of America: 2 participants

【Prefectures Visited】

Tokyo, Kanagawa, Kyoto

2. Program Schedule

September 16 (Sat)/September 17 (Sun)

Arrival at Haneda Airport or Narita International Airport

September 18 (Mon) Move to Kyoto by Shinkansen bullet train

[Observation] Kinkakuji Temple

[Observation] Gekkeikan Okura Sake Museum

[Observation] Fushimi Inari Shrine

September 19 (Tue) Move to Tokyo ([Observation] Shinkansen driver's cab (JR TOKAI)

[Courtesy Call] Minister of Defense

[Exchange] Japan-U.S. Congressional Caucus

[Exchange] Organization for Economic Co-operation and

Development (OECD) Tokyo Centre

September 20 (Wed) [Observation] Tsukiji Fish Market, Tokyo Tower

[Exchange] U.S. Embassy in Japan

[Exchange] Japan Business Federation (Keidanren)

[Observation] Sensoji Temple

[Exchange] Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

[Exchange] Parliamentary Vice-Ministers for Foreign Affairs

September 21 (Thu) [Observation] United States Fleet Activities Yokosuka

September 21 (Thu)/September 22 (Fri)

Departure from Narita International Airport

3. Program Photos



9/18 [Observation] Gekkeikan Okura Sake Museum



9/19 [Observation] Fushimi Inari Shrine



9/19 [Exchange] Japan-U.S. Congressional Caucus



9/20 [Observation] Sensoji Temple



9/21 [Observation] United States Fleet Activities Yokosuka



9/21 [Observation] United States Fleet Activities Yokosuka

4. Voice from Participants

- ◆ Meeting with public officials and business leaders were very helpful.

◆ The meetings with government officials were very informative – they helped us develop a better understanding of Japanese challenges and mutual interests. I am very grateful for the visit to the Naval Station at Yokosuka. It was superb. The meeting at the Ministry of Defense was valuable, particularly in light of the challenges of North Korea.

The visits to shrines and temples were very interesting. I had never seen that before.

The woman from the OECD was quite insightful. I would continue to have elected officials meet with her.

Overall, I thought this was an excellent trip. It enhanced my understanding of Japan and will make me a stronger, more effective advocate for the US-Japan relationship.