



Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA) KAKEHASHI Project/ Jewish Americans the 1st Slot Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 15 Jewish Americans from the United States visited Japan from January 8th to January 15th, 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 lectures by ministries, observation of historical sites, cultural experiences, school exchange 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.

【Participating Countries and Number of Participants】

U.S.A.: 15 participants (AJC)

【Prefectures Visited】

Tokyo, Kyoto

2. Program Schedule

January 8 th (Sun)	Arrival at Narita International Airport
January 9 th (Mon)	[Orientation] [Historical Landmarks] Asakusa, Tokyo-Edo Museum, Ameyoko
January 10 th (Tue)	[Lecture] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, North American Bureau “Japan’s Foreign Policy” [Lecture] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, First Middle East Division, Second Middle East Division “Japan-Middle East Relations” [Lecture] Keidanren [Courtesy Call] U.S. Embassy in Japan [Lecture] Japan Foundation
January 11 th (Wed)	[Observation] Supreme Court Move to Kyoto Prefecture [Historical Landmark] Kinkaku-ji Temple
January 12 th (Thu)	[Cultural Experience] Fun Painting [Cultural Experience] Nishiki Market [Cultural Experience] Zazen [School Exchange] Doshisha University Move to Tokyo
January 13 th (Fri)	[Courtesy Call] Embassy of Israel in Japan [School Exchange] Waseda University [Exchange] Jewish Community of Japan (Accompanied by

Mr. Kenataro Sonoura, State Minister for Foreign Affairs)

January 14th (Sat) [Lecture] Mr. Ryuichi Higuchi

[Lecture] NPO Chiune Sugihara, Visas for Life

[Historical Landmark] Meiji-jingu shrine / [Pop Culture] Harajuku

[City Observation] Observatory of Tokyo Metropolitan Government

January 15th (Sun) [Historical Landmark] Imperial Palace

[Cultural Experience] Tea Experience at Happo-en

Departure from Narita International Airport

3. Program Photos

Tokyo

	
<p>1/10 [Lecture] Japan Foundation (Tokyo)</p>	<p>1/13 [School Exchange] Waseda University (Tokyo)</p>
	
<p>1/14 [Lecture] NPO Chiune Sugihara, Visas for Life (Tokyo)</p>	<p>1/14 [Cultural Experience] Tea Experience (Tokyo)</p>

Kyoto

	
1/11 [Historical Landmark] Kinkaku-ji Temple (Kyoto City)	1/12 [Cultural Experience] Fun Painting (Kyoto City)
	
1/12 [Cultural Experience] Zazen (Kyoto City)	1/12 [School Exchange] Doshisha University (Kyoto City)

4. Voice from Participants

◆ U.S.A., University Student

This program, Kakehashi, was the most eye-opening experience of my life. The lectures were very well organized and I was able to learn so much about the intersection of two cultures I love: Japanese and Judaism. I really enjoyed hearing from the family members of Chiune Sugihara and Mr. Higuchi and how they have influenced the Jewish people. In addition, hearing from professor Agawa at Doshisha University was an amazing experience; he had very intelligent insights which I very much enjoyed hearing. Next, I loved being able to meet students from both Doshisha and Waseda Universities. I made some new friends who I plan to keep in touch with and hopefully visit them in Japan. They even said they would come to visit me in the United States. Being able to meet young Japanese people was a very eye-opening and fun experience! Finally, and maybe most importantly, the opportunity I have had to explore Japanese culture has been a dream and a blessing. Going to Kyoto, in my opinion, is essential to the Kakehashi program. As soon as I got to Kyoto, I fell in love with the city and history and people. It was a very unique and special experience and I'm very grateful for the opportunity.

◆ **U.S.A., Young Professional**

Thank you so much for sharing your beautiful country with our delegation. I can't explain in words how much I have appreciated learning about your culture, trying your delicious foods, and meeting the Japanese people-who are truly inspiring. Our guides for the week are beautiful souls and we are lucky to know them.

In particular, I learned this week that the more I learn about Japan, the less I know. It is a miraculous mystery with so many layers of culture, history and tradition all seamlessly weaved together. The American-Japanese relationship, as well as the Jewish-Japanese relationship, gives me hope for US foreign policy in the future.

I especially enjoyed our meetings with the MOFA officials who gave us great insight into the way Japan sees and treats the rest of the world. The level of respect will be difficult to find anywhere else. Thank you once again, for giving us such a rewarding and memorable experience! I hope to be back very soon.

◆ **U.S.A., University Student**

My biggest impression in Japan is that Japanese and American culture compliments each other well. Each country has very different culture and traditions, which lends to our unique strengths. Many United States weaknesses are actually strengths in Japan. Since Americans prize their individuality, it can sometimes make cooperation more difficult. In Japan, society appears to value the collective good very highly, allowing for strong team work. On the other hand, American individuality also leads to innovation, as we strive to challenge the norm. Both traits have their positive qualities, and by cooperating together, we can overcome our weaknesses. Additionally, I learned of the importance of the US-Japan alliance from a security standpoint. The United States benefits from our alliance with Japan in Asia, where Japan provides a basis for stability in the region. In order to prevent escalation of conflict, it will be important to make clear that the United States and Japan stand firmly together.

I also enjoyed having the opportunity to meet other students my age in Japan. Doing so better allowed me to understand modern Japanese society, and create strong bonds with the people of Japan.

5. Voice from Japanese Students/Schools/ Host Families /Organizations

◆ **Officer from the respective organization**

We were impressed that the participants were very enthusiastic to learn from us. This program is good opportunity not only for the delegation but also for us.

◆ **University student**

Although the meeting time was very limited, we interacted productively. One of the participants is from the city where I will go for study abroad, and we will meet in U.S.

◆ **Lecturer**

I was impressed that some of the participants was taking memo very hard while they were listening my lecture.

6. Dissemination by the participants

	
<p>Meeting with the MOFA to learn about the evolution and influence in Japan's foreign policy since WWII</p>	<p>Featured a discussion with Professor Nobuyuki Agawa distinguished professor at Doshisha University who shared his perspective on his potential impacts of the new administration on US-Japan relations.</p>

7. Action Plan prepared by Participants

Individual activity

- 1) Organizing dinner for 20s and 30s Jewish community members in New York
- 2) Presenting experience with fellow Resident Advisors on campus and with student members of the tea ceremony club
- 3) Coordinating a feature piece about our experience with The Dallas Morning News
- 4) Facilitating a discussion on the history and importance of the Jewish community in Japan with Jewish leaders on their college campuses
- 5) Furthering studies in Japanese language and East Asian studies
- 6) Briefing members of prominent D.C. think tanks on Japan and Israeli partnerships in cybersecurity
- 7) Continuing to build peer-to-peer relations with Waseda students

AJC's activity

- 1) Communicate to AJC's 22 regional offices and 10 global postings the takeaways and experiences from participating in the Kakehashi Project
- 2) Provide briefings to the Japanese and Israeli diplomatic representatives in New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, and San Francisco about our experience
- 3) Provide briefings to AJC Asia Pacific Institute (API) Board and Advisory Committee members
- 4) Feature photos and highlights of trip in API quarterly newsletter that is distributed to approximately 3,000 of API's diplomatic, think tank, and media contacts
- 5) Provide briefings to API partners and think tanks (e.g. Asia Society, RAND, U.S.-Japan Council, Asian Pacific Islander Caucus)