



Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA)
KAKEHASHI Project
Okinawa program the 3rd Slot Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan's Friendship Ties Program, 22 high school students and 3 supervisors from the United States visited Japan from January 17th to January 24th, 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 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 (Pleasant Valley High School)

【Prefectures Visited】

Tokyo, Okinawa

2. Program Schedule

January 17 th (Tue)	Arrival at Haneda Airport
January 18 th (Wed)	[Orientation] [Lecture] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, North American Bureau [Historical Landmark] Imperial Palace Move to Okinawa
January 19 th (Thu)	[Historical Landmark] Shuri Castle [Historical Facilities] Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum, Peace Memorial Park [Cultural Experience] Eisa dance
January 20 th (Fri)	[School Experience] Okinawa Prefectural Kyuyo High School [Meeting with Host Family]
January 21 st (Sat)	[Homestay]
January 22 nd (Sun)	[Homestay] Farewell Party [Workshop]
January 23 rd (Mon)	Move to Tokyo

[Reporting Session]
 January 24th (Tue) [Historical Landmark] Asakusa
 [Historical Landmark] Meiji Jingu
 Departure from Haneda Airport

3. Program Photos

Tokyo



1/23 [Reporting Session] (Tokyo)



1/24 [Historical Landmark] Asakusa (Tokyo)

Okinawa



1/19 [Cultural Experience] Eisa dance (Naha City)



1/19 [Historical Facilities] Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum (Itoman City)



1/19 [Historical Facilities] Peace Memorial Park (Itoman City)



1/20 [School Experience] Kyuyo High School (Okinawa City)

	
1/22 【[Homestay] Farewell Party (Okinawa City)	1/22 [Workshop] (Okinawa City)

4. Voice from Participants

◆ U.S.A. High School Student

I thought Japanese schools and families are very traditional and quiet. But I went to Kyuyo High School, and stayed with a family of 6- It was very different than I thought. Kyuyo school is colorful and bright. I saw the non-traditional side of students who expressed themselves. As for the family of 6, my first impression of the family was being clueless about how it works. The family I stayed is very close and very kind and loving. Just like any family. It was a good homestay and school experience because it changed my perspective of Japanese people. They can be fun and smile a lot, too. They can have something similar to what American people have. Until I went on this trip, I didn't really understand about the Kakehashi project and it is just Japan. Now I understand what it means to cross that bridge and try to help to make the world a more peaceful place.

◆ U.S.A. High School Student

The lecture was pretty enlightening. I didn't realize how peaceful Japan was. The school exchange was very interesting. I learned that math isn't so different from my math and is easy to learn. The lecture from WWII survivor was really good. I didn't realize how devastating his life or other Okinawan's life were. Home stay was a very interesting experience. The family was very nice and caring. They showed me the Okinawa aquarium and took me ramen place. It was lifetime experience.

5. Voice from Japanese Participants



◆ School Exchange Program High School Student

It was wonderful to be able to hear native English that I usually only hear on CD or TV. This would not have been if I had not participated in the project. While making kind American friends I saw the differences between Japan and U.S., which allowed me to look at Japan from a different point of view. I was able to develop a close bond with my buddy through the exchange program, and I will continue to promote both of our countries from now on.

◆ School Exchange Program High School Student

By participating in the KAKEHASHI Project, I was able to interact with international students and experience many things. By visiting each other's countries we were able to gain significant knowledge of each other's culture and language, which lead to a deeper understandings between the participants. I will promote this knowledge through social network and use it to make a difference on a global level.

6. Dissemination by the Participants

 <p>Michelle Martin @sramartinsensei · 1月22日 #kakehashi2016 #球陽高校 we will miss you but look forward to seeing you again! pic.twitter.com/TW0tBhVPye</p>	 <p>Michelle Martin @sramartinsensei · 1月27日 #kakehashi2016 thank you for an amazing experience. #球陽高校 #pvjapanese pic.twitter.com/nUTEcBYzEF</p>
<p>Message about School exchange</p> <p>We will miss you but look forward to seeing you again!</p>	<p>Message about Reporting Session</p> <p>Thank you for amazing experience</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

<p>IV. Our Action Plan (Actions to be taken) ... When you return home, implement your Action Plans!</p> <p>@Project Title: <u>Kakehashi Technology Promotion Project</u></p> <p>WHY : (Reasons to do it)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage family and friends to come to Japan. • Clear up misconceptions around Japan. • Show the unique culture of Japan and their outstanding <u>hospitality</u>. <p>WHAT : (What are you planning on doing)</p> <p>HOW : (How will you implement your plan)</p> <p>We plan to put together a video series on our experiences and life in Japan. By doing so, we hope to provide an interesting medium for people to learn about Japanese culture. We also plan on putting all the information and lessons we learned on a website so that anyone in the world is able to see what we saw. As for our social media blitz, everyone will post at least once a week to any form of Social Media.</p>	<p>Action Plan Presentation</p> <p>We plan to put a video series on our experiences and life in Japan. By doing so, we hope to provide an interesting medium for people to learn about Japanese culture.</p>
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