



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

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan's Friendship Ties Program, 10 young researchers from the United States visited Japan from February 8th to February 14th, 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, visiting Think Tanks, observation of historical sites, experiences of traditional culture 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. 9 Participants (The Heritage Foundation)

【Prefectures Visited】

Tokyo, Hiroshima

2. Program Schedule

February 8 th (Wed)	Arrival at Narita International Airport
February 9 th (Thu)	[Orientation] [Lecture] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, North American Bureau “Japan's Foreign Policy” [Ministry Visit] Ministry of Finance (MOF)
February 10 th (Fri)	[Opinion Exchange] Bank of Japan [Think Tank Visit] Mizuho Research Institute [Historical Landmark] Sensoji-temple
February 11 th (Sat)	Move to Hiroshima [Historical Landmark] Atomic Bomb Dome, Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum [History] Testimony by Atomic Bomb Survivor [Historical Landmark] Hiroshima Castle
February 12 th (Sun)	[Historical Landmark] Miyajima (Itsukushima Shrine) [Regional Industry] Chugoku Jozo Co.,Ltd. (Sake Brewery) [Workshop]
February 13 th (Mon)	Move to Tokyo

[Visit] National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (IPSS)

[Reporting Session]

February 14th (Tue) [Company Visit] Central Japan Railway Company (JR Tokai)

Departure from Narita International Airport

3. Program Photos Tokyo

Tokyo



2/9 [Ministry Visit] Ministry of Finance (MOF) (Tokyo)



2/10 [Opinion Exchange] Bank of Japan (Tokyo)



2/10 [Think Tank Visit] Mizuho Research Institute



2/10 [Historical Landmark] Sensoji-temple (Tokyo)



2/13 [Reporting Session] (Tokyo)



2/14 [Company Visit] Central Japan Railway Company (JR Tokai) (Tokyo)

Hiroshima



2/11 [Historical Landmark] Atomic Bomb Dome (Hiroshima City)



2/11 [History] Testimony by Atomic Bomb Survivor



2/11 [Historical Landmark] Hiroshima Castle (Hiroshima City)



2/12 [Historical Landmark] Miyajima (Itsukushima Shrine) (Hatsukaichi-City)



2/12 [Regional Industry] Chugoku Jozo Co.,Ltd (Hatsukaichi-City)



2/12 [Regional Industry] Chugoku Jozo Co.,Ltd (Hatsukaichi-City)

4. Voice from Participants

◆ The U.S. Young Researcher

Through having the good fortune to visit Japan and experience not only the cultural and historical element but also active exchange of ideas with our Japanese colleagues my impression and knowledge of Japan have grown considerably. The program structure allowed for an excellent mix of education and culture exchange. The lecturers and representatives of the programs were incredible and truly made the experience great. Meeting with representatives of the Ministries of foreign Affairs, Finance, and Bank of Japan, as well as other organizations, raised a number of interesting questions and discussions and not only contributed to my knowledge of Japanese political and economic concerns but provided motivation for further independent research, particularly in areas surrounding budgetary and fiscal policy and the long-term outlook.

The hospitality of the Japanese people and the true beauty of the country and her citizen was abundantly apparent. We truly felt welcomed, and our experiences of Japan has been overwhelmingly positive.

◆ The U.S. Young Researcher

Having studied history, it was fascinating to learn about Japan's perspective on historical events. This was very important. The visits with offices was very productive in exchanging views. Everyone we met with provided valuable insight and proactive discussion. I hope to maintain conversations with Japan.

◆ The U.S. Young Researcher

The politeness and kindness of the Japanese people I interacted with stood out the most to me. The program coordinators as well as strangers I met all were extremely welcoming. I really enjoyed the custom of exchanging business cards while taking time to reach each card carefully to signal respect. I wish we did this in the U.S. I also appreciate the wide variety of activities we did in order to get exposed to many aspects of Japanese culture. I can tell that the program coordinators put of thought into designing the schedule. I was amazed by how many different dishes we got to try. My favorite food was probably all the raw fish. Trying all the unique food on Miyajima Island was also a great experience. The island was so beautiful. The most moving experience for me was the visit to Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and hearing the story of a bomb survivor. It is never easy to hear such a tragic story, but I wouldn't exchange that experience for anything. No human should have to go through what she did. I am honored to have heard her personal account and plan to share it with my friends and family back home. Learning about Japan's history and culture was also another favorite aspect of our trip. Japan's culture is so rich. The cultural values of respect, hospitality kindness, trust, and tradition are ones that I greatly appreciate and hope Americans work to embrace more. This has been a once in a lifetime experience and I am incredibly thankful.

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

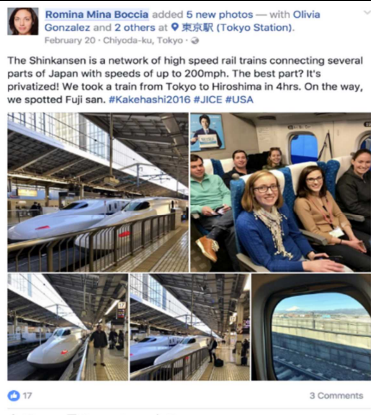

◆ Japanese Researcher / Host Organization

The researchers from the United States that visited our office this time knew a great deal about monetary policy and they were absolutely brimming with curiosity. We had a great time exchanging opinions. Hosting US researchers through the KAKEHASHI Project was an invaluable opportunity.

◆ Japanese Researcher / Host Organization

In December of the last year I took part in the presentation sessions organized in Washington DC as a member of the Outbound Program of KAKEHASHI Project, where we held a discussion on the Japanese and US economies with US young researches. This time I was able to welcome and host US researchers who I met in Washington DC and we could make very beneficial exchange of opinions. I thought that it was profoundly meaningful to continue holding exchanges among young researchers even after the program finished from the perspective of the long-term relationship between Japan and the United States.

6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>Romina Mina Boccia added 5 new photos — with Olivia Gonzalez and 2 others at 東京駅 (Tokyo Station). February 20 · Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo · 🌐</p> <p>The Shinkansen is a network of high speed rail trains connecting several parts of Japan with speeds of up to 200mph. The best part? It's privatized! We took a train from Tokyo to Hiroshima in 4hrs. On the way, we spotted Fuji san. #Kakehashi2016 #JICE #USA</p> <p>17 Likes · 3 Comments</p>	 <p>Romina Mina Boccia added 26 new photos — with Adam Michel in 宮島島 (Miyajima Island), Hiroshima Japan. February 18 · 🌐</p> <p>Visiting a Shrine and Temple, we learned how the Japanese combine their traditional Shintoist beliefs with Buddhism without any apparent conflict. #Kakehashi2016 #JICE #USA</p> <p>11 Likes · 1 Comment</p>
<p>The Shinkansen is a network of high speed rail trains connecting several parts of Japan with speeds of 200mph. The best part? It's privatized! We took a train from Tokyo to Hiroshima in 4hrs. On the way, we spotted Fuji san.</p>	<p>Visiting a Shrine and Temple, we learned how the Japanese combine their traditional Shintoist beliefs with Buddhism.</p>

7. Action Plan Presented at the Reporting Session by Participants

<div data-bbox="295 1765 434 1796">Action Plan</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Blog post on the Heritage Foundation website ■ Facebook pictures and Tweets with hashtag ■ Adam will further investigate Japan's consumption tax ■ We will educate potential Kakehashi participants about the program ■ We will host Take Miyawaki in DC 	<p>Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Blog post on the Heritage Foundation Website ■ Facebook pictures and Tweet with hashtag ■ Further investigate Japan's consumption tax ■ We will educate potential KAKEHASHI participants about the program
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