



## **Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA) KAKEHASHI Project Congressional Leaders Program Report**

### **1. Program Overview**

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 7 Congressional leaders from the United States visited Japan from February 19<sup>th</sup> to February 24<sup>th</sup>, 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, experiences of traditional culture and other experiences, the participants enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to improve their understanding of Japan.

#### **【Participating Countries and Number of Participants】**

U.S.A. 7 Participants

#### **【Prefectures Visited】**

Tokyo, Kyoto

### **2. Program Schedule**

February 19 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	Arrival at Narita International Airport
February 20 <sup>th</sup> (Mon)	[Briefing] National Security Secretariat [Briefing] Ministry of Foreign Affairs [Briefing] Ministry of Defense [Briefing] Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
February 21 <sup>st</sup> (Tue)	[Historical Landmark] Meiji Jingu Shrine [Observation] Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (Yokosuka) [Courtesy Call] Mr. Iwao Horii, member of the House of Councillors
February 22 <sup>nd</sup> (Wed)	Move to Kyoto [Cultural Experience] Zen Meditation Experience, Japanese Garden, Tea Ceremony (Myoshinji Temple) [Historical Landmark] Kiyomizu Temple
February 23 <sup>rd</sup> (Thu)	Move to Tokyo [Observation] Shinkansen driving cab [Briefing] Central Japan Railway Company (JR Central)
February 24 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	Departure from Narita International Airport

### 3. Program Photos

#### Tokyo



2/20 [Briefing] Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo)



2/20 [Briefing] Ministry of Defense (Tokyo)



2/21 [Historical Landmark] Meiji Jingu Shrine (Tokyo)



2/21 [Observation] Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (Yokosuka City)



2/21 [Courtesy Call] Mr. Iwao Horii, member of the House of Councillors (Tokyo)



2/23 [Briefing] Central Japan Railway Company (JR Central) (Tokyo)

## Kyoto



2/22 [Cultural Experience] Japanese Garden  
(Myoshinji Temple) (Kyoto City)



2/22 [Cultural Experience] Zen Meditation  
Experience, Tea Ceremony (Myoshinji Temple)  
(Kyoto City)

### 4. Voice from Participants

#### ◆ U.S.A. /Young Professional

The most helpful part of this trip was hearing from Japanese officials and learning their perspectives on security and trade issues. You can read so much about this but I felt like I didn't really understand until my visit to Japan, where I heard the priorities, concerns and analysis by my Japanese colleagues. I also appreciated the lessons in culture and history –understanding the history and identity of Japan has helped me to understand current decision making and perspectives. Thank you for everything to make this KAKEHASHI project visit possible.

#### ◆ U.S.A. / Young Professional

I really enjoyed the entire trip. The best highlights for me were the regional security staff's briefing and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' historical perspective, as well as the entire trip to Kyoto. I think it is very impactful to combine the modern challenges of a country with hearing about its historical, religious, and cultural roots. Japanese hospitality is excellent and I felt welcome everywhere. Thank you for a great trip.

#### ◆ U.S.A. /Young Professional

I enjoyed the kindness and generosity of the Japanese people. All were very welcoming. The geographic and historical significance was very eye opening.

I also have a much greater appreciation of the culture as well. Finally the geographic and economic strength is critical to our bilateral relationship of Japan. This was very much reinforced.