



Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA)
KAKEHASHI Project
Jewish Americans the 2nd Slot Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan's Friendship Ties Program, 13 Jewish Americans from the United States visited Japan from March 5th to March 12th, 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 and shared their individual interests and experiences through SNS. Based on their findings and learning in Japan, 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. 13 Participants (B'nai B'rith)

【Prefectures Visited】

Tokyo, Hiroshima, Hyogo

2. Program Schedule

March 5 th (Sun)	Arrival at Narita International Airport
March 6 th (Mon)	[Orientation] [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” [Courtesy Call] Ambassador Mr. Hideo Sato [Courtesy Call] Mr. Kentaro Sonoura, State Minister for Foreign Affairs [Company Visit] MONEX Inc.
March 7 th (Tue)	Move to Hiroshima by airplane [Historical Landmark] Atomic Bomb Dome, Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum [History] Testimony by Atomic Bomb Survivor
March 8 th (Wed)	[History] Holocaust Education Center, Japan (Fukuyama City) Move to Hyogo by Shinkansen(bullet train)

	[History] Kobe City Archives (Lecture on Jewish refugees in Kobe)
	[Historical Landmark] Kobe Kitano Ijinkai-gai
March 9 th (Thu)	[Exchange] Jewish Community of Kansai
	[Local Industry] Kobe Shushinkan (Sake Brewery)
	[Observation] Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum
	Move to Tokyo by bullet train
March 10 th (Fri)	[Courtesy Call] Embassy of Israel in Japan
	[Workshop]
	[Reporting Session]
	[Exchange] Jewish Community of Japan (Synagogue)
March 11 th (Sat)	[Observation] Nezu Museum
	[Pop Culture/Historical Landmark] Harajuku, Omotesando, Meiji Jingu Shrine
	[Observation] Observatory of Tokyo Metropolitan Government
March 12 th (Sun)	[Observation] World Baseball Classic (Israel vs Cuba)
	Departure from Narita International Airport

3. Program Photos

Tokyo



3/6 [Company Visit] MONEX Inc. (Tokyo)



3/11 [Observation] Observatory of Tokyo Metropolitan Government (Tokyo)

Hiroshima, Hyogo



3/7 [History] Testimony of Atomic Bomb Survivor (Hiroshima City)



3/8 [History] Holocaust Education Center, Japan (Fukuyama)

	
3/8 [History] Kobe City Archives (Kobe City)	3/9 [Exchange] Jewish Community of Kansai (Kobe City)
	
3/9 [Local Industry] Kobe Shushinkan (Kobe City)	3/9 [Observation] Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum (Kobe City)

4. Voice from Participants

◆ U.S.A. Adult

I am awe stuck at how the Japanese people have recovered and embraced a utopia pacifist role in not only the global economy and worldwide affairs, but also through tolerance of others. Going to Hiroshima and hearing from a survivor's perspective was invigorated. The mutual respect that we learned about with Japanese/Israeli relations is also very promising. As Japan considered changes to Article IX or create amendments to its constitution (if there are any) understanding this relationship and how Japan could be a pivotal player is something that requires much attention. I posted many things for my friends, co-workers and family could see to understand this experience. The Japanese people were great hosts, all our guides were great.

◆ U.S.A. Adult



For me, some of the most significant impressions of the experience were during the unplanned time early in the morning and late at night when I walked around the city and saw what life was like in Japan today. The overall pace of life is very different than the USA. Much more formal, everyone wears suits and works until late at night. Riding the bullet train, I noticed that most of the people were Japanese men in suits. In the US, people would be in casual clothes and mixed gender. At the Foreign Ministry on the first day, presenter mentioned that the Japanese government trying to increase women's participation in the workplace. For the most of the week, as I worked around, I looked for evidence of the changing culture.

Another impression I have of Japan is how welcoming, polite and friendly they are.


◆ U.S.A. Adult

The first lecture on Japanese history was excellent. Really enjoy hearing from atomic bomb survivor. Very interesting meeting with the Vice Foreign Minister to learn about Japanese foreign policy. Listening about Japanese business from the MONEX CEO was also great. Staying in Tokyo was amazing but it was equally as valuable to visit other parts of the country such as Hiroshima and Kobe. Also, visiting Hiroshima was a humbling experience. It is a place you see in pictures but I never thought I'd visit in person. Definitely my favorite part of the trip.

5. Dissemination by the participants

	
<p>The delegation also had the honor of speaking with an atomic bomb survivor who was 7 at the time of the bombing.</p>	<p>The #BBYLNinJPN delegation spent the day exploring Kobe, visiting a shrine and checking out the views.</p>

6. Action Plan Presented at the Reporting Session by Participants

<p>JAPANESE SECURITY POLICY</p> <p>SAMANTHA & TAYLOR</p> 	<p>We are going to conduct Sushi, Sake and Shabbat dinners. Obviously, food and entertainment draws more people. In this setting, those of us who participated in the Kakehashi Project experience will share our findings, photos, and encourage others to learn more about Japan.</p>
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