



Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA)

KAKEHASHI Project

Tomodachi KAKEHASHI Inouye the 1st Slot Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 75 university students and supervisors from the United States visited Japan from March 14th to March 21st, 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, 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. 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. 75 Participants (Group A: University of Massachusetts, Boston, Group B: Jackson State University, Group C: University of St. Thomas)

【Prefectures Visited】

Tokyo, Kanagawa, Hiroshima/Yamaguchi (Group A), Miyagi (Group B), Fukushima (Group C)

2. Program Schedule

March 14th (Tue) Arrival at Narita International Airport

March 15th (Wed) [Orientation]

 [Lecture] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, North American Bureau

 “Japan’s Foreign Policy”

 [Historical and Traditional Culture] Edo Tokyo Museum

 [Historical Landmark] Asakusa, Senso-ji Temple

March 16th (Thu) ~ March 20th (Mon)

Divided into three groups. Group A visited Hiroshima and Yamaguchi, Group B visited Miyagi and Group C visited Fukushima.

After the local prefecture program, all 3 groups traveled back to Tokyo on March 20th.

(1) Group A: University of Massachusetts, Boston: Hiroshima/Yamaguchi

March 16th (Thu) [Observation] Tokyo Metropolitan Government

 [History and Culture] Japanese Overseas Migration Museum

 [Observation of Commercial Facility] Queen's Square (minatomirai)

March 17th (Fri) [School Exchange] Showa Women's University

 Move to Hiroshima

March 18th (Sat) [Historical Landmark] Hiroshima Castle, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum,

Peace Memorial Park
 [History] Testimony by Atomic Bomb Survivor
 [Cultural Experience] Junkyoji Temple Tea Ceremony
 March 19th (Sun) [Historical Landmark] Miyajima, Itsukushima Jinja Shrine
 [Historical Landmark] Kintaikyo Bridge
 [Workshop]

(2) Group B: Jackson State University: Miyagi

March 16th (Thu) Move to Miyagi
 [Courtesy Call] Iwanuma City Hall
 [Lecture on outline of the Region] Iwanuma City, Tamaura Nishi Region
 March 17th (Fri) [School Exchange] Miyagi University of Education
 March 18th (Sat) [Historical Landmark] Zuiganji Temple, Bay Cruise at Matsushima Bay
 [Regional Industry] Kanesaki Industry
 March. 19 (Sun) [Cultural Experience] Japanese Flower Arrangement
 [Workshop]

(3) Group C: St. Thomas University: Fukushima

March 16th (Thu) Move to Fukushima
 [Lecture on the Region] Fukushima Prefectural Government
 International Relationship Dept.
 [Disaster Prevention] Decontamination Information Plaza
 March 17th (Fri) [School Exchange] Fukushima University
 March 18th (Sat) [Historical Landmark] Tsurugajo Castle
 [Regional Industry] Kitakata Ramen Noodle Co. Ltd
 March 19th (Sun) [Regional Industry] Wakaki shop
 [Cultural Experience] Akabeko Painting
 [Workshop]
 March. 20 (Mon) [Interaction] TOMODACHI alumni from US Japan Council
 [Reporting Session]
 [Observation] Akihabara
 March. 21 (Tue) [Historical Landmark/Pop Culture] Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harjuku (Group A/B)
 Departure from Narita International Airport

3. Program Photos

Tokyo



3/15 [Historical Landmark] Asakusa, Senso-ji Temple (Tokyo)



3/15 [Historical Landmark] Asakusa, Senso-ji Temple (Tokyo)



3/16 [Observation] Tokyo Metropolitan Government (Group A) (Tokyo)



3/17 [School Exchange] Showa Women's University (Group A) (Tokyo)



3/20 [Interaction] TOMODACHI alumni from US Japan Council (Tokyo)



3/20 [Reporting Session] (Tokyo)

Group A: Hiroshima/Yamaguchi



3/18 [Historical Landmark] Hiroshima Castle (Hiroshima City)



3/18 [Historical Landmark] Peace Memorial Park (Hiroshima City)



3/18 [Cultural Experience] Tea Ceremony (Hiroshima City)



3/19 [Historical Landmark] Miyajima, Itsukushima Jinja Shrine (Hatsukaichi City)



3/19 [Historical Landmark] Kintaikyo Bridge (Iwakuni City)



3/19 [Workshop] (Iwakuni City)

Group B: Miyagi



3/16 [Lecture on the Region] Iwanuma City, Tamaura Nishi Region (Iwanuma City)



3/16 [Courtesy Call] Iwanuma City Hall (Iwanuma City)



3/17 [School Exchange] Miyagi University of Education (Sendai City)



3/17 [School Exchange] Miyagi University of Education (Sendai City)



3/19 [Regional Industry] Kanasaki Industry (Sendai City)



3/19 [Cultural Experience] Japanese Flower Arrangement (Sendai City)

Group C: Fukushima

	
<p>3/16 [Lecture on outline of the Region] Fukushima Prefectural Government (Fukushima City)</p>	<p>3/16 [Disaster Prevention] Decontamination Information Plaza (Fukushima City)</p>
	
<p>3/17 [School Exchange] Fukushima University (Fukushima City)</p>	<p>[Historical Landmark] Tsurugajo-Castle (Aizuwakamatsu City)</p>
	
<p>3/19 [Cultural Experience] Akabeko Painting (Kitakata City)</p>	<p>3/19 [Workshop] (Kitakata City)</p>

4. Voice from Participants

◆ KAKEHASHI Participant

The lecture given on US-Japan relationship by the Japanese official was extremely informative. The lecture provided a different view from a primarily Western opinion.

The school exchange at Miyagi University of Education was very eye opening. Many of us had never seen a Japanese college campus. What surprised me the most was how similar their campus was to

ours. Granted their campus was smaller but very similar.

There are many companies and government offices in Japan. The fish cake factory made the greatest impression on me. The staff were so nice and they even let us try the fish cakes. The massive production impressed me and it was amazing to see such large production in Japan as a foreigner.

Unfortunately we did not get to stay in a homestay. However, I will say that every Japanese person that I met was extremely friendly. Japan felt like a home away from home and the bonds formed here will never die out. Arigatou gozaimasu!

◆ **KAKEHASHI Participant**

I thought the lecture with the Hiroshima survivor and visiting the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum was a significant impression. American history does not touch on the atrocities and horrors that the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima has done. Not only the victims, but the survivors also went through many discriminations. I think more Americans should visit Hiroshima to understand what these weapons can cause people to suffer. As a part of American history Americans have the responsibility to learn about Hiroshima.

◆ **KAKEHASHI Participant**

The lectures are very eye-opening. Seeing Japan's perspective of global or local issues amazed me. I enjoyed learning about Japan very much.

The companies are very humble while the government is respectful and thoughtful. Although our group did not get to do Homestay, Japan felt like home already. Citizens here in Japan are the most welcoming, energetic, enthusiastic people I have ever met.

The school exchange is one of my favorites. Meeting others of the same age group is comfortable. Fukushima University have done so much for us and it shows. I am very thankful for this experience. I wish the U.S.A. gave just as much effort with love. I hope our side of the project is able to give more love to Japan for years to come. The many things that negatively affect Japan such as the media. My new goal is to help lend a hand by positive promotion. This experience is like no other, please continue this project.

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

◆ **University Student from School Exchange**

Through this exchange we were able to teach them a little bit about Japan, especially about Tokyo where we live. In each of our groups we went on campus tours and tours of Sangenjaya, and it seemed that all of the students who came from UMass, Boston discovered lots of new things. For example, they seemed to be surprised that a convenience store that we stopped at along the way had alcohol and hot snacks. They were also able to experience things like the large number of vending machines, the narrow streets, and the crowded conditions. They also took an enormous interest in the Japanese language, and they would all begin meals by saying the phrase, "Itadakimasu." On the whole it was a worthwhile exchange.

◆ **University Student from School Exchange**

Through the exchange session with the University of St.Thomas (UST), I saw UST students enthusiastically taking notes and reacting in a big way during the presentation on Fukushima by

Professor MacMichael. I was pleased to see them taking an interest in Fukushima. During the presentations from the UST, I was impressed to hear them talk about the diversity at UST. This is also something that I got a strong sense of during my visit to UST and the University of Houston the previous month. Compared with Japanese universities, overseas students of various different nationalities lived intermixed together, and I found the ways of thinking, lifestyles, and learning styles produced within a multilingual and multicultural setting to be extremely appealing. I was also impressed by something I experienced during last year's presidential election, which is that the students overseas take a strong interest in politics. I can't help but feel this is because there is an abundance of diversity all around them, and they earnestly engage with the situation in which they find themselves in. Despite the presence of other students like ourselves who have native languages other than English, I was surprised by how well-honed their English skills were. American society, which values exchanges of opinions amidst diversity, made me recognize anew that I need to improve my English skills.

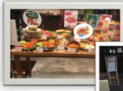

◆ **University Student from School Exchange**

I have tons of truly wonderful memories with the students from Jackson State University from my experiences in Mississippi from March 1 to 8 and the experiences in Miyagi from March 16 to 18. What was particularly memorable for me was being able to hold exchanges and deepen relationships with everyone from JSU. Though the time that we have spent together has only been about a mere ten days in total, I am confident that the friendships we have formed will last a lifetime. I have learned a great deal from them. The majority of them are black African Americans. They take pride in being black, and soundly reckon with their country's racism past and history in which their ancestors were enslaved. Through this, they had their own firmly-held beliefs about how they should react and what they would like to do in response to this. In regards to this theme of racial and religious differences, which Japanese people (myself included) are somewhat unfamiliar with, I was both amazed and deeply impressed by the fact that I and these students of the same generation could come to a solid understanding of the problem. Moreover, we visited Iwanuma City, where I am originally from, where we walked around Sennen Kibou No Oka and Takekoma Inari Shrine together. I am pleased that they came to my hometown. But more than anything, I was happy that they took an interest in the extent of the damage from the Great East Japan Earthquake and the progress made in rebuilding from it, as well as Japanese culture and history, and more. At the same time, as someone who should know everything about my hometown, it made me realize that I was unable to answer a surprising number of their questions. It made me realize that there are still tons of things I don't know about the earthquake, and Japanese culture and history, so conversely it was a learning experience for me. I have too many memories with the JSU students to mention them all here.

6. Dissemination by the participants

<div data-bbox="236 197 735 241">  Exploring Tokyo </div> <p>today. It was followed by Chanko-Nabe lunch. Chanko is the staple for the Sumo wrestlers. Beyond that, we explored Sensoji Temple and Edo Tokyo Museum to learn more about Japanese history, culture, religion, and tradition. #tomodachiUST #kakehashi2016 #Tomodachi</p> 	 <div data-bbox="1185 226 1406 255">  militarytrend Hiroshima Peace... </div> <p>いいね! 4件 2週間前</p> <p>militarytrend Today I met an atomic bomb survivor who recounted the utter destruction her family and city faced as well as the stigmatization of radiation risks. Never Again.</p>
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7. Action Plan Presented at the Reporting Session by Participants

<div data-bbox="252 1043 400 1075">ACTION PLAN</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal: follow examples (e.g. be considerate, conscious, help others, be nicer to tourists), talk about experience in Japan to friends and others • Prepare and deliver presentation about our trip to the UMass Boston community • Participate in programs such as JET • Take Japanese classes (language and history) • Organize events with Showa Boston students • Expand contact with other Tomodachi initiative students • Reunions with Kakehashi Group A at events that promote Japanese culture • Employ social media: create blog for our reflections, use <i>Shutterfly</i>, use Facebook group to stay in touch with our cohort 	<div data-bbox="935 1030 1082 1081">WHAT? "JSU Japan Day"</div> <p>A series of Japan-related activities for the JSU and Jackson community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Workshops: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Calligraphy 2. Origami 3. Japanese Language 4. History and Culture • Other Activities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food Tasting 2. Skype/Video Message with MUE Scholars 3. JSU TOMODACHI Inouye Scholars Panel Discussion 4. Pen Pal Sign-Up 5. Karaoke  
<p>Action Plan (Group A)</p> <p>Relation between US and Japan will be strengthened by sharing personal experiences in Kakehashi project to friends and family, organizing events with Showa Boston students, expanding contact with other Tomodachi initiative students, participating the JET program and so on.</p>	<p>Action Plan (Group B)</p> <p>Led by the participants in the KAKEHASHI Tomodachi Inoue Project, findings will be disseminated through regular meetings, workshops of Japanese cultures, updating of Tomodachi Inoue website and other networking media, presentations and other various methods.</p>
<div data-bbox="308 1760 695 1796">Who, How, and When?</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of Japanese culture in our lives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Especially that of Fukushima and around our university: 2-3 months • Tours around the University of St. Thomas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate: Within a week • Creation of a blog and vlog <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capture and permeate the impact Japan has had on our personal lives: Within a month • Our everyday personal interactions and testimonies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share a first-person view: Already begun • Present the Japanese culture to students at Freshman Symposium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within a year 	<p>Action Plan (Group C)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of Japanese culture in our lives • Tours around the University of St. Thomas • Creation of a blog and vlog • Our everyday personal interactions and testimonies • Present the Japanese culture to students at Freshman Symposium