



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

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 73 Japanese Americans 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 lecture by ministry, visiting historical sites, school exchange, farm stay 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. 73 Participants

【Prefectures Visited】

Tokyo, Chiba (Group A/B), Hiroshima (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”

[History/Culture] Japanese Overseas Migration Museum

March 16th (Thu) ~ March 19th (Sun)

Divided into three groups. Group A and B visited Chiba and Group C visited Hiroshima.

After the local prefecture program, all 3 groups traveled back to Tokyo.

(1) Group A/B: Chiba

March 16th (Thu) [Observation] Odaiba
Move to Chiba

[Cutting-Edge Technology] UMIHOTARU

[Courtesy Call] Kamogawa city

March 17th (Fri) [School Exchange] Josai International University

[Farm stay] Meeting with family

March 18th (Sat) [Environment/Lecture] Tanada Club

[Environment/Nature] Oyama Senmaida rice field

[Cultural Experience] Making Futomaki Matsuri sushi

	[Cultural Experience] Straw craft making
	[Farm stay]
March 19 th (Sun)	[Farm stay] Farewell Party
	[Traditional culture] Japanese drum
	[Local Industry] Minnami no Sato
	Move to Tokyo
	[Workshop]
(2) Group C: Hiroshima	
March 16 th (Thu)	Move to Hiroshima
	[History] Testimony by Atomic Bomb Survivor
	[Historical landmark] Atomic Bomb Dome, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Peace Memorial Park
March 17 th (Fri)	[Historical landmark] Miyajima, Itsukushima Jinja Shrine
	[School Experience] Prefectural University of Hiroshima
March 18 th (Sat)	[Historical landmark] Hiroshima castle
	[Homestay] Akiota-cho
March 19 th (Sun)	[Homestay] Farewell Party
	[Workshop]
March 20 th (Mon)	(Group A/B)
	[Historical and Traditional Culture] Edo-Tokyo museum
	[Historical landmark] Sensoji Temple
	(Group C)
	Move to Tokyo
	[Observation: Oaiba
	(All groups)
	[Reporting Session]
March 21 st (Tue)	[Historical landmark] Meiji Shrine
	Departure from Narita International Airport

3. Program Photos

Tokyo



3/15 [Orientation] (Tokyo)



3/15 [History/Culture] Japanese Overseas Migration Museum (Tokyo)



3/20 [Reporting Session] (Tokyo)

Group A/B : Chiba



3/16 [Courtesy Call] Kamogawa city (Kamogawa City)



3/17 [School Exchange] Josai International University (Tokyo)



3/18 [Environment/Nature] Oyama Senmaida rice field (Kamogawa City)



3/18 [Cultural Experience] Making Futomaki Matsuri sushi (Kamogawa City)



3/18 [Cultural Experience] Straw craft making (Kamogawa City)



3/19 [Farm stay] Farewell Party (Kamogawa City)

Group C : Hiroshima



3/16 [Historical landmark] Peace Memorial Park (Hiroshima City)



3/17 [School Experience] Prefectural University of Hiroshima (Hiroshima City)



3/17 [Historical landmark] Miyajima, Itsukushima Jinja Shrine (Hatsukaichi City)



3/17 [Historical landmark] Hiroshima castle (Hiroshima City)



3/18 [Homestay] (Akiota-cho)



3/19 [Workshop] (Hiroshima City)

4. Voice from Participants

◆ U.S.A. University Student

My favorite lecture was talk given at the Japanese Overseas Museum about the definition of Nikkeijin. That definitely got me thinking about my own identity as a Nikkei and how I can promote my own culture in the U.S. The school exchange was very eye opening and gave us the opportunity to see what life is like for students our own age. I also enjoyed learning calligraphy and tea ceremony – very traditional parts of Japanese culture. Meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was interesting as we got to hear the history of Japanese-US relations from the Japanese perspective, which is different from the American narrative. The homestay was one of my favorite experiences as it shared us life in a more rural part of Japan. Their kindness and generosity was overwhelming and shared us the giving spirit of the Japanese people in Kamogawa.

◆ U.S.A. University Student

The lecture on nikkei-jin left a big impression-as someone of mixed race I often feel like an outsider. The lecture made me feel like I had a place to belong. The lecture on foreign affairs was interesting but I wish they would've touched on controversies concerning Japan ex. Okinawa naval base, comfort women. The homestay was my favorite part of this trip! loved being in the countryside, learning Japanese from a Japanese family in a 200 year-old Japanese house. I learned so much from immersing myself in the culture and I already miss my Obaachan and Ojiichan!

◆ U.S.A. University Student

The most significant impression was from the lecture, because that is one of the things I have never really seriously experienced. It drew my attention to the importance of how Japan thinks of global alliances as a whole. I loved the lecture paired along with personal story shared by the Hiroshima bombing survivor, for they both gave a new perspective I can share with everyone I know back at home in Tennessee, and wherever I go.

5. Voice from Japanese Participants




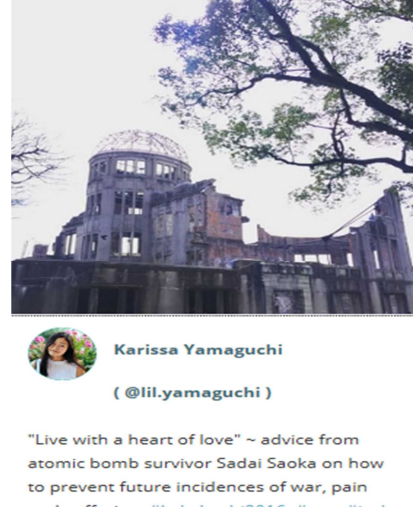
◆ School Exchange Program University Professor

Among the participants from this university were many students who will study abroad starting from the next school year, as well as students who wanted to go study abroad but were unable to do so for economic reasons. For them, this served as an excellent opportunity to come into contact with practical, everyday English. What is more, since this department contains many students who would like to work in the tourism industry in the future, it served as an excellent opportunity to practice not only their English, but also the “hospitality” that they study on a daily basis in a theoretical sense. It seemed to greatly motivate the students. Thank you very much.

◆ School Exchange Program University Student

I had to abandon my plans to study abroad for an extended period of time, and so international exchange events like this one provide an invaluable learning opportunity for me. You realize a lot of stuff in hands-on settings, particularly when it comes to English. During the roll-call, I was surprised to hear the delegation visiting Japan answer with “Here.” In English class we only learned to say, “Yes,” and I feel that these sorts of fine details can only be learned from speaking English and through everyday life. It was an invaluable opportunity to learn things that we cannot normally learn in Japan.

6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>John Tobe added 19 new photos. March 15 · 🌐</p> <p>#Jaclkakehashi Yesterday, we learned what it means to be Nikkeijin at the #japaneseoverseasmigrationmuseum Japanese diaspora is worldwide! #kakehashi2016 #kakehashiproject</p>	 <p>Ruthie Shimomura March 18</p> <p>The March, 2017 JACL Kakehashi students visited the Prefectural University of Hiroshima today!</p>
<p>Message about Observation</p> <p>Yesterday, we learned what it means to be Nikkeijin at the Japanese Overseas Migration Museum.</p>	<p>Message about School Exchange</p> <p>The March 2017 JACL Kakehashi students visited the Prefectural University of Hiroshima today!</p>
 <p>Ruthie Shimomura March 17</p> <p>David Kawamoto's JACL Kakehashi Group C is visiting the Hiroshima Peace Park today.</p>	 <p>Karissa Yamaguchi (@lil.yamaguchi)</p> <p>"Live with a heart of love" ~ advice from atomic bomb survivor Sadai Saoka on how to prevent future incidences of war, pain and suffering. #kakehashi2016 #usa #jacl</p>
<p>Message about Observation</p> <p>JACL Kakehashi Group C is visiting the Hiroshima Peace Park today.</p>	<p>Message about Lecture</p> <p>"Live with a heart of love" – advice from atomic bomb survivor on how to prevent future incidences of war, pain and suffering.</p>

7. Action Plan Presented at the Reporting Session by Participants

ACTION PLAN Why? When? Who? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations to family, friends, colleagues • <u>Kakehashi</u> reunions • JACL recruitment/retention • Kids camp, teaching, educating diverse communities • Articles, panels, videos • Political mobilization, voter registration 	HOW / WHAT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread awareness through social media platforms • Facebook group to keep participants connected and up to date • Quarterly check-ins on actions in respective communities • One-year reunion to solidify and grow community back home
Action Plan Presentation (Group A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation to family, friends, colleagues • Kakehashi reunion • JACL recruitment, retention • Kids camp, teaching, education diverse communities • Article, panels, videos • Political mobilization, voter registration 	Action Plan Presentation (Group B) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread awareness through social media platforms. <p>1) Facebook group to keep participants connected and us to date 2) Quarterly check-ins on actions respective communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-year reunion solidify and grow community back home.
<div data-bbox="210 1037 750 1500"> <h3>HOW</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Through stories/experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Blogs/Social Media ○ In classes ○ Person to person ○ Organizations </div>	Action Plan Presentation (Group C) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through stories / experiences <p>1) Blogs/Social Media 2) In classes 3) Person to person 4) Organizaton</p>