



Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA)

KAKEHASHI Project

Japan Bowl Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 22 US students, who are winners in 2017 National Japan Bowl and 2 chaperones visited Japan from July 19th to July 26th, 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. In Nagasaki, the participants learned the Japanese history, culture and the peace-seeking efforts and deepened the relationship with Japanese people through the homestay and school exchange program. In Tokyo, besides of the courtesy calls, they experienced the observation tour in Akihabara, Asakusa and Harajuku, tea ceremony and origami, getting touch with the wide variety of Japanese aspects from traditional / pop culture to cutting edge technology.

The participants found and were impressed by the cleanness and convenience of the cities and kindness of Japanese people, etc. and each participant actively shared their individual interests and experiences during the program through social media. Based on those findings in Japan, participants made group presentations in the final session and reported their action plans to be taken after returning home.

【Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants】

U.S.A. 24 participants (including 2 chaperones)

【Prefectures Visited】

Tokyo, Nagasaki

2. Program Schedule

July 19 th (Wed)	Arrival at Narita International Airport
July 20 th (Thu)	[Orientation] [Briefing] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, North American Affairs Bureau [Observation] Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building Observatories Move to Nagasaki [Pop Culture] Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum “Studio Ghibli Layout Designs”
July 21 st (Fri)	[Local Industry/Company] Choko Soy Sauce Co., Ltd. (Soy Sauce Factory) [School Exchange] Nagasaki Prefectural Omura High School

	[Historical Landmarks] Oura Tenshu-do Cathedral, Glover Garden
July 22 nd (Sat)	[Historical Landmarks] Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, Peace Park [History] Testimony by Atomic Bomb Survivor [Cultural Experience] Making Omura Sushi (traditional and local cuisine in Omura City) [Homestay] (Omura City)
July 23 rd (Sun)	[Cultural Experience] Nodake-mura (making bamboo flute/stencil dyeing) [Farewell Party with Host Family] Omura City [Historical and Cultural Experience] Former Kusumoto Masataka Mansion (Kimono Fitting Experience, Omura Park / Kushima Castle) Move to Tokyo
July 24 th (Mon)	[Interaction] Japan Bowl Supporters Group (JBSG) (Tea ceremony, Origami) [Interaction] Japanese university students of Japan National Student Association (JNSA) Fund (Observation tour in Akihabara and Asakusa) [Workshop]
July 25 th (Tue)	[Observation] National Diet (House of Representatives) [Pop Culture] Harajuku [Cutting Edge Technology] TEPIA Advanced Technology Gallery [Courtesy Call] Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado [Interaction] Reception hosted by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC and the U.S. Embassy
July 26 th (Wed)	[Reporting Session] [Courtesy Call] Mr. Hagiuda, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Departure from Narita International Airport

3. Program Photos

	
7/20 [Observation] Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building Observatories (Tokyo)	7/20 [Pop Culture] Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum "Studio Ghibli Layout" (Nagasaki)



7/21 [School Exchange] Nagasaki Prefectural Omura High School (Omura City, Nagasaki)



7/22 [History] Testimony by Atomic Bomb Survivor (Nagasaki City, Nagasaki)



7/22 [Cultural Experience] Making Omura Sushi (Omura City, Nagasaki)



7/23 [Cultural Experience] Nodake-mura (Omura City, Nagasaki)



7/23 [Farewell Party with Host Family] (Omura City, Nagasaki)



7/24 [Interaction] Japan Bowl Supporters Group (JBSG) (Tokyo)



7/25 [Courtesy Call] Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado (Tokyo)



7/26 [Courtesy Call] Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hagiuda (Tokyo)

4. Voice from Participants

◆ U.S.A. High School Student

I was surprised by the details told in the survivor's past. His retelling of the Nagasaki bomb gave us the second side of the story we never heard from American textbooks. I found Omura High School to be much larger than I had expected. Most American high school consist of one large building, while this one was composed of three buildings, all connected by passageways and bridges. We were also surprised by the difference in Japanese clubs and the afterschool clubs in America. During the weekends and holiday, American students tend to stay at home, while Japanese students continue their after school clubs. It is interesting how similar the Japanese government and diet is structured compared to American ones. I am aware Japan structured its government off of Western governments after WW II, but being physically present in the buildings and listening to our tour guide allowed me to make better connections. I have home stayed before, but enjoyed the one night stay in Omura. My family worked on a farm, and I was able to compare what was grown there to what is grown on my grandmother's farm in Poland, for example, I have never seen Japanese Basil or the Okura plant.

◆ U.S.A. High School Student

The presentation given by the Atomic Bomb survivor was so moving, hearing a testimony from someone who had to experience those horrors nearly brought me to tears. The school exchange was a bit nerve wracking at first, but the Japanese high school students' English was very good and they were very polite and helpful. The Choco Shoyu Company tour was cool. I liked seeing that traditional methods for making soy sauce were still being used. The homestay experience was better than I would have imagined. Our homestay family was so enthusiastic. I know my conversational skills are terrible but I will still practice.

◆ U.S.A. High School Student

Since I had never been to Japan, I didn't really know what to expect. Anything that I had seen that was of Japan was from the Internet. So, going to Japan was like making all those pictures come to life. I really enjoyed going to the soy sauce factory and learning about the making of soy sauce. I did not realize how long and complex the process was. Every bottle takes a long time to make. I have a new found appreciation for this product. I honestly loved the school exchange program. The kids, though shy at first, were extremely friendly and welcoming, and soon enough we were all laughing and having fun. Seeing Kyudo and the orchestra were also very cool. Going to the National Diet was an incredible experience. Learned a lot about the government and was fortunate enough to tour the building. I couldn't have asked for a better host family. Not only were my host parents fun people, they made us delicious food, allowed us to pick blueberries and even dressed us up in Yukatas. Of course, we took plenty of photos and had a great time. It was one of my favorite parts of the trip. Touring Asakusa and Akihabara with the college students was another favorite memory. They were very cool and charismatic and made my experience in Tokyo a memorable one. Wish I

had more time with them.

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

◆ Host Family

Japanese skills of the students were the best ever although we have been accommodating many students from around the world. They are very enthusiastic and talented, so we are excited about their futures. We hope that they come visit us with their family again.

◆ School Exchange Program: School Teacher

I was surprised to see that some of the students who are usually shy to speak in English during my class were very much enjoying conversations with the U.S. students. They got a good influence from the U.S. students seeing their efforts to speak out their ideas in Japanese. This exchange program became a great impetus to prepare for their school trip to the U.S. which will be scheduled in December of their second grade. The U.S. students were very good mannered and always asked us before they do, so we did not have any trouble at all.

◆ University Student

The U.S. students had much knowledge about Japan which even Japanese students do not know, and I felt that we should learn more about Japan. In the origami session, which I joined late the group, shamefully I was taught how to fold origami by the US high school students. I was surprised that they could speak Japanese very fluently even though Japanese is one of the hardest language to learn, and at the same time I wondered why the Japanese feel reluctant to learn English. I got more motivated to study English through this exchange program. It was great to see their vitality, enthusiasm for learning about Japan and willingness to interact with us.

6. Dissemination by the participants



(Instagram) Taking on kimono and yukata with new and old friends!	(Facebook) Homestay in Nagasaki. Everyone was so welcoming and nice. I had a great time.
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7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

 <p>A c t i o n P l a n</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Website - kakehashijapanbowl.weebly.com - Social media - Video compilation - Presentations - Japanese club, culture festivals, libraries 	 <p>Our Action Plan</p> <p>How are we going to do this???</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Through social media and talking about this experience to our classmates and community 2. Through a "vlog" (video blog) that can communicate our experience through live action film, which can give a more personal and specific idea of what we are trying to get across <p>Goal: To promote international relations between US and Japan by informing the younger generation</p> <p>Video will be published by August 24th and posted on Youtube with a link on the Kakehashi FB for all to see</p>
<p>We wish to spread information about Japan and get students interested in Kakehashi and study abroad programs.</p> <p>We are planning to create a weebly blog where everyone can post an article relating to his or her experience in Japan. Posts will include videos and pictures.</p> <p>(http://kakehashijapanbowl.weebly.com/)</p> <p>The members will also be giving presentations about their experience at their school, Japanese Club, in a festival or event of community or local library, etc.</p>	<p>Goal: To promote international relations between US and Japan by informing our experiences in Japan to the younger generation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Through social media and talking about this experience to our classmates and community 2. Through a "vlog" (video blog) that can communicate our experience through live action film, which can give a more personal and specific idea of what we are trying to get across <p>*Video will be published by August 24th and posted on YouTube with a link on the Kakehashi FB for all to see.</p> <p>(https://www.facebook.com/groups/256539684847261/)</p>