



Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA/Canada)
KAKEHASHI Project
The Winners of Japanese Speech Contest (USA)
Japanese Language Communication (Canada)
Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 9 participants from the U.S. and 9 participants from Canada visited Japan from January 9 to January 16, 2018 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, Japanese cultural experience, and opinion exchanges at various institutions, the participants enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to improve their understanding of Japan and shared their individual interests and experiences through social media. 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 Numbers of Participants】

United States of America: 9 participants

Canada: 9 participants

【Prefectures Visited】

Tokyo, Ehime

2. Program Schedule

January 09 (Tue)	Arrival
January 10 (Wed)	【Orientation】 【Lecture】 North American Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs 【Observation】 Asakusa
January 11 (Thu)	【Observation】 Fukagawa Edo Museum 【Lecture】 About Japan’s animation Move to Ehime
January 12 (Fri)	【Courtesy Call】 Ehime Prefectural Government 【School Exchange】 Matsuyama University 【Observation】 Dogo-onsen district
January 13 (Sat)	【Observation】 Ishite-ji Temple, Matsuyama Castle with Matsuyama University students

	【Homestay】
January 14 (Sun)	【Farewell Party with Host Family】
	【Workshop】
January 15 (Mon)	Move to Tokyo
	【Courtesy Call】 Mr. Yasutoshi Nishimura, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary
	【Reporting Session】
January 16 (Tue)	【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku
	Departure

3. Program Photos

	
1/11 【Observation】 Fukagawa Edo Museum	1/12 【Courtesy Call】 Ehime Prefectural Government
	
1/12 【School Exchange】 Matsuyama University	1/12 【Observation】 Dogo-onsen district
	
1/13 【Observation】 Matsuyama Castle	1/14 【Farewell Party with Host Family】

	
1/14 【Workshop】	1/15 【Reporting Session】

4. Voice from Participants

◆ U.S.A.

The first lecture about Japan's foreign policy was the most interesting one. It was interesting to learn about the division in society between utopia pacifists and realistic pacifists; I was under the impression that Japan was mostly the former. It was a good experience practicing Japanese with the Matsuyama students. I've realized I've become more confident about my speaking abilities, and I think this confidence will help improve my Japanese further in the future as I continue my studies. I think the visit to the Ehime Prefectural Government was very informative; the information was probably obtainable through other means, but this presentation was a good overview that I wouldn't have otherwise obtained. The homestay was the best part of the program. I witnessed first-hand hospitality of Japanese, not only at their home, but also when we went out in public when they interacted with other Japanese people on our behalf.

◆ U.S.A.

The lectures were very informative and concise, which I thought was a great way to introduce various aspects of Japan in-depth for those who were unfamiliar with topics such as politics and social issues. The school exchange was a wonderful experience that really pushed me to practice Japanese with native speakers in a very pleasant, casual setting. Since there was not much of an age gap and we all shared the same status of being a student, it was easier to converse and approach the university students. I really made great memories and friends during this time, which I will never forget. Going to the government offices allowed me to view and comprehend the inner workings of a Japanese government. I was able to notice the effort put into promoting different policies and implementing various plans to engage its Japanese citizens. It was nice to see things such as "Yuru-chara," and saw it as a possible source of inspiration the American government can also draw from. The home stay experience was actually my first, so I was extremely nervous. However, I was able to experience Japanese hospitality (omotenashi) at its finest. I was able to understand and gain exposure to the personal, everyday life of Japanese people, who drive the entire nation. It is a Chapter of this program that I will remember.

◆ Canada

The lectures were very informative on different topics. I specifically enjoyed a lot the lecture of the Ehime Prefecture: it was quite interesting to see how they handle different challenges and how they promote tourism in Ehime. The exchange with the Japanese students was really nice: it was so fun to get to talk with these students about Japan and what each of us learn from each other. The home stay was a really nice experience; I enjoyed it a lot. I only regret that my level of Japanese was not better so I could have shared more easily with my home stay family. Overall, this program was an incredible experience.

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



◆ Student who participated in the school exchange



This was the first exchange event in which I'd taken part since coming to university. Although I felt a bit flustered sometimes because I had trouble finding the words in English when I tried to talk to our foreign visitors, it was a really great experience. Matsuyama isn't a big city, but I think we were able to show them all the parts that are distinctive of Matsuyama and I was very pleased that they had a good time. Our chats and discussions were also really interesting, because we were able to make new discoveries about things that we wouldn't usually notice in Japan, such as what they felt was different about Japan. I'd definitely like to take part again if I have the chance.

◆ Host family



All three were from different states, so we learned lots of things, which was deeply interesting. I gained a great deal of interesting and useful information, such as how they study Japanese.

6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>Jack Li posted 4 photos. January 15 at 6:29pm · 公</p> <p>If you are looking for work, you should go to Tokyo. If you are looking to relax, you should go outside of Tokyo.</p> <p>Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture, Castle tower, cycling routes, hot springs, and friendly people. #matsuyama #ehime #kakehashi2018 #kakehashiproject</p>	 <p>Melissa Miura posted 2 photos. 2 mins · Instagram · 公</p> <p>Nipponjin/日本人...for 30 minutes 🙏🙏🙏 Grateful to my wonderful Japanese host Mom for a warm welcome that outlasted the cold, and so glad I got to learn about and explore the prefecture of Ehime in Shikoku to get a taste of Japan beyond Tokyo #kakehashi #kakehashipop #jice #japan #usa @Toon-shi, Ehime, Japan</p>
<p>About Ehime (Facebook) If you are looking for work, you should go to Tokyo. If you are looking to relax, you should go outside of Tokyo.</p>	<p>About homestay (Facebook) Japanese for 30 minutes. Grateful to my wonderful Japanese host Mo for a warm welcome that outlasted the cold,</p>

<p>Matsuyama, Ehime prefecture, Castle tower, cycling routes, hot springs, and friendly people.</p>	<p>and so glad I got to learn about and explore the prefecture of Ehime in Shikoku to get a taste of Japan beyond Tokyo.</p>
 <p>Like by kekechan05, ookamijou and 82 others nadiaydg 昨日は浅草寺に行った。とても綺麗でした。 #kakehashi #jice #japan #canada #sensojitemple</p>	 <p>melienys_12 I want to first of all extend my thanks to the Kakehashi Project for the honor of participating in their program. Although it was only for a short amount of time, I've had such an amazing experience exchanging with Japanese people, visiting temples, and staying with a host family but I have to say that visiting Matsuyama city in Ehime prefecture on Shikoku Island was extremely impactful. It exceeded all of my expectations and offered me a different perspective into a local city in a lesser known prefecture. The scenery was absolutely breathtaking, the people kind and hospitable, and the food was delectable! Many thanks to Mikyan, Ehime's little mandarin mascot, for getting me through the brutal chill of a Japanese winter and [redacted] san, our amazing coordinator for putting up with my inability to get up early and being late to breakfast</p> <p>03 likes 2 DAYS AGO Add a comment...</p>
<p>About Asakusa (Facebook) We went to Senso-ji temple yesterday. It was very beautiful.</p>	<p>About overall of the program (Instagram) I have to say that visiting Matsuyama city was extremely impactful. It exceeded all of my expectations and offered me a different perspective into a local city in a lesser known prefecture.</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt idea of Mikyan • Social media • Host info sessions with Japanese departments and student societies • Host fun programs 	<p>Action Plan (Group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reddit: "Ask Me Anything" • Collective Facebook Page • Support individual projects of group members • Sharing findings in both English and French 
<p>Action Plan 1 (U.S.A.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt idea of Mikyan, a mascot of Ehime. (Promoting their local products using mascots etc.) • Share photos and knowledge that we gained through the experiences during the program by social medias. • Share our experiences with member of Japanese departments and student societies. • Host fun programs. 	<p>Action Plan 2 (Canada)</p> <p>1) Action Plan (Individual) Posts on social medias, Class presentations in our Universities</p> <p>2) Action plan (Group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reddit-Ask me anything thread. • Facebook postings on tourist related sites. • Sharing information both in English and French.