



Japan's Friendship Ties Program (USA)

KAKEHASHI Project

Sports Exchange Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 15 participants from the U.S. visited Japan from January 16 to January 23, 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: 15 participants

【Prefectures Visited】

Tokyo, Okinawa

2. Program Schedule

January 16 (Tue)	Arrival
January 17 (Wed)	【Orientation】 【Lecture】 North American Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs 【Courtesy Call】 American Center Japan 【Observation】 Asakusa
January 18 (Thu)	Move to Okinawa 【Cultural Experience】 Okinawa Karate Kaikan, Museum, Lecture about Okinawa Karate 【Cultural Experience】 Eisa (traditional dance) at Okinawa University
January 19 (Fri)	【Cultural Experience】 Karate Lesson at Okinawa Karate Kaikan 【Observation】 Shuri-ryo Castle
January 20 (Sat)	【School Exchange】 Okinawa University, Okinawa International University (Sports Karate) 【Meeting with Host Family】 【Homestay】
January 21 (Sun)	【Farewell Party with Host Family】

【Workshop】

January 22 (Mon) Move to Tokyo

【Lecture】 Japan Karatedo Federation

【Reporting Session】

January 23 (Tue) Departure

3. Program Photos

	
<p>1/17 【Lecture】 North American Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>1/18 【Cultural Experience】 Lecture about Okinawa Karate</p>
	
<p>1/18 【Cultural Experience】 Eisa (traditional dance) at Okinawa University</p>	<p>1/19 【Cultural Experience】 Karate Lesson at Okinawa Karate Kaikan</p>
	
<p>1/20 【School Exchange】 Okinawa University, Okinawa International University (Sports Karate)</p>	<p>1/21 【Farewell Party with Host Family】</p>

	
1/22 【Lecture】 Japan Karatedo Federation	1/22 【Reporting Session】

4. Voice from Participants

◆ I enjoyed the Eisa dancing. It showed me that Japanese traditions are not just traditions, but are performed daily. I loved the homestay. I really enjoy connecting at a personal level with people from other cultures. I had so many good conversations with my host father about the battle of Okinawa. Also, I got to experience a lot peace looks like in the modern day, playing with my family's grandchildren and teaching them some American games and English Words. My favorite moment was seeing the peace memorial in Okinawa. It showed me that peace is possible.

◆ This was amazing! I loved learning about the different styles of Karate and getting to experience their similarities and differences. I've only seriously studies Shotokan karate before, so I enjoyed being able to compare it to the other styles. Additionally, seeing the museum in the center and hearing about how Karate spread throughout the world made me more eager to share it with others. Learning Eisa was so much fun! It was good to see that so many Japanese are in contact with their culture like that. And the students were delightful! I'd never done a dance like that before, but they were so helpful and understanding, despite the language barrier. Smiles are universal

◆ The school exchange was an amazing experience. It was exciting to see Karate-ka (Karate masters) from Japan. The dedication and skill level of the Japanese students are inspirational. Learning from the professionals and about their styles was a memorable experience. Eisa dancing with Okinawa University was a fun experience. I appreciate the students for taking time out of their schedules to perform and teach us how to dance and use the Japanese instruments. They were all nice and patient.

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





◆ Host family

I was so happy that they took an interest in karate and other aspects of Okinawan culture. They didn't say goodbye; they said, "see you again."


◆ Host family

We were able to learn about unfamiliar places. Everyone was very friendly and we spent an enjoyable time together. Our family had fun, too.

6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>Alex Gagnon added 20 photos and a video to the album: Kakehashi. Jan 19 at 8:02pm · Tomigusuku, Okinawa · 🌴</p> <p>Day 4 of #kakehashi2017 woke up early to go to the castle with Jenni Lilieholm and Tiffany MacLean and ended up soaked by the time we got back to the hotel. Then we had our first karate seminars in Gyuju-ryu and shaolin-ryu</p> 	 <p>Marella Cortes Gungobさんが写真を追加しました — Tiffany MacLeanさん、他2人と📍Okinawa Japanにいます。 1月20日 19:39 · Hyogo Prefecture兵庫県 姫路市 · 🌊</p> <p>Our host family took us out to see the ocean and beach comb.</p>  <p>いいね! コメントする シェアする</p>
<p>About the 4th day of the program (Facebook)</p> <p>Day 4 of KAKEHASHI 2017 woke up early to go to the castle with Jenni and Tiffany and ended up soaked by the time we got back to the hotel. Then we had our first karate seminars in Gyuju-ryu and Shaolin-ryu.</p>	<p>About homestay (Facebook)</p> <p>Our host family took us out to see the ocean and beach comb.</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We want to spread the word about Japan, Okinawa, our karate exchange, and other great experiences ▪ Social media can reach the most people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Post scenic photos ▪ Caption photos and describe the history ▪ Post immediately when we return and in the next few months, and then during the 2020 Olympics 	<p>Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We want to spread the word about Japan, Okinawa, our karate exchange and other experiences by social medias. ▪ Our dojo communities already a connection to Japan ,so they will be interested to hear what it was like to train here. Therefore, we plan the following activities as our action plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give informal speech immediately upon our return. - Write a short paragraph for our monthly newsletters.
---	--

- Talk to other members about visiting Japan.