



# **KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)** **Inbound program for KAKEHASHI Inouye the 1st Slot** **Program Report**

## **1. Program Overview**

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 50 university students from the U.S. visited Japan from February 19 to February 26, 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 the lectures, observations and interactions with Japanese people etc., the participants enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to improve their understanding of Japan and shared their individual interests and experiences on social media. 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 the U.S.

### **[Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants]**

United States of America: 50 participants,

Group A (25 participants) : Washington and Lee University (State of Virginia)

Group B (25 participants) : Miami Dade College (State of Florida)

### **[Prefectures Visited]**

Tokyo (All), Ishikawa (Group A), Kumamoto (Group B)

## **2. Program Schedule**

	Group A	Group B
Feb.19(Tue)	Arrival	
Feb.20(Wed)	<b>【Orientation】</b> <b>【Lecture】</b> Professor Kenji Hasegawa, Yokohama National University	
	<b>【Observation】</b> Asakusa, Edo Tokyo Museum	<b>【Observation】</b> Suginami Animation Museum
Feb.21(Thu)	Move to Ishikawa from Tokyo <b>【School Exchange】</b> Kanazawa University <b>【Observation of Historical Building】</b> Higashi-chayamachi	Move to Kumamoto from Tokyo <b>【Courtesy Call】</b> Kumamoto Prefectural Office <b>【Observation of Historical Building】</b> Kumamoto Castle

Feb.22(Fri)	<b>【Observation of Historical Building】</b> Kanazawa Castle, Kenrokuen Garden <b>【Cultural Experience】</b> Japanese sweets making <b>【Meeting with Host Family】</b>	<b>【School Exchange】</b> Kumamoto University <b>【Meeting with Host Family】</b>
Feb.23(Sat)	<b>【Homestay】</b>	
Feb.24(Sun)	<b>【Farewell Party with Host Family】</b> <b>【Workshop】</b>	
Feb.25(Mon)	Move to Tokyo from Ishikawa	Move to Tokyo from Kumamoto
	<b>【Reporting Session】</b> <b>【Courtesy Call】</b> US-Japan Council	
Feb.26(Tue)	<b>【Observation】</b> Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku Departure	

### 3. Program Photos

#### All groups (Tokyo)

	
2/20 <b>【Lecture】</b> Professor Kenji Hasegawa, Yokohama National University	2/25 <b>【Reporting Session】</b>

#### Group A (Ishikawa)

	
2/21 <b>【School Exchange】</b> Kanazawa University	2/22 <b>【Cultural Experience】</b> Japanese sweets making

#### Group B (Kumamoto)

	
2/21【Observation of Historical Building】 Kumamoto Castle	2/24【Farewell Party with Host Family】

#### 4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

##### Group A (Ishikawa)

###### ◆ U.S.A. Student

It was an honor to be invited to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The lecture provided a comprehensive introduction to Japanese history and culture, this knowledge was very helpful to have at the start of the program. I really appreciated being matched with a Japanese host at Kanazawa University. It made me feel very welcomed and he answered a lot of questions we had. Completely different from visiting historical sites, the homestay allowed us a look into the daily life of a Japanese family and I saw how similar US and Japanese cultures are. The combination of homestay and sightseeing gives a glimpse into the cultural background and daily lives of the Japanese.

###### ◆ U.S.A. Student

The lecture at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about Japan's history was quite informative and I found it very useful since I did not know anything about Japan before the KAKEHASHI program. I loved the school exchange and learning Ikebana! I wish we could have spent more time with the students. At the homestay, we got to bond with our family, there were three young kids, it reminded me of my home as a child, very warm and welcoming. I loved walking around the "tourist" sites, the gardens, shrines, old villages. Japan has a long history, which the United States does not. I enjoyed being in this place that has centuries of culture and history. My favorite part of Japan is the integration of nature everywhere; along every sidewalk are potted flowers and trees, and that was beautiful. I wish we did that in the United States.

### **Group B (Kumamoto)**

#### **◆ U.S.A. Student**

The lecture was the experience that gave me the most insight into Japanese current political climate as well as some outstanding historical and geographic facts that were unknown to me. Sharing with some Japanese students that were not only about our age, but have our same innate curiosity and willingness to explore other cultures, provided us with a huge chunk of colloquial knowledge as well as good friends. Kumamoto government let us know most of what we needed to know about the city, but also about the best way to pursue our goal of spreading Japanese culture and some day to be an active part of it as well.

#### **◆ U.S.A. Student**

By far the best part of the whole experience was the home stay. Coming to Kakehashi, as a whole, I was most nervous about it. Yet it proved to have the best effect on my whole trip. My JIJI (grandpa) and BABA (grandma) proved to be the sweetest individual and best guides for Japanese lifestyle/ way of life. BABA cooked us a hot pot soup with variety of vegetables and meats, all of which was delicious. Afterward we made our way to the Onsen (hot spring) and just like that we were family. That same night I could not help but to cry as they reminded me vividly of the grandparents I had lost. I cannot express how thankful I am for this experience and moments. Saying good –bye and after too little time together has left me feeling a bit of despair, yet, I know I'll see them and the trees we planted together again. I will come back to Japan and be reunited with my BABA and JIJI once more.

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

#### **◆ Host family (Group A) (extract)**





Although I feared it would be a little difficult to communicate only in English, I was glad that a pair of students stayed with us. They were young energetic students full of interest and curiosity, so my family and I had fun as if we had traveled abroad while we were all in Kanazawa. I am grateful. It was also valuable experience for my junior and senior high school children.

#### **◆ Host family (Group B)(extract)**

It was the second time that we accepted American university students, and it was also nice this time. It was a good experience for them to plant a tree on the second day during their 3-day and 2-night stay. I would be happy if they could come back to see the grown tree in several years. I hope their first hot spring experience and Japanese rural scenes will be their pleasant memories. I was moved that the word KAKEHASHI was condensed into the party and the farewell when they finally got on the bus.



## 6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>boinJapan Kanazawa has been full of amazing and authentic experiences that definitely have shaped my love for Japan. We took the bullet train from Tokyo to Kanazawa which was awesome bc I love travel by</p>	 <p>Washington and Lee University Japanese Program 日本語 February 25 at 10:13 AM Toilet in the Bullet Train - everything so clean and clearly marked! #kakehashi18 #usjc</p>
<p>(Group A) About Kanazawa (Instagram)</p> <p>Kanazawa has been full of amazing and authentic experiences that definitely have shaped my love for Japan. We took the bullet train from Tokyo to Kanazawa which was awesome, I love travel by Shinkansen.</p>	<p>(Group A) About Toilet (Facebook)</p> <p>Toilet in Bullet Train --- everything is so clean and clearly marked.</p>
 <p>Mauricio Ferrazza 19 hrs · 🌐 Students at Miami Dade College traveled to Japan as part of the 2019 Kakehashi Program, an eight day cultural exchange between Japan and the USA. Students were exposed to the Japanese culture in a broad way, learning how to make sushi, the traditional tea ceremony, dressing in kimonos, zen meditation, meeting with Japanese students and a two day home stay with Japanese families. #kakehashi2019 #Jice #japan #usa #mdc</p>	 <p>Mauricio Ferrazza 20 hrs · 🌐 Students from Miami Dade College visit Kumamoto University as part of the #kakehashi2019 program. #Jice #usa #japan #mdc</p>
<p>(Group B) About Kakehashi Project (Facebook)</p> <p>We exposed to Japanese culture in a broad way, how to make sushi, traditional tea ceremony, dressing in kimonos, zen meditation, meeting with Japanese students and two day home stay with Japanese families.</p>	<p>(Group B) About School Exchange (Facebook)</p> <p>Students from Miami Dade College visit Kumamoto University as part of the KAEKHASHI 2018 program</p>

## 7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

<div data-bbox="271 358 489 443" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Goals for Plans of Actions</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="261 459 499 575" data-label="Text"> <p>Washington and Lee Mission: Washington and Lee University provides a liberal arts education that develops students' capacity to think freely, critically, and humanely and to conduct themselves with honor, integrity, and civility. Graduates will be prepared for life-long learning, personal achievement, responsible leadership, service to others, and engaged citizenship in a global and diverse society.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="555 351 770 533" data-label="List-Group"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share our experiences on campus</li> <li>• To share our experiences to friends and family</li> <li>• To dispel American-held myths about Japan</li> <li>• To strengthen ties between America and Japan</li> </ul> </div>	<div data-bbox="845 394 989 427" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Long term</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="1064 365 1287 456" data-label="List-Group"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting club up for future student generations</li> <li>• Transfer universities receive Kakehashi Alumni</li> <li>• JET Program</li> <li>• Internships within Japan</li> <li>• MDC Massive College, influence spread quickly</li> <li>• Sponsors to help Kakehashi Alumni</li> <li>• TOMO-CHAN! Mascot for Kakehashi Inouye</li> </ul> </div>
<div data-bbox="234 638 509 674" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Action Plan(Group A)</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="234 685 786 1102" data-label="Text"> <p>With the mission statement of our university, we want to take these experiences and our gained knowledge back to the States to share largely on campus, but also individually with our friends and families. Dispelling American-held myths about Japan is also important, thereby strengthening ties between America and Japan.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="234 1120 786 1579" data-label="Text"> <p>Utilizing not only the individual Social Media/Blog posts, but also SSA (Science Society and the Arts) 2019 Panel Presentation, InGeneral Magazine, School Newspaper article, and Student Radio Segment. It's a good idea to participate in Friday Night Underground Program with Kanazawa University Students. Potential 2020 visit at Rockbridge County High School would be also effective.</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="801 638 1078 674" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>Action Plan(Group B)</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="850 685 1361 1102" data-label="List-Group"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media outlets</li> <li>• Advertisements about and to Japan</li> <li>• Colloquium/Leadership — Teach Japanese</li> <li>• College Presentations</li> <li>• Introductory Video</li> <li>• Morikami, Supercon, Other Outreach Events</li> <li>• Starting School club</li> </ul> </div> <div data-bbox="801 1120 1361 1247" data-label="Text"> <p>As soon as we get back home we start the action plan to the public and at high school, our campus, to our family and friends</p> </div> <div data-bbox="850 1258 1361 1771" data-label="List-Group"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting club up for future student generations</li> <li>• Transfer universities receive Kakehashi Alumni</li> <li>• JET Program</li> <li>• Internships with/in Japan</li> <li>• MDC Massive College, influence spread quickly</li> <li>• Sponsors to help Kakehashi Alumni</li> <li>• TOMO-CHAN! Mascot for Kakehashi Inouye</li> </ul> </div> <div data-bbox="801 1783 1361 1915" data-label="Text"> <p>We are in two year course; however we want to continue this for life. The club we establish would be kept going by our juniors.</p> </div>