



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)

Inbound program for KAKEHASHI Inouye Program the 2nd Slot

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 25 Japanese Americans and supervisors from the U.S. visited Japan from March 4 to March 11, 2019 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 plan to be taken after returning to the U.S.

[Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants]

United States of America: 25 participants,

[Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo, Fukuoka

2. Program Schedule

Mar.4 (Mon.)	[Arrival]
Mar.5 (Tue.)	[Orientation] [Lecture] Professor Akira Nakamura, Meiji University [Observation] Asakusa, Tokyo Metropolitan Government Observatory [Opinion Exchange] Exchange with U.S.- Japan Council
Mar.6 (Wed.)	Move to Fukuoka from Tokyo [Courtesy Call] Ogori City
Mar.7 (Thu.)	[Historical Landmark] Dazaifu Tenmangu [Cultural Experience] Wood Doll Painting Experience [Cultural Experience] Kyogen Experience (Ohori Park Noh Theater)
Mar.8 (Fri.)	[School Exchange] Fukuoka Jo Gakuin University & Junior College [Meeting with Host family] [Homestay]
Mar.9 (Sat.)	[Farewell Party with Host Family] [Lecture] Fukuoka Heavy Rain & Flood Disaster [Workshop]

Mar.10 (Sun.)	Move to Tokyo from Fukuoka [Observation] Tokyo National Museum, Daiba
Mar.11 (Mon.)	[Reporting Session] [Observation]Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku [Departure]

3. Program Photos



3/5 [Opinion Exchange] Exchange with
U.S.- Japan Council



3/6 [Courtesy Call] Ogori City



3/7 [Cultural Experience] Noh Experience



3/8 [School Exchange]Fukuoka Jo Gakuin
University & Junior College



3/9 [Farewell Party with Host Family]



3/11 [Observation] Meiji Jingu Shrine

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

◆U.S.A. Student

Most of the lectures were interesting to learn about. Definitely, the good and bad and problem from our first day were interesting to learn. There were concepts, which some of us might have already known about through our class, but to hear the same story through someone who lived through those moments was very insightful.

The school exchange was probably one of the most exciting programs. Just because I got to know and spend time with students who were around my age and can relate to one another. I only wish my school had done a little bit more to show them more local activities when they came to Hawaii. I also enjoyed this program because I made really close friends with people around the world.

When we arrived in Fukuoka we visited Ogori City and I thought it was nice of them to tell their story about their home city and their problems. I like how they incorporate the younger generation and community in decisions made for their city.

Being able to come to Japan and be taken in by a local host family was very heartwarming. They made us feel at home and I feel like I got to really understand more about the culture of Japan. To experience what it's like to live in the life of a Japanese family was satisfying. We not only did touristy activities and went sightseeing, but spent time with the people and getting to know their culture and traditions.

◆U.S.A. Student

My first misconception about the lecture was that it was going to be boring, however my mind changed completely. I was astonished to find out more about the historical background of Japan. Knowing that the past relationship between our country and Japan's hasn't been good, I was shocked to see how the relations improved.

The school exchange was by far the best part of this trip, I feel as though I not only established life-long friends, but a relationship that will exceed time. Every single memory we shared with the girls has been amazing and I can't wait to see what the future has in store for us.

The visit to the government office was breathtaking. I felt so honored to be able to step foot in that building and walk around to view the sights.

Although time was short, homestay experience was the final stamp on my visit to Japan. The family was so nice and kind to us and showed us through different communication methods and hand gestures how they felt. They were by far the sweetest and enthusiastic people I have ever met, and I am more than glad to have been their guest.

◆U.S.A. Student

The lectures at each location showed the true culture of Japan and the lifestyle each locality maintained. Without these lectures on culture, understanding their lifestyle in Japan would have been difficult. Each lecture showed the community of each town and how different each city of Japan was in culture even in the same country. The school exchange was an experience that will stay with me for the rest of my life. The students we met made

connections through experiencing each other's culture in our own home country. An experience like this is unparalleled because we are the same age and have many things in common. Even if language and culture are different, through origami, karaoke and local experiences in Japan, we made life-long friends. When the students visited us, we shared our culture in the same way with eating burgers and hanging out by the beach. The experiences we shared together in this program helped us overcome a language barrier and a cultural barrier which was virtually non-existent after figuring out how to make paper cranes and dance the hula together.

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

◆Student who participated in school exchange program

I was glad HPU students were interested in various aspects of Japan such as our social system, our way of thinking, culture, food, scenery and our school, Fukuoka Jo Gakuin. And their thoughts and comments gave me a new perspective on things we took for granted or felt negatively about and made me realize what I should learn more. I really enjoyed being together with them as they were joyful, friendly and active. They talked to me just like an old friend even though we have just met a month ago. And I have learned culture and history of both countries through the program. It was a treasure for me to become friends with them regardless of gender and race, and creating a relationship that bridges the two countries of Japan and US.

◆Person from a partner school

It is the first time for us to host a group of overseas students. At first we were afraid that our students were not good enough to host Americans based on their English proficiency, knowledge of the US, debating ability and so on. However, such concerns were completely wiped off when I saw what the students have done.

All of our students worked very hard for the preparation aiming at the success of this program. They showed us their potentiality as they acted genuinely for the good of the whole with a positive attitude. And the students of HPU were also very active to nurture a friendship with Japanese students and eager to learn about Japan.

Students of Hawaii have a strong interest in Japan, maybe because they are familiar with the history of Japanese immigrants in Hawaii, and have many Japanese tourists visiting there.



Under such conditions, students of both countries did not take much time to get to know each other and I believe they could have such a meaningful exchange which would foster a life-long friendship across a national border.

◆Host family

This is the first time for us to host American students at home. We hosted them just one night. We made TAKOYAKI (a popular snack in Japan) for dinner. Hawaiian students and my children really enjoyed cooking and eating them at a dining table. We also made Traditional Japanese sweets, Sakura-mochi, with our grandparents at the Japanese inn run by them. I hope they liked the taste. We are really happy to be able to have a friendship with the student








from Hawaii.





6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>12:41</p> <p>Melissa Jean Aguda Friday at 5:43 PM</p> <p>Visited the beautiful Dazaifu Tenmangu shrine in Fukuoka & we were also given the opportunity to paint our very own Uso birds!! Uso birds symbolize letting go of all the negativity and welcoming in positivity into our lives. It is also a play on words where uso means "to lie" in Japanese. There are shrines that hold uso bird exchanges, where those would pass these uso birds around and if someone receives an uso bird with a gold head, it is considered luck and symbolizes that they've directly received blessings from the uso bird! They're also great to keep on display, and to ask for forgiveness when we've told a lie. #kakehashi2018 #tomodachi #jice #hawaiiipacificuniversity #japan #tokyo</p>	 <p>12:39 PM 77%</p> <p>Post</p> <p>1nessssssaaa1 Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building</p> <p>7 days to go!</p> <p>Liked by ashlynnvania and 15 others</p> <p>1nessssssaaa1 2019 summer olympics are coming soon! #japan #tomodachi</p>
<p>About the Historical Landmark (Facebook)</p> <p>We visited the beautiful Dazaifu Tenmangu shrine in Fukuoka. We were also given the opportunity to paint our very own Uso birds. Uso birds symbolize letting go of all the negative and welcoming in positivity into our lives. It is also a play on words where Uso means "to lie" in Japanese. There are shrines that hold Uso bird exchanges, where those would pass these Uso birds around and if someone receives an Uso bird with a gold head, it is considered luck and symbolizes that</p>	<p>About the Observation(Instagram)</p> <p>Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building:</p> <p>2020Summer Olympic is coming soon.</p>

they've directly received blessings from the Uso bird. They're also great to keep on display, and to ask for forgiveness when we've told a lie.	
---	--

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

<p>Group 1: Omoiyari of Japan</p> <p>Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk with friends and family about our trip • Social Media postings • Practice customs 	<p>Group 2: There is more to the plate.</p> <p>ACTION PLAN</p> 
<p>Action Plan(Group 1) : Omoiyari of Japan</p> <p>We will talk, practice and share “Omoiyari” which we discovered in Japan. Directly talk to our friends and families. We will post in our own network by March 15 and attend Student Showcase which will be held from April 15 to display and present what have posted.</p>	<p>Action Plan(Group 2) : There are more to the plate</p> <p>We recognized the influence of food on our health seeing an affluent and healthy variety of foods in Japan.</p> <p>We will post about the “food and health” to SNS and do presentation at Student Showcase to encourage the recognition of the people on its matter. We will try to practice healthy diet and “local production for local consumption” by ourselves. The action plan should be carried out right after arriving home and try to do it on a continuous basis.</p>
<p>Group 3: Environment</p> <div> <div> <p>Action Plan - When</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyday - in our daily routines - and at home • Life choices - at an individual level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Recycle at home ■ Grocery shopping and reusable bags ■ Energy efficient lighting • It can help you save more money   </div> <div> <p>Action Plan - Why</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We only have one home • The protection of the environment is humanity's duty • It is possible to make a change through positive actions   </div> </div>	<p>Group 4: Global Citizenship</p> <p>Global Citizenship</p> <p>Final Thoughts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward-thinking & progressive development • Strong sense of community & culture • More similarities than differences 

<div data-bbox="252 174 782 369"> <div> <h3>Fresh Start</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We would like to challenge ourselves and you to make a fresh start What does it mean to have a fresh start? Reduce, reuse, and recycle Challenge yourself to have a environmentally conscience mindset   </div> <div> <h3>Who</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who is responsible? We can incorporate Japan's environmentally clean mindset into our community. Innovation is a function of our behavior. The power to make a change starts with us.   </div> </div>	
<p>Action Plan(Group 3) : Environment</p> <p>The earth is our only and irreplaceable place to live. Therefore protecting and nurturing its environment is our obligation. Our action can change the present situation. Each one of us will act and choose right things to do (3R at home, shopping of groceries, use eco-bag, use energy efficient lights and so on). We can save money together with energy. Adopting the eco-friendly attitude of Japanese to our life in Hawaii. Act differently for the change.</p>	<p>Action Plan(Group 4) : Global Citizenship</p> <p>We compared the culture of Japan and US in a various aspects.</p> <p>For instance there is the individualism of US and the group oriented Japan.</p> <p>Japanese feel a strong sense of belonging. However we still have found a lot to be common than differences.</p> <p>Therefor we can say it is the evidence of the globalism in Japan for food, culture, tradition and people's life.</p> <p>We believe the Globalism is important because we want to prosper together with others. So we gradually but steadily would like to go forward. We will share our experience and ideas with people such as our friends, families and others.</p>
<div data-bbox="667 1485 888 1507"> <p>Post Program Schedule</p> </div> <div data-bbox="392 1525 1232 1899"> <p>3/15/19 Submit Travel Blog Media Portfolio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of #hashtags on all media postings 9 photos (minimum) with captions, date, location 3 Print Blog style posts (150-300 words each w/ photo credit and caption) 6 Social Media posts before and during travels in Japan- screen shots of your posts (using promotional #hashtags on your social media channels, Twitter Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, etc.) 1 Video Reflection or Interview on location in Japan- 1:30 minutes uploaded to YouTube Testimonial Reflection & Gratitude paper (1-2 pages including information about your background, your experience in the program and how it affected you) <p>4/15/19 Attend the STUDENT SHOWCASE the week of April 15 Elements of Travel Blog media portfolio will be presented during the event.</p> <p>4/22/19 Submit a report of the implementation of action plan</p> </div>	

Action Plan (For all participants)

By March 15, 2019

- Hand in below materials of Blog, social media posting and others to a supervisor.
- Use # hash-tag for all posting to social media
- 9 pictures with title, date and venue.
- Three Blog postings (150-300 words, pictures with its sources, and its title)
- 6 screen shots of the postings to social media (personal social media, Twitter, Facebook. You-Tube postings with hash-tag)
- Video, Interview took in Japan to post You-Tube positing (for 1.30")
- Words of feedback and gratitude (including self-introduction, experience during the program and its influence)

April 15, 2019

- Attend Student Showcase held in the week.
- Display or do presentation of a part of what have handed in as above.

April 22, 2019

Students and chaperones will create Action Plan Implementation Report.

And students will hand them in to a chaperone.