



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)

Inbound program for KAKEHASHI Inouye the 3rd Slot

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 25 university students and supervisors from the U.S. visited Japan from March 17 to March 24, 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 plans to be taken after returning to the U.S.

[Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants]

United States of America: 25 participants

[Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo, Aichi

2. Program Schedule

Mar.17(Sun) Arrival

Mar.18(Mon) 【Orientation】

【Lecture】 Professor Kenji Hasegawa, Yokohama National University

【Observation】 Diet Building

Move to Aichi from Tokyo

Mar.19(Tue) 【Historical Landmark】 Nagoya Castle

【Observation】 Tokugawaen

【School Exchange】 Meijo University

Mar.20(Wed) 【Cultural Experience】 Toyota shi Obara Paper Art Museum

Washi no Furusato

【Observation of Company】 Toyota Motor Corporation Tsutsumi Plant

【Meeting with Host Family】

Mar.21(Thu) 【Homestay】




【Workshop】

Mar.22(Fri) Move to Tokyo from Aichi
 【Observation】 National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation
 【Observation】 Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building Observation Decks
 【Reporting Session】
 【Exchange】 US Japan Council

Mar.23(Sat) 【Observation】 Edo Tokyo Museum
 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku

Mar.24(Sun) 【Observation】 Sensoji Temple
 Departure

3. Program Photos

	
<p>3/18 【Lecture】 Yokohama National University</p>	<p>3/19 【Observation】 Tokugawaen</p>
	
<p>3/19 【School Exchange】 Meijo University</p>	<p>3/20【Cultural Experience】Toyota-shi Obara Paper Art Museum Washi no Furusato</p>
	
<p>3/22 【Exchange】 US-Japan Council</p>	<p>3/24 【Observation】 Sensoji-Temple</p>

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

◆ The lecture on Japanese history and culture gave us a well-rounded introduction to the customs. It was very informative and increased my knowledge about the background and history of this country. The school exchange left me a mark to meet outstanding friends. Although socio-cultural, educational and cultural exchange is important, it is the strong bonds and life-long friendships that will continue to foster the cultural exchange between both nations, USA and Japan. The government office was impressive as we learned of Her Majesty the Empress, the Prime Minister and former social hierarchy. Toyota company showed the advancement in manufacturing and the effectiveness of production. Homestay was the best experience as it allowed me to immerse in the culture completely (Never thought in less than 24 hours I would try a variety of foods, wear and be gifted with a kimono and do tea ceremony and learn the shamisen! My favorite part.

◆ The first lecture by the professor was very informative as it gave us important insight and background about Japan. It was extremely helpful to have that knowledge. The school exchange was one of my favorite events as we established life-long relationships with these beautiful well- rounded Meijo students. I will continue to strengthen my relationships with these students through social media and hopefully through travelling again. I loved the National Diet building as it was interesting to compare the government building/art/history to those in California and the U.S. The homestay gave me a great firsthand experience of Japanese culture which I could not find anywhere else. Overall, I enjoyed the whole trip as I gained knowledge. I would have never been able to learn online or in a textbook.

5. Voice from Japanese Students/Schools/Host Families/Organizations (abstract)



◆ The person in charge of accepting school exchange

It left a real impression on me that the students from Meijo University and Sonoma State University were so happy to see each other again. I don't think that they were really able to form any deep bonds because they didn't have much time to spend with one another, but even with the little time that they did have, it was clear that they were actively trying to communicate with one another, and I could definitely see the importance of "trying to get to know and accept one another." For our students, I think that they have been able to learn the importance of "preparation" through accepting and dispatching students through exchanges.


◆ Host family

It was a short stay, but it was nice to play games with the children and talk with them about different things. They both liked cooking and making sweets, so on the second day we all had a lot of fun making salad rolls and Chiffon cake together. They also seemed to be very interested in how Japanese homes work, so they took pictures. We think that we would like to stay in touch with them through email after they go back home.

6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>Omar Diaz Not only did we create a strong bond with Kakehashi Participants, but with our tour guide as well!</p>	 <p>May Heidtke Having a great time with our host family! #Kakehashi2018 they were kind enough to let us try on and keep one of their past kimonos! We also tried lots of sushi for example eel and sea urchin sushi for the first time! We went to a shrine and paid our respects to their ancestors. Lastly, we got to play the Shamisen instrument which was kinda ha...</p>
<p>About Tour Guide (Facebook)</p> <p>Not only did we create a strong bond with Kakehashi Participants, but with our tour guide as well.</p>	<p>About Homestay (Facebook)</p> <p>Having a great time with our host family! They were kind enough to let us try on and keep one of their past kimonos! We also tried lots of sushi for the first time! We went to a shrine and paid our respects to their ancestors. Lastly, we got to play the Shamisen instrument.</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session


<p>Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a photobook and share it with friends and family • Make a Power Point presentation and a video slide show of pictures and information that we will show to our class; share items we bought in Japan with the class • Write a blogpost about my experience and share it through links from Sonoma State University web page • Teach the community about the Japanese culture by wearing my kimono that my host mom gave to me, present videos of myself playing the shamisen; performing a tea ceremony • As a sociology major, share my experience in Japan in senior seminar class in order to compare American social structures and Japanese cultural norms • As a preschool teacher assistant, share my experience in Japan with the students through games and objects I bring back with home.