



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)

Inbound program for High School Students the 2nd Slot

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 100 high school students and their supervisors from the U.S. visited Japan from July 31 to August 7, 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: 100 participants,
(Breakdown)

Group A (24 participants): Thomas Jefferson High School (State of Virginia)

Group B (26 participants): East-West School of International Studies (State of New York)

Group C (25 participants): University High School Academy (State of Michigan)

Group D (25 participants): Glendale Unified School District (State of California)

[Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo (All), Nagano (Group A/B), Fukushima (Group C), Miyagi (Group D)

2. Program Schedule

| | Group A/B | Group C | Group D |
|------------------|--|---------|---------|
| Jul. 31 (Tue) | [Arrival] | | |
| Aug. 1 (Wed) | [Orientation] [Lecture] Mr. Hideo Kimura, Strategic International Management Associates (SIMA) [Observation] Edo Tokyo Museum, Asakusa | | |

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| Aug. 2 (Thu) | Move to Nagano from Tokyo [Observation] Hakuba Ski Jumping Stadium [Courtesy Call] Hakuba Village [Meeting with Host Family] | Move to Fukushima from Tokyo [Lecture] Aizu-Wakamatsu City Hall [Observation] Sazaedo (National Cultural Property) | Move to Miyagi from Tokyo [Courtesy Call] Minamisanriku Town Hall [Observation] Minamisanriku Sun Sun Shopping Village |
| Aug. 3 (Fri) | [School Exchange] Hakuba High School [Homestay] | [Observation] Tsurugajo Castle [Culture Experience] Akabeko painting [Company Visit] RARAYA Co.,Ltd. (Randosel Factory) [Meeting with Host Family] | [Observation] Story Teller of Disaster Experience (Minamisanriku town) [Culture Experience] Paper cutting experience [Meeting with Host Family] |
| Aug. 4 (Sat) | [Homestay] [Culture Experience] Making flower vase [Culture Experience] Yamabiko Festival | [Homestay] | [Homestay] |
| Aug. 5 (Sun) | [Observation] Daio Wasabi Farm [Observation] Matsumoto Castle [Observation] Ishiimiso Co. Ltd. [Workshop] [Farewell Party with Host Family] | [Farewell Party with Host Family] [Workshop] | [Farewell Party with Host Family] [Workshop] |
| Aug. 6 (Mon) | Move to Tokyo from Nagano [Reporting Session] | Move to Tokyo from Fukushima | Move to Tokyo from Miyagi |
| Aug. 7 (Tue) | [Observation] Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku [Departure] | | |

3. Program Photos

All groups (Tokyo)

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| 8/1 [Lecture] Mr. Hideo Kimura, Strategic International Management Associates (SIMA) | 8/6 [Reporting Session] |

Group A/B (Nagano)

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| 8/2 [Courtesy Call] Hakuba Village | 8/2 [Meeting with Host Family] |
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| 8/4 [Culture Experience] Making flower vase | 8/5 [Observation] Daio Wasabi Farm |

Group C (Fukushima)

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| 8/2 [Lecture] Aizu-Wakamatsu City Hall | 8/2 [Observation] Sazaedo |
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| 8/3 [Culture Experience] Akabeko painting | 8/4 [Homestay] |

Group D (Miyagi)

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| <p>8/2 [Courtesy Call] Minamisanriku Town Hall</p> | <p>8/3 [Observation] Story Teller of Disaster Experience (Minamisanriku town)</p> |
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| <p>8/3 [Culture Experience] Paper cutting experience</p> | <p>8/4 [Homestay]</p> |

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

Group A (Nagano)

◆ The Japanese culture was very fascinating to both learn about and experience firsthand. Seeing how the historical Japanese culture informed the modern outlook is fascinating. Japan has amazing efficiency and convenience in many aspects, and manages to preserve its ancient history and culture while being on the cutting edge technology and economically. I took all of this and more from visiting both Hakuba and Tokyo. In then, I saw varied places such as a traditional Miso factory, a castle, a high school, a famous shrine, a festival, and many more. It was truly amazing to gain such experiences in just 8 days!

◆ Overall, having the chance to come to Japan has been a worthwhile experience. I had visited Japan when I was about 6 years old for a vacation with my family, however I do not have any fond memories my visit. This program however have created many memories that I will remember because the interactions I had with my host family such as talking to them in Japanese or exploring Hakuba. In addition, I had fun walking around the various places and taking pictures and videos. Finally, exploring around Japan was a new experience because of the fact that I lived in the U.S for the majority of my life. Learning how the toilet works, the building, and the weather was new and an eye opening experience. So with my sincere gratitude, thank you for sending me to Japan and creating wonderful memories to remember

to share.

Group B (Nagano)

◆ During my six days here in Japan I have learned and experienced new tastes. The taste of new food to new lifestyle, even the two days of Homestay made me feel in awe of how hardworking and humble the citizens of Japan are. The Keynote lecture was vital to me because it provided me a short understanding on how modern Japan came to be. It allowed me to understand the current status of Japan such as its population and economical values. Understanding this will help the relationship between the two nations and find ways to help one another out during hardship.

◆ Out of all the activities I have done, being in my host family has been the best one. The very moment we saw each other I have a feeling we were going to be close. They were very sweet and nice people. They made the best food out of all the food I have eaten in my life. Our communication was so well. I was really going to cry on the last day I stepped out of my host family's house. The second best impression left was the Omachi Yamabiko Festival. I like how the Hakuba High School students joined us. Although dancing was tiring, I have learned a lot about Japanese traditional dance. It made me realize how their dance is simple, but also makes it fun and very hype. My last favorite impression being left is going to Hakuba High School. I really love the club I have tried. I especially like Japanese archery/Kyudo since I always wanted to try it. My first time was so good as well. I really enjoyed everything.

Group C (Fukushima)

◆ During my stay in Japan, the most impressive thing I learned was the lecture in Aizuwakamatsu. I learned as much about the historical buildings and the culture. The presentation was very interactive and fun. I loved learning about the festivals and Samurai. Another experience I loved was visiting the *randoseru* factory. The randoserus were so cute and unique in style compared to backpacks in the U.S. I liked touring the factory and seeing all of the steps to make randoserus. Homestay was another impressive experience. Japanese living is both similar and different to American lifestyle. Learning about the traditions they have and some of the things they enjoy in their culture. It was fun to get to know the family and make connections with them even though we could not fully understand our languages. Overall the experience in Japan was amazing. I truly enjoyed learning new things about Japan and its people. I would love to come back to Japan to experience and learn more.

◆ I though the lectures were great. I learned a lot about the culture, history and economy in Japan. I was enticed, I was so interested in what they had to teach us. It makes me want to come back to Japan to learn some more. The visit to the "randoseru" company was fun. Getting to see how "randoseru" were made was pretty cool. I never would have thought that it was so complex. The homestay was the best part. Being able to see the rural side of Japan

was great and different because before then, all we saw was the urban side. The family I stayed with was really nice and had awesome hospitality.

Group D (Miyagi)

◆ During the lecture, I learned new things including Japan's history and how much they have improved in terms of economy, technology and others throughout the years. I was able to experience Japan's traditional culture and their way of life through the homestay. Not only was I able to see how they lived but I was able to put myself in their shoes. This trip has really changed my views on this country. I am now a different person because of this trip. I appreciate this country and everything about it even more because of what I have seen and been through.

◆ Ever since I was young, I have wanted to study and visit Japan. This program has given me insight into Japanese language, culture, government, economy and mannerisms. Tokyo was absolutely beautiful, the streets were clean and the people friendly. Asakusa was a wonderful way to understand Japanese religion. The keynotes were interesting but I would have rather they may been held in America. So there would be more time to actually see more of the country. The home stay was the best part of the experience. Learning Japanese from native speakers was very useful and I think of my host family as my second family away from home. My heart also goes out to the people of Minamidanriku who made an amazing recovery. When I come back to Japan to study, I hope that I can unite and show how much their kindness has affected me. I will see more of this beautiful country someday.

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

◆ Host family (Group A/B)

We are very impressed every time we host students. We had male high school students this time, and they were very charming and just like my grandsons. We enjoyed seeing them having fun with playing badminton or squirt gun. We felt that kids are all the same in any nation.





◆ Host family (Group C)

We talked a lot about our future, family and others. I hope that as many people as possible from all over the world come visit Fukushima and share the safety awareness to the world to eliminate reputational damages from the nuclear accident.


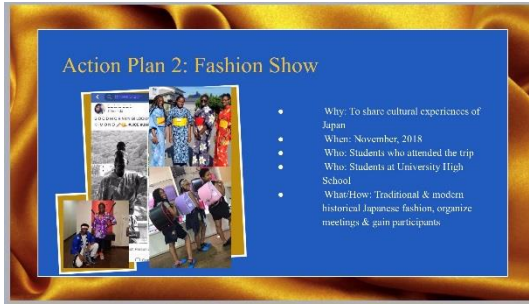
◆ Host family (Group D)

Although the students do not speak Japanese, we could talk using a cellphone and tablet. It was too sad to say goodbye to them at the end. I realized that they understand me if I interact with all my heart.

6. Dissemination by the participants

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|  <p>Nali Huynh 8月3日 17:03</p> <p>We arrived at the Yamadas' blue and beautiful house on Thursday evening. The next morning we had breakfast, made onigiri, and hiked up Hakuba Goryu. It was tiring, but the view was so worth it. To finish it off, we enjoyed some blueberry and vanilla ice cream + our homemade onigiri.</p> |  <p>Zhenyi Chen ▸ East-West Kakehashi Group 1時間前</p> <p>We went to Hakuba high school today. -Tea Ceremony & Origami for me today 🍵 Nice view as well!!</p> |
| <p>(Group A) About homestay (Facebook)</p> <p>We arrived at homestay on Thursday evening. The next morning we had breakfast, made onigiri, and hiked up Hakuba Goryu. It was tiring, but the view was so worth it.</p> | <p>(Group B) About Hakuba high school (Facebook)</p> <p>We went to Hakuba high school today. Tea ceremony and Origami for me today. Nice view as well!</p> |
|  <p>princessariiqq</p> <p>Liked by me, kakehashi2018 and 44 others</p> <p>princessariiqq Had a great time at the edo-Tokyo museum 🇯🇵 learned so many great things about the development of Japan. #kakehashi2018 #kakehashiproject #tokyojapan</p> |  <p>gusdjice2018 東京駅 (Tokyo Station)</p> <p>Liked by tomomatsuda19 and 19 others</p> <p>gusdjice2018 This is our #firsttime taking #Shinkansen @Tokyo Shinkansen station. - Jira. #kakehashi2018 #jice #usa #highschoolstudents2ndslot</p> <p>3 DAYS AGO</p> |
| <p>(Group C) About Edo Tokyo museum (Instagram)</p> <p>Had a great time at the Edo Tokyo museum. Learned so many great things about the development of Japan.</p> | <p>(Group D) About Shinkansen (Instagram)</p> <p>This is our first time taking Shinkansen.</p> |

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Dissemination of Information</p> <p>Time Period: August - December</p> <p>Method: Social Media, Messaging Apps</p> <p>Material: Pictures, Videos, Experiences, Blogs</p> | <p>How will we share what we have found?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Presentations at our daily morning assembly (Mustler) <input type="checkbox"/> Revive and strengthen our Japanese Culture Club <input type="checkbox"/> Create a Japanese style recycling system at our school  |
| <p>Action Plan 1 (Group A)</p> <p>We will make a public Facebook group that details the events of our trip as well as our later reflections on it. Our KAKEHASHI delegates will accomplish this by posting daily pictures and videos. The student leaders have already assigned the days during the trip in which people will take and post pictures. However, everyone is able to voluntarily post pictures on any day. This will allow not only parents and peers, but the general public to view our KAKEHASHI experience. We may even post miniature movie compilations and blogs on the Facebook group.</p> | <p>Action Plan 2 (Group B)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentations about our experiences and findings in Japan at our daily morning assembly. 2. Revive and strengthen our Japanese culture club. We will work to build its membership and we will organize some workshops teaching students things we learned in Japan. (Bon-odori, Origami, weaving straw vases etc.) 3. Initiate a recycling program at our school based on the Japanese system in September with the hopes that by the end of the school year. We can then take our system and share it with other schools further expanding our audience. |
|  | <p>Action Plan</p> <p>Documentary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Photos, videos, captions, Japanese music (Hey! Say! Jump!, etc.) <p>School Newspapers (Interviews)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share our experiences from 'The real Japan' <p>Social media #kakehashi2018 #jioe</p> <p>Brand Park Japan Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Alex, Robert, and Tatiana will present our experience at Brand Library in Glendale on August 7th (Japan Day) (Present to the public) <p>Fundraiser/ Donations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To send to places we visited in Japan, such as the disaster reconstruction sites <p>Sharing stories and pictures with family, friends, and other students through the district</p> |

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| <p>Action Plan 3 (Group C)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bringing Japan back to our school sharing physical memories (souvenirs). Showcase to the school, open to all students to observe. 2. To share cultural experiences of Japan. Traditional and modern historical Japanese fashion, organize meetings and gain participants. 3. School meditation room for stress relief from school activities using Japanese customs. | <p>Action Plan 4 (Group D)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share our newfound knowledge of Japan using photos, video, Japanese music etc. 2. Contribute an interview to school newspaper. 3. Post on social media. 4. Present our experience on Japan Day (September 7) 5. Fundraiser/Donations for Minamisanriku town etc. (disaster reconstruction sites.) 6. Sharing stories with family and friends. |
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