



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America) Inbound program for Jewish Americans the 1st Slot Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 15 Jewish Americans from the U.S. visited Japan from January 6 to January 13, 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 workshop 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: 15 participants (American Jewish Committee (AJC))

[Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo, Kyoto

2. Program Schedule

Jan.6 (Sun)	[Arrival] [Orientation] [Observation]Asakusa
Jan.7 (Mon)	[Lecture] Ministry of Foreign Affairs [Observation] Koto-city Fukagawa Edo Museum [Observation] Akihabara/Ueno Park/Ameyoko market place
Jan.8 (Tue)	[Observation] Panasonic Center Tokyo [Observation]Imperial Palace [Observation] NPO Chiune Sugihara. Visas For Life
Jan.9 (Wed)	[Courtesy Call] Embassy of United States of America in Japan Move to Kyoto from Tokyo [Observation] Kinkaku-ji Temple
Jan.10 (Thu)	[Cultural Experience] Zazen meditation(Shorin-ji Temple) [Observation] Tofuku-ji Temple [Observation] Shinkyogoku, Nishiki-market [School Exchange] Doshisha University Move to Tokyo from Kyoto

Jan. 11 (Fri) [Courtesy Call] Embassy of Israel in Japan
 [Courtesy Call] Mr. Kentaro Sonoura, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister
 Jan. 12 (Sat) [Workshop]
 [Observation] Harajuku/Omote-sando/Meiji Jingu Shrine
 Jan. 13 (Sun) [Cultural Experience] Tea Ceremony(Happo-en)
 [Departure]

3. Program Photos

	
<p>1/7[Lecture] Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>1/7[Observation] Koto-city Fukagawa Edo Museum</p>
	
<p>1/8[Observation] Panasonic Center Tokyo</p>	<p>1/8[Observation] NPO Chiune Sugihara. Visas For Life</p>
	
<p>1/9[Observation] Kinkaku-ji Temple</p>	<p>1/10[Cultural Experience] Zazen meditation(Shorin-ji Temple)</p>

	
1/10[School Exchange] Doshisha University	1/13[Cultural Experience] Tea Ceremony(Happo-en)

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

◆U.S.A. Adult

Visiting Sugihara's Museum in Tokyo and hearing from Sugihara's granddaughter was impressive and emotional, especially because a descendent of one of the Jews saved by Sugihara was among us.

Meeting a group of students who take an academic interest in Judaism and Zionism speak Hebrew better than me and were open to share their thought with us was great, I wish I had more time to interact with everyone in the group and learn more about them and their projects. Before the trip all I knew about Japan-United States relations or Japan-Israel relations was what I read on the news. After the MOFA visits and talking to the ambassadors of the USA and Israel, I understand the relationship and the priorities of each country in the international sphere.

◆U.S.A. Adult

The most significant meeting was with Sugihara's granddaughter. It was so powerful, as a group of Jews, to hear the story live. I am just amazed with Japan over all. How clean and orderly it is. How polite it is and how respectful people are. The USA could benefit so much if some of this culture was embedded into our society. The care of our guides from JICE and others was amazing. So grateful for everything I have seen and everything we have been showed. We have been treated like celebrities and are so lucky. Meeting students at Doshisha was very cool. Israeli ambassador was very cool and relevant.

◆U.S.A. Graduate Student



This trip was truly a one-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will never forget. I feel that I got a very thorough understanding of Japanese history, culture, society, politics and economics. We received a good balance of learning about the past and transition, and to the future with new technology and innovations. Our diplomatic meeting opened my eyes to the world of diplomacy and how inter-country relationships are navigated.

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

◆ Contact person of the host school

We understand that the group that visited Japan this time consisted of highly educated people from various backgrounds. Our students were quite excited to have an opportunity to meet them and both parties enjoyed a lively discussion with each other.

6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>#Kakehashi participants traveled to #Kyoto, where they visited Kinkaku-ji and the Nishiki Market, practiced zen meditation, tried traditional #Japanese food, and more! #AJCKakehashi</p> <p>10:58 AM · 10 Jan 2019</p>	 <p>Visiting Japan for Kakehashi2019 with AJC - Global Jewish Advocacy #ajcaccess — at 金閣寺 (Kinkaku-ji Temple)</p> <p>Like · Comment · Share</p> <p>Nelson Agelvis S Aresomelli Like · Reply · 30</p>
<p>About the program (Instagram)</p> <p>Kakehashi participants traveled to Kyoto, where they visited Kinkaku-ji and the Nishiki Market, practiced zen meditation, tried traditional Japanese food, and more!</p>	<p>About the observation (Instagram)</p> <p>Visiting Japan for kakehashi2019 with AJC - Global Jewish Advocacy - at Sensō-ji Temple.</p>