



# **KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America/Canada)** **Inbound program for 2018 Japan Bowls in the U.S. and Canada** **Program Report**

## **1. Program Overview**

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 50 high school students and their supervisors from the U.S. and Canada visited Japan from July 4 to July 11, 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 their home countries.

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

United States of America: 42 participants,

Canada: 8 participants

### **[Prefectures Visited]**

Tokyo (All), Miyagi (25 participants), Nagasaki (25 participants)





## **2. Program Schedule**

July 4 (Wed)	[Arrival]	
July 5 (Thu)	[Orientation]	
	Group A (Miyagi prefecture)	Group B (Nagasaki prefecture)
	Move to Miyagi from Tokyo [School Exchange]Tohoku University	[Courtesy Call]Embassy of Canada (Canadian participants) [Observation]TEPIA (Association for Technological Excellence Promoting Innovative Advances) (U.S participants) Move to Nagasaki from Tokyo
July 6 (Fri)	[Observation] International Research Institute of Disaster Science(IRIDeS), Tohoku University [School Exchange]Tohoku University [Observation] Ishinomaki Information and Communication Center	[Observation]Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, Peace Park [Lecture]Testimony of an Atomic Bomb survivor [School Exchange]Nagasaki Prefectural Isahaya High School

	Move to Kami-machi [Meeting with Host Family]	[Meeting with Host Family]
July 7 (Sat)	[Homestay]	[Homestay]
July 8 (Sun)	[Farewell Party with Host Family] Move to Tokyo from Miyagi [Workshop]	[Farewell Party with Host Family] [Workshop] Move to Tokyo from Nagasaki
July 9 (Mon)	[Courtesy Call]Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado [Courtesy Call]Yasutoshi Nishimura, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary [Observation]Honda Welcome Plaza Aoyama [Reception]	
July 10 (Tue)	[Observation]Senso-ji temple [Interaction]Japan National Student Association (JNSA) Fund (Meiji Jingu shrine / Harajuku) [Interaction]Japan Bowl Supporters Group (JBSG) (Observation of Kyogi Karuta) [Reporting Session]	
July 11 (Wed)	[Briefing]American Center, Japan of U.S. Embassy in Japan (U.S. participants) [Observation]TEPIA (Canadian Participants) [Departure]	

### 3. Program Photos

#### All groups (Tokyo)

	
7/9 [Courtesy Call]Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado	7/9 [Courtesy Call]Yasutoshi Nishimura, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary
	
7/10 [Interaction]Japan National Student Association (JNSA) Fund (Meiji Jingu shrine / Harajuku)	7/10 [Interaction]Japan Bowl Supporters Group (JBSG) (Observation of Kyogi Karuta)

## Group A (Miyagi)

	
<p>7/5 [School Exchange]Tohoku University</p>	<p>7/6 [Observation] International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS), Tohoku University</p>
	
<p>7/6 [Observation]Ishinomaki Information and Communication Center</p>	<p>7/7 [Homestay]</p>

## Group B (Nagasaki)

	
<p>7/6 [Observation]Peace Park</p>	<p>7/6 [Lecture]Testimony by an Atomic Bomb survivor</p>
	
<p>7/6[School Exchange]Nagasaki Prefectural Isahaya High School</p>	<p>7/8 [Farewell Party with Host Family]</p>

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

##### **Group A (Miyagi)**

###### **◆ United States of America, Student**

I think that the unwavering Japanese resilience in the face of severe environmental disasters is incredibly impressive and inspiring. Natural disasters happen all over the world, but I have never seen a country respond so quickly, intelligently, and persistently as Japan did after Ishinomaki tsunami. I remain amazed by the continual effort and support that was given to the people and the town of Ishinomaki, and I hope that the rest of the world can humbly look to Japan for experience, wisdom, and inspiration in future crises.

###### **◆ United States of America, Student**

One impression I received after visiting Tohoku University was that Japanese Universities are a great resource for foreign students in the USA, and beyond that unfortunately remains largely untapped. Many Japanese Universities offer fantastic programs in foreign languages, particularly English that are available for much less money than a comparable program in the USA. It would be good to see more international students consider Japanese Universities as an option while considering higher education.

##### **Group B (Nagasaki)**

###### **◆ Canada, Student**

The Isahaya High School visit was the best day of my life. All of the students were incredibly nice and very welcoming. Their presentations were amazing and they taught me a lot about Japanese high schools and daily school life. Three of the Japanese students, all of them girls, waved at me and said my name "Santi" while laughing every time I entered the room. I would smile and wave back, and this is my point exactly. It is very easy to communicate with people no matter what languages you speak. I now have contact with those 3 girls on Instagram and I will continue to talk to them until I die. This shows that foreign relations are wonderful between Canada and Japan and I will continue to improve these relations.

###### **◆ United States of America, Student**

Two of the most significant programs I participated in during KAKEHASHI were visiting the Nagasaki Peace Park and learning Karuta. They are two very different things, but they both had a great impact on me. I had always wanted to visit the Nagasaki Peace Park since hearing about it earlier this year. I had accomplished my goal with KAKEHASHI. I love how even though America greatly hurt Japan during that time, Japan was able to overcome its past in a way that they now spread awareness and advocate against nuclear weapons while denouncing no nation. There is no hate towards anyone.

Learning Karuta was also an impactful program because it was amazing to see how closely rooted Japan continues to be even in this day and age, especially with the young kids carrying the tradition. It was a fun game as well that required a great amount of concentration. I felt that



those skills utilized in the game greatly reflect Japanese culture in itself. Through these two programs, my love for Japan has strengthened. The amazing impact that it had on me inspires me to reach further and rise above, just like Japan has always been doing. Thank you very much for having me on this once in a lifetime trip.

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

### **◆ Host family (Group A)**

Students were very active to challenge themselves to new things. They enjoyed catching Ayu (sweetfish) by hand in the local event. Spending time with us in a traditional Japanese house, they seemed nervous at first. But it was easy for us to accommodate them because they spoke Japanese fluently. Students showed great interest in Japanese culture and lifestyle. It was beneficial that all of my family members could enjoy participating in conversations with them because there were no language boundaries.

### **◆ Teacher of the host school (Group B)**

The majority of our students had never talked with any overseas student of similar age and had been struggling to find out how they could communicate better by using English which they learned in the class. On the day of school exchange, regardless of my concerns, our students talk to the students of the delegation more actively than I expected and some groups of the students have become good friends exchanging their contact information. They seemed to become aware of the importance of taking action over their interest through exchanging opinions with overseas students who have different viewpoints and backgrounds, which also enhanced their interest in other cultures via this program.



### **◆ University Student who participated in exchange program**

It was quite an eye-opening experience for us to get in touch with variety of Japanese culture and to deepen my understanding on Japan by visiting Harajuku and Karuta performance with American students. Also, I was quite impressed by those American students who spoke Japanese very fluently. As one of the past participants of KAKEHASHI project, I would like to follow their active attitudes to learn different cultures so that I would be able to engage myself into the future development of friendship with North American regions.

## 6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>avonmelina01 · フォローする</p> <p>avonmelina01 Some amazing sights in Ishinomaki yesterday! We got a lecture there as well. It was so informative. It was about the 2011 Tsunami. #kakehashi2018</p> <p>いいね! 14件</p>	 <p>helloiamstuart · フォローする</p> <p>helloiamstuart Get yourself a 弁当(べんとう) like this with 皇し with the Imperial Crest on it that you can take home. #kakehashi2018</p> <p>kayoko Such a fancy bento!</p> <p>govinht Can I just get this at yoshinoya?</p> <p>helloiamstuart @govinht yes. Ask for their 博(カス)ってくだいさいベシナル</p> <p>いいね! 79件</p>
<p>(Group A) About Ishinomaki (Instagram)</p> <p>Some amazing sights in Ishinomaki yesterday! We got a lecture there as well. It was so informative. It was about the 2011 Tsunami.</p>	<p>(Group A) About the meal (Instagram)</p> <p>Get yourself a bento like this with the Imperial Crest on it that you can take home.</p>
 <p>Charlie Liu @CharlieLiuAL... · 5分</p> <p>Nagasaki peace park and atomic museum.</p> <p>Every time I see how people suffer from wars, this line of lyric appears in my head.</p> <p>人は何故傷つけあって、争うのでしょうか。</p> <p>-Euterpe (エウテルペ)</p> <p>#kakehashi #kakehashib2018 #JapanBowl</p>	 <p>MOST RECENT #kakehashi2018</p> <p>patissieremiyuki This was my first time in a Japanese high school! While in Nagasaki, we visited Isahaya High School. When I entered the classroom, they were all very welcoming. We learned about Japanese culture and about how important the churches were to Japan. This was an experience I will never forget.</p> <p>#kakehashi2018 #kakehashib2018 #jice #japanbowl</p>
<p>(Group B) About Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum (Twitter)</p> <p>Nagasaki Peace Park and Atomic Museum. Every time I see how people suffer from wars, this line of lyric in Japanese appears in my head. “人は何故傷つけあって、争うのでしょうか”(Why people are hurting and fighting each other)</p>	<p>(Group B) About school exchange (Instagram)</p> <p>This was my first time in a Japanese High School. When I entered the classroom, they were all very welcoming. We learned about Japanese culture and about how important the churches were to Japan. This was an experience I will never forget.</p>

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

 <p>WHY SHOULD WE SPREAD AWARENESS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ WE CAN BREAK EXPECTATIONS THAT PEOPLE MAY HAVE ABOUT RESPECT IN JAPAN</li> <li>❖ WE CAN TAKE THE LESSONS THAT WE HAVE LEARNED DURING OUR TIME AND INCORPORATE THEM INTO OUR LIVES</li> <li>❖ RAISING AWARENESS OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN GENERAL IS IMPORTANT TO IMPROVE OUR MINDSET</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Action Plan</b></p> <p><b>Adventures in Japan Blog</b> - Everyone will contribute to the blog and post weekly</p> <p>Different kinds of posts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Everyday small discoveries findings</li> <li>- Informational content (a Youtube video on a specific topic ex: a video explaining some aspect of Japan or Japanese culture, about programs like Japan Bowl)</li> </ul> <p>If the blog gets good, we can make T-shirts and have other merchandise</p>
<p><b>Action Plan 1 (Group A)</b></p> <p>What we found on Japan on the KAKEHASHI program including hospitality of Japanese, safety and trust in the society, reverence for nature, convenience and punctuality of public transportation, all come down to “Respect”. We should spread awareness of it and we can take lessons from what we learned and incorporate them into our lives.</p> <p>We are going to implement photos and videos into media like video to educate people about all things on Japan.</p> <p>Also we organize the group of people who are willing to learn about Japan and talk to them.</p>	<p><b>Action Plan 2 (Group B)</b></p> <p><b>Adventures in Japan Blog</b>  <a href="https://kakehashi2018.wordpress.com">https://kakehashi2018.wordpress.com</a>          Everyone will contribute to the blog and post weekly. Different kind of posts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Everyday small discoveries and findings.</li> <li>- Informational content (YouTube video on a specific topic ex: a video explaining some aspect of Japan or Japanese culture, about programs like Japan Bowl)</li> </ul> <p>If the blog gets good, we can make T-shirts and have other merchandise.</p> <p><b>High School Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Graduates: return to high schools, give presentation to prospective Japan Bowl competitors.</li> <li>- Current high school students will return as Japan Bowl student coaches.</li> <li>- Spreading the word about Japan Bowl- more prospective KAKEHASHI delegates!</li> </ul>