



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)

Inbound program for International Poetry Exchange Program (IPEP)

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 13 high school students and supervisors from the U.S. visited Japan from October 29 to November 6, 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. In Okinawa Prefecture, they interacted with Korean, Filipino and Japanese high school students through poetry. Through the lectures and homestay 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: 13 participants,

[Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo, Okinawa

2. Program Schedule

Oct. 29 (Mon)	[Arrival]	
Oct. 30 (Tue)	[Orientation]	
	[Lecture]	Mr. Hideo Kimura, Strategic International Management Associates (SIMA)
	[Observation]	The Imperial Palace
	[Observation]	Edo-Tokyo Museum
Oct. 31 (Wed)	Move to Okinawa from Tokyo	
	[Observation]	Gyokusendo Cave, Kingdom Village
	[Cultural Experience]	Eisa Dance
Nov. 1 (Thu)	[School Exchange]	Shuri High School
	[Exchange]	International Poetry Exchange Program
Nov. 2 (Fri)	[Observation]	Shuri Castle
	[Lecture]	Battle in Okinawa in World War II
	[Observation]	Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial

		Museum, Peace Memorial Park
	[Meeting with host family]	
Nov. 3 (Sat)	[Homestay]	
Nov. 4 (Sun)	[Farewell Party with host family]	
	Move to Tokyo from Okinawa	
	[Exchange]	Interaction with Gotenba-Nishi high school students
	[Workshop]	
Nov. 5 (Mon)	[Observation]	Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku
	[Exchange]	Ms. Akie Abe, the spouse of the Prime Minister of Japan
	[Farewell Party]	
Nov. 6 (Tue)	[Observation]	Sensoji Temple
	[Departure]	

3. Program Photos



10/30 [Lecture] Mr. Hideo Kimura, Strategic International Management Associates (SIMA)





10/31 [Cultural Experience] Eisa Dance



11/1 [School Exchange] Shuri High School



11/1 [Exchange] International Poetry Exchange Program

	
11/4 [Farewell Party with host family]	11/4 [Workshop]

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

◆ My most significant impression for each program was the lecture and the school exchange. It was amazing because I was really able to understand Japanese history and culture. Another part that I loved about this program was the trip to the Okinawa Peace Memorial. I really loved this because it was a great way to connect American, Japanese and Pilipino History.

◆ The most significant impression is the Battle of Okinawa Lecture and Shuri High School exchange. The lecture was given by someone who lost their father in the war, so it left an impact on me. The Shuri High School exchange stood out because of the interaction with the students. They made gift of dance, shared a dance and overall made me feel welcome. We also went to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was nice to see the place where important meetings are held and sit in that room. The Homestay was a bit different from what I imagined, but it made me feel like I was in Africa (my family's hometown) again.

◆ The lectures were lengthy and detailed. It allowed us to see things another point of view. I loved the school exchange. It was fun meeting foreign students and talking to each other with each other languages. Through students I found out about pop-culture and what they thought of America. It's interesting to see how the government worked in comparison to our government. I loved the Homestay too. The food was made of love and it was a warm, accepting experience. I really enjoyed Okinawa's culture first hand. Experiencing the Eisa dance was really fun and I got to know the history behind it.

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

◆ Student who participated in the school exchange

I feel glad that I participated in this exchange. I was able to see various aspects of each country, such as how the people from those countries express certain things and what they usually feel. After the presentation, as we discussed the impressions of each other's poems and listening to their comments, it was really a fun moment, which made me want to ask more questions and know more about their countries.



There were also a lot of difficulties and unexpected things happening, but I feel I would like

more people to participate in this exchange in the future, to feel the joy of reading poems and the pleasure of interacting with people from different countries since this exchange changed the way I think.

◆ **Host family**

They voluntarily got involved in everything to help us. It was great to see them opening up their heart as they were singing songs while sitting in the car. I was also glad that they introduced me to their family when they were on the phone.

6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>Alondra UribeさんはEllen Haganさんと一緒にいます。 土曜 8:35 · 那覇市 · 🌐</p> <p>Found happiness in Japan and I never plan on leaving ❤️ #IPEPJAPAN</p> <p>24件</p>	 <p>Aichatou Traoreさんが写真6件を追加しました。 月曜 9:47 · 🌐</p> <p>IPEP Japan Experience #IPEPJAPAN #KAKEHASHI2018 #JICE</p> <p>12件 コメント4件</p>
<p>About the program (Facebook) Found happiness in Japan and never plan on leaving</p>	<p>About the program (Facebook) IPEP Japan Experience</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session


<p>At the International Dinner event held every year, students from different cultures introduce their own food, dances and traditional costumes. I'd like to dance Okinawa's Eisa at the next event and I am also thinking about introducing Japanese food.</p> <p>Those who entertained us, and the Japanese culture all had a great influence on us. I am planning to post the pictures that I took in Japan on bulletin boards and show them on TV so that my classmates can have a better idea of Japan.</p>