



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)
Outbound Program for KAKEHASHI Inouye 3rd Slot
Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 25 Japanese university students and their supervisor visited the United States of America from March 10 to March 17, 2019 to participate in the program aimed at promoting the understanding of Japan with regard to its politics, economy, society, culture, history, and foreign policy.

During the school exchange program, they delivered a presentation and performance to introduce the attractiveness of Japan. Through the observation of various sites, the participants enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to improve their understanding of the US and Japan-US relations, and shared their individual interests and experiences through social media. Based on their findings and experience in the US, each group of participants made a presentation in the final session and reported on the action plans to be implemented after returning to Japan.

【School Names and Number of Participants】

Kumamoto University: 25 participants

【Destination】

U.S.A. [Miami, Florida]

2. Program Schedule

Mar.10 (Sun)	【Arrival】
Mar.11 (Mon)	【Orientation】 【Courtesy Call】Consulate General of Japan in Miami 【Observation of company】JUKI America, Inc. 【Observation of company】Isuzu Motors America, LLC. 【Reception】Official Residence of the Consul General of Japan in Miami
Mar.12 (Tue)	【School Exchange ①】Miami Dade College (InterAmerican Campus)
Mar.13 (Wed)	【School Exchange ②】Miami Dade College (Wolfson Campus)
Mar.14 (Fri)	【School Exchange ③】Gulliver School 【Workshop】 【Observation】Art Deco Historic District
Mar.15 (Thu)	【Reporting Session】 【Observation】Vizcaya Museum and Gardens 【Interaction】JETAA (JET Alumni Association)
Mar.16 (Sat)	【Departure】
Mar.17 (Sun)	【Arrival in Japan】

3. Program Photos



March 11 【Courtesy Call】 Consulate-General of Japan in Miami



March 11 【Observation of company】 JUKI America, Inc.



March 11 【Reception】 Official Residence of the Consul General of Japan in Miami



March 12 【School Exchange①】 Miami Dade College



March 14 【School Exchange③】 Gulliver School



March 15 【Observation】 Vizcaya Museum and Gardens

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

◆ University Student

There are many things that I felt and learned about “diversity” through this project. When I was looking at the townscape in Miami, there was a wide variety of people. From their facial features to their skin colors and hairstyles, I was really able to feel its diversity. Moreover, through the interaction with students at Miami Dade College and the Gulliver Schools, I saw people with different appearances and nationalities spending time together, and it was clear that people in Miami are tolerant of diversity; that is to say, they are diversity without much reservation. I felt that the sense of a “foreigner” for people in Miami is totally different from that in Japan. As we Japanese perceive overseas tourists as “outsiders,” which is probably related to the fact that Japan is geographically an island nation, we tend to look at them curiously as if they are simply unfamiliar. In addition, because of this tendency, it seems that there are some Japanese who cannot really consider the humanity of foreign people which likely correlates to how foreign workers are treated in Japan, which has currently been a problem. After witnessing the way people in Miami approach diversity, I have become keenly aware through this project of our unintentional feelings toward foreign people and what is lacking in our views toward them by seeing people of different appearances and nationalities peacefully coexist in Miami. In the future, when we need to develop projects from a global point of view, especially in the business field, I believe that the first thing that we have to review is our general attitude toward overseas. It was very meaningful that I was able to acquire this notion in the project. I sincerely appreciate that I had such a great experience by stepping into Miami: it is located in North America, said to be an entrance to South America due to its geographical location, and has remarkable diversity.

◆ University Student

During our company visits to JUKI and ISUZU, I was impressed by the high level of technological prowess of each company. I was very interested to hear the details of what the workers there said about how it was to live in Miami, and what they noticed about the differences between Miami and Japan. This led to an opportunity for me to think about Japan’s relations overseas. During the school exchanges, I gave a presentation in English regarding reconstruction after the 2016 Kumamoto earthquakes. From this, I realized both how difficult this was, of how to give a good presentation, while at the same time, being able to perceive the degree of awareness and thoughts that foreign people have about earthquakes in Kumamoto. I feel that that was probably the biggest benefit of all. I would like to make use of this benefit for my future learning at my university. A lecture at the Miami Dade College involved active communication between students and a teacher, which is different from how we do it in Japan, and was a participatory lecture where everyone could freely state his/her opinions. Compared to the more passive types of lectures that we have in Japan, it was great because we were able to actively think and share, and just have our own thoughts. Moreover, I had many opportunities to get a feel of the overall character of Miami and came

away with the impression that they are all about active communication. Through these activities, I was able to acquire a lot of learning, experiences and perspectives that I could never have obtained if I had just stayed in Japan. Rather than just wasting all of that, I would like to make use of it for my school activities and my life in the future and make them meaningful.

5. Voices from the Students/Schools/Organizations

◆ Student who participated in the school exchange program

The presentations were very informative on their topic, and now I know a bit more about Japan's current status. It was a very fun experience. I would really like to go to Japan to learn more about it.

◆ Student who participated in the school exchange program

The performance widened my view on the Japanese culture. The different types of activities differ greatly from traditional American games. All the students were extremely nice and fun to talk to.

◆ Student who participated in the school exchange program

The presentations were really amazing. They were very well prepared and made me want to visit Japan even more. I learned a lot about earthquake awareness and I made new friends. This was a great way to learn about the Japanese culture.

6. Dissemination by participants

 <p>いいね! 8件</p> <p>kumakakehashi 1日目 3.11 活動①</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ・在マイアミ日本国総領事館に訪問 <p>在マイアミ日本国総領事館に訪問にて、在領事館の役割、マイアミの基本的な情報、アメリカ合衆国と日本の間におけるマイアミの意義などについて学びました。</p> <p>また、質疑応答の時間では、海外で働くことについての貴重なお話を聞くことができました。</p>	 <p>angiestea.pngさん、他8人が「いいね!」しました</p> <p>kumakakehashi 2日目①</p> <p>本日は、朝から夕方までマイアミ デイド カレッジ (InterAmerican Campus)に訪問しました。カレッジ内では、午前中にアイデンティティに関する討論、キャンパスツアー、サルサレッスンを行い、中庭で昼食を食べて、午後にはアイデンティティに関するさらに深い討論、熊大生によるプレゼン発表を行いました。</p> <p>アイデンティティに関する討論では、混血等のない日本人学生に対し、中南米から多くの人種が集うマイアミの大学生と比較する上で、互いのアイデンティティを識別する際に差異が起こることがわかりました。これは、確かに、仕方ないことであると思いますが、実際の討論でも、日本人学生からすると考えたこともない概念であったため、マイアミ学生の持っている意見そのものが新鮮に思えました。</p>
<p>On the Courtesy Call (Instagram)</p> <p>The following activities were conducted on March 11 of the first day. By visiting the Japanese consulate in Miami, I could have a look at the role of the consulate, gained basic information about Miami, and learned about the importance of Miami as a bridge between Japan and the United States. In the question and answer session, I was able to hear valuable stories about working abroad.</p>	<p>About School Exchange(Instagram)</p> <p>Today, I visited Miami Dade College (InterAmerican Campus) from morning to late afternoon. Inside the college, we had an identity debate, campus tour, salsa lessons in the morning, a lunch in the courtyard, and a more in-depth debate on identity in the afternoon and a presentation by Kumamoto University students.</p> <p>In the debate on identity, it has been found that differences occur in the identification of each other's identity when comparing Japanese students who are not of mixed races with Miami college students who consist of many different ethnicities from Latin America. I think feeling differences is certainly unavoidable, but raised in the actual debate, it was a concept that I had never thought about as a Japanese student, so the Miami students' opinion it seemed fresh to me.</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

<p>STEP 1 To keep in touch with MDC</p> <p>① Skype meeting ② buddy system to support learning languages</p> 	<p>STEP 2 To keep on spreading information continuously</p> <p>① Share with Social Media</p> 
<p><u>Action Plan1</u></p> <p>【Establishing support relationships with students at Miami Dade College】</p> <p>In order to continue our relationship with the students of Miami Dade College from now on, it is essential that we establish mutual interaction and support relationships. We will communicate with them in English and/or Japanese by using Skype and other tools, and will correct each other's writing in English and/or Japanese in order to benefit each other's language study. By using Skype, we will be able to deepen our understanding of each other by sharing what we have learned and noticed in the KAKEHASHI Project and by exchanging opinions.</p>	<p><u>Action Plan2</u></p> <p>【Continuously disseminating information】</p> <p>By utilizing social media, we will continuously disseminate what we noticed in Miami, as well as the activities that we will carry out after returning home. We will spread the activities of the KAKEHASHI Project and the attractiveness of both Japan and the U.S., not only among universities, but also all over the world. On the other hand, we will hold an exhibition at Kumamoto University regarding pictures of the KAKEHASHI Project as an offline activity of information dissemination. We will encourage neighboring residents, especially Kumamoto University students, to get to know the activities of the KAKEHASHI Project. Furthermore, we will dance salsa, together with those who visited a photo exhibition, to let them know the traditional dance in Miami.</p>