



# **KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)** **Outbound Program for KAKEHASHI Inouye 4nd 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 11 to March 18, 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.

### **【School Names and Number of Participants】**

Kanazawa University: 25 participants

### **【Destination】**

U.S.A. [Washington D.C. & Lexington, Virginia ]

## **2. Program Schedule**

Mar.11 (Mon)	<b>【Arrival】</b> <b>【Orientation】</b>
Mar.12 (Tue)	<b>【Courtesy Call】</b> Embassy of Japan in the United States of America <b>【Observation】</b> National Japanese American Memorial <b>【Lecture】</b> Briefing on Japanese American experience, by Mr. Gerald Yamada
Mar.13 (Wed)	<b>【Observation】</b> National Mall <b>【Lecture】</b> Ashinaga USA <b>【Lecture】</b> U.S.-Japan Council Presentation
Mar.14 (Thu)	<b>【School Exchange①】</b> Georgetown University Move to Lexington, Virginia State from Georgetown University
Mar.15 (Fri)	<b>【School Exchange②】</b> Washington & Lee University
Mar.16 (Sat)	<b>【School Exchange③】</b> Washington & Lee University
Mar.17 (Sun)	<b>【Departure】</b>
Mar.18 (Mon)	<b>【Arrival in Japan】</b>

### 3. Program Photos



March 12 【Courtesy Call】 Embassy of Japan in the United States of America



March 13 【Observation】 National Mall



March 13 【Lecture】 Ashinaga USA



March 14 【School Exchange①】 Georgetown University



March 15 【School Exchange②】 Washington & Lee University



March 16 【School Exchange③】 Washington & Lee University

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

##### **◆ University Student**

Among the many things that I saw during our visit this time, there are two things in particular that left a deep impression on me. The first thing is the history of Japanese Americans who were detained during World War II. At Mr. Gerald Yamada's lecture, we were able to listen to his precious stories while seeing relevant pictures. From the movie shown at the Washington & Lee University, we were able to clearly understand how Japanese-Americans were treated at that time by watching a video. Since these affairs are attributed to the confrontation between Japan and the U.S., I believe we are not supposed to ever forget it as Japanese citizens who are currently contributing to world peace. Moreover, I would also like to actively share these affairs with Japanese people who do not know about them yet. The second thing is the interaction with the local students. I have heard about university students' school life and lectures in the U.S., but I was able to get a real glimpse of students' lives in reality by actually visiting the campuses. Since there is a large dormitory on campus, I was impressed by the environment in which students can focus on their study. It became a good memory to participate in a Japanese class and to communicate with students regarding each other's country. The interaction with local students in the U.S. and students in different faculties in the university was an inspiring occasion for my student life from now on. I truly appreciate every one of the relevant parties as I could have such a wonderful opportunity this time. In order to utilize this experience, I would like to think about what I should do to disseminate the attractiveness of Japan and will take actions based on it.

##### **◆ University Student**

Through my participation in this program, I was able to not only obtain knowledge about the U.S. but also know more about Japan. This project made me think about Japan. As there are many things that we take for granted in our daily lives without a second thought, I vividly remember the difficulty in trying to explain these things. I wondered whether it was my culture that was hard to explain. Rethinking the long established concept of "culture," I began to feel and taste the atmosphere and culture in the U.S. that my textbooks failed to capture, and reflected deeply about the differences with Japan. Moreover, through this program, I came to have a deeper interest in not only the U.S., but also Japan. Since I fortunately came from a strongly traditional family, I finally came to understand how interesting and valuable such traditions are, and leading me to consider my fortunate situation, and commit to preserve and disseminate Japanese culture. From now on, I would like to continuously deepen my relationship with all of my foreign friends, including the ones in the U.S., and work on understanding other countries' cultures while studying on my own so that I can correctly convey how wonderful my own country's culture is.

#### **5. Voices from the Students/Schools/Organizations**

◆ **Student who participated in the school exchange program**

I was very impressed by the way in which the Japanese students conducted themselves; They were always very polite and respectful, something that I believe American students could improve on. For example, I offered to take a couple of Kanazawa University students to visit a traditional Christian church since they have never been to one and I remembered enjoying visiting the Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples while in Japan. When we walked into the church, they were in awe of the stained glass windows and decorations, but refrained from taking any pictures until I assured them it was completely acceptable to do so; it made me question the way in which I conducted myself while in Japan. Participating in the KAKEHASHI Project gave me insight into Japanese culture, as well as my own. I expected to find that Japanese culture would be overwhelmingly different than American culture, but I ended up finding that there are just as many similarities between the two countries as there are differences. This experience has reminded me that the world is a much different place than it was for our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, so it is our responsibility to go out into the world and seek knowledge of the truth.



◆ **Student who participated in the school exchange program**

The Japanese students were very efficient and friendly. I hope to stay connected with them because I am very glad to have met them and been able to bond with them by sharing the experience of travelling to another culture and country. Not only visiting Japan and seeing Japanese culture, but sharing our American culture was a great part of the program, because it helped our culture exchange to move in both directions.

◆ **Student who participated in the school exchange program**

I really enjoyed the poster session. Their posters for SSA were very beautifully made and informative. They helped present iconic and important aspects of Japanese culture as well as life in Kanazawa. Through the exchange program, I was able to connect to Japanese students personally and learn about what it is like to go to school in Japan. I really loved seeing their reactions when they came to visit Washing & Lee University because I was able to hear their perspective on how W&L is different from school in Japan.

## 6. Dissemination by participants

	
<p><b>About the Courtesy Call (Facebook)</b></p> <p>We visited the Embassy of Japan in Washington D.C. Mr. Suzuki, who works there, talked us what his job at embassy are and encouraged us from various perspectives. After that, we met Gerald Yanada at National Japanese American Memorial. He told his own story of Japanese-American. I learned a lot from both of the guests and will share the information with many people. I'm looking forward to visiting Georgetown University on Thursday and making a presentation about Japan there.</p>	<p><b>About the School Exchange (Facebook)</b></p> <p>We went to Washington &amp; Lee University. We saw the W&amp;L University's campus and chapel through campus tour. Also, I made a presentation about "Japanese hospitality" at Japanese class. I was glad that I felt W&amp;L students were interested in our topics. Through a day at W&amp;L University, I enjoyed its unique atmosphere and friendly community.</p>

## 7. Action Plan Presented by Participants

<p><u>Action Plan1</u></p> <p>(For overseas) We will post English articles on Facebook regarding the following topics in order to highlight the attractiveness of both Japan and the U.S. to the whole world: our experiences in the KAKEHASHI Project; impressions we had in the U.S.; Japanese (especially in Kanazawa) tourist attractions, culture, tradition, and industries; and events at Kanazawa University. We aim to post articles about three times a week.</p> <p>(Within Japan). At an event held at Kanazawa University for students in the University to promote studying abroad, we</p>	<p><u>Action Plan2</u></p> <p>We will hold a reporting session for high school students who desire to go to Kanazawa University.</p> <p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity in the U.S. (including the comparison with Japan)</li> <li>• Various races and their co-existence, dissemination of topics not seen on Japanese university campuses (Posters related to LGBTQ, etc.)</li> <li>• Issues and language barriers to be resolved in order for Japan to further advance to the world, etc.</li> </ul>
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<p>will participate, as both student speakers and consultants, to talk to those who are interested in studying abroad about our experiences in the KAKEHASHI Project and the attractiveness of the U.S., with the aim of increasing the number of those who would like to study in the U.S. Such an event is planned to be held in April or May at the University. We will also participate in similar events in the future to encourage more people to be interested in studying in the U.S.</p> <p>Moreover, since our group members are voluntarily acting as English-speaking guides as part of club activities, we would like to continue and reinforce this activity in the future so that we can directly and individually convey the attractiveness of tourist spots to foreign tourists.</p>	<p>Purpose: To lead to the future promotion of understanding of the U.S. and understanding of Japan by sharing and disseminating what we have learned with many more people</p> <p>Method: ① Presentation (dissemination of what we noticed and learned)</p> <p>② Discussion (discussing thoughts regarding the ① and ideas for resolving relevant issues, as well as sharing them)</p>
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