



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)

Outbound Program for University Students

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 47 Japanese university students and supervisors visited the United States of America from December 9 to December 16, 2018 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】

The University of Electro-Communications	12 Participants
Meiji University	11 Participants
University of Shimane	12 Participants
Yamagata University	12 Participants

【Destination】

San Francisco, California (The University of Electro-Communications, Meiji University)
Honolulu, Hawaii (University of Shimane, Yamagata University)

2. Program Schedule

1)The University of Electro-Communications, Meiji University

December 9 (Sun)	【Arrival】
December 10 (Mon)	【Orientation】 【Courtesy Call】 Consulate-General of Japan in San Francisco 【Observation】 MUFG Union Bank, TOTO Americas Holdings 【Observation】 City Tour (Pier 39)
December 11 (Tue)	【School Exchange 1】 George Washington High School 【Observation】 City Tour (Burlingame)
December 12 (Wed)	【School Exchange 2】 San Jose State University 【Observation】 Liquid Robotics
December 13 (Thu)	【Workshop】 【Observation】 Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center, Japan Town

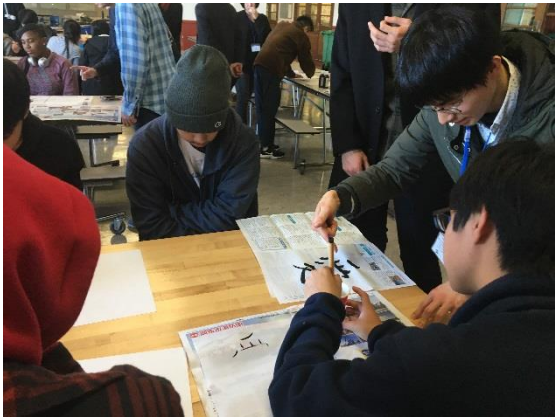
December 14 (Fri) **【Reporting Session】**
 【Observation】 City Tour (Union Square)
 December 15 (Sat) **【Departure】**
 December 16 (Sun) **【Arrival in Japan】**

2) University of Shimane, Yamagata University

December 9 (Sat) **【Departure】**
 【Observation】 Pearl Harbor(Battleship Missouri/Arizona Museum)
 【Orientation】
 December 10 (Mon) **【Courtesy Call】** Consulate-General of Japan in Honolulu
 【Observation】 Central Pacific Bank, ABC Store Corporate Office
 December 11 (Tue) **【Observation】** King Kamehameha Statue, Iolani Palace
 【Observation】 Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Nu'uanu Pali
 Lookout
 December 12 (Wed) **【School Exchange 1】** Windward Community College
 【Observation】 Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
 【Workshop】
 December 13 (Thu) **【School Exchange 2】** Iolani School
 【Workshop】
 December 14 (Fri) **【Reporting Session】**
 【Observation】 Hawaii Plantation Village
 December 15 (Sat) **【Departure】**
 December 16 (Sun) **【Arrival in Japan】**

3. Program Photos

1)The University of Electro-Communications, Meiji University

	
<p>12/11 【 School Exchange1 】 George Washington High School</p>	<p>12/12 【Observation】 Liquid Robotics</p>
	
<p>12/13 【Observation】 Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center</p>	<p>12/13 【Observation】 Japan Town</p>
	
<p>12/13 【Workshop】</p>	<p>12/14 【Reporting Session】</p>

2)University of Shimane, Yamagata University

	
<p>12/10 【Courtesy Call】 Consulate-General of Japan in Honolulu</p>	<p>12/10 【Observation】 Central Pacific Bank</p>
	
<p>12/10 【Observation】ABC Store Corporate Office</p>	<p>12/12 【School Exchange1】 Windward Community College</p>
	
<p>12/13 【School Exchange2】 Iolani School</p>	<p>12/14 【Reporting Session】</p>

4. Voice from Participants

1) The University of Electro-Communications, Meiji University

◆ University Student

The program opened my eyes to the fact that the best way to learn about a foreign country correctly is to visit there. It motivated me to have more experiences of short or long-term studies overseas and learn the cultures and value systems of other countries.

The most impressive experience I had this time was the visit to the school in San Francisco. At the Washington High School, we, the Japanese students were given an excellent opportunity to show the presentations and performances that we had prepared and rehearsed for months. Learning from the comments of previous Kakehashi Project participants about the theme, we had put in lots of improvements and so we were nervous about how they would be received. As it turned out, pop culture was a very good choice because it was a theme the audience could easily relate to and our approach of telling about Japanese habits and rules through pop culture was effective. At the same time, I felt there was still room for improvement as I really came into contact with the American audience and sensed the differences in the cultures of the two countries. For example, San Francisco is a place where many different races and nationalities gather, and people respect diversity. In contrast, Japan is still a uniform society bound by a unique culture. The way of thinking is gradually changing, but I thought that comparison of these social differences between the two countries will result in better mutual understanding.

◆ University Student

In the visits to the Consulate General and the Japanese company, I was most impressed by the fact that far more Japanese people work in San Francisco than I have previously imagined. Seeing fellow Japanese people working there, I left with a sense of familiarity towards the idea of working overseas. At TOTO Americas Holdings, they kindly showed us their plant, I got the impression that it is challenging to spread to America something that is widely adopted Japan. Although it is difficult to come up with ideas to have an unfamiliar product accepted by the American people, I thought that everybody was enjoying the work.

What impressed me the most in San Francisco was the presence of so many Asians. It was a valuable experience for me to learn the history of Japan with San Francisco, a city that has such a deep connection with Asia. From books and so on in Japan, we can learn about the Japanese Americans who looked like Japanese but were born in America and decided to fight for America. But listening to the stories from the mouths of the descendants in America was something quite different and I learned a lot more this way. We visited Japan Town and learned how the Japanese immigrants adapted to America in those days. I felt that the Japanese people should learn more of the history that such Japanese Americans lived.

2) University of Shimane, Yamagata University

◆ **University Student**

What struck me the most in this program was that Japan and Hawaii have had such a long relationship since Meiji Period. It was thrilling to learn about the adventure of the first Japanese immigrants, who were later called “Gan-nen-mono”, crossed the ocean with dreams in Hawaii because they believed the pay there was higher. However, I also learned that their living did not go so easily and it was good for me to know their reality as well. Through our presentations during the school visits, we were able to share with young people in Hawaii the charm of both Japan and Shimane prefecture.

◆ **University Student**

I knew about the history of Pearl Harbor, but I didn't know there were Japanese immigrants. Thanks to this program, I was able to learn about many heroes among them as well. I had a naïve image towards Hawaii, that it was a tropical paradise with lots of Japanese tourists. However, there was a history of discrimination to Japanese immigrants. Despite their roots being in Japan, they responded with loyalty, sacrifice and integrity to their host country, leading eventually to Americans accepting them as one of their own. I felt ashamed of myself because I was just longing for Hawaii without knowing those facts. I think there are many such Japanese like me, so it will be necessary to share what I have learned with my friends, family and people I know. I will come back again with my friends and family and tell them to see, touch and feel the real Hawaii.

5. Voices from the Students/Schools/Organizations

1) The University of Electro-Communications, Meiji University

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

Meeting with the Japanese students through the program, we enjoyed our time exchanging words with the students and engaging in different activities in the high school. They presented a respectful ambiance toward us: teachers and faculty. The program connected Japanese students and American students on topics encompassing culture and language. We had a better understanding of Japan.

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

My impressions left with the exchange gave me a deeper understanding of Japanese culture and the Japanese students themselves. The Japanese students impressed me, and their presentations were very good. I got the impression that Japanese students are more similar to the students here than I thought.

2) University of Shimane, Yamagata University

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

The students did a very good job at their performance. I really liked their demonstration on Japanese dialect. It gave me a better understanding on their language. I also really liked the exchange we did. It was a lot of fun to be able to talk and ask questions I

normally would not be able to ask. I would definitely recommend it for future students. We were able to successfully communicate in both English & Japanese.

◆ Student who participated in the school exchange program

I found the presentations very interesting. It was cool to learn about Japanese legends and video games. I liked how the people presenting shared the legends with sound effects, which really enhanced their performance. The Japanese students are extremely friendly and nice. I hope I can see them again.

6. Dissemination by participants

1) The University of Electro-Communications, Meiji University

	
<p>About American culture (Instagram)</p> <p>In America, all menu of cafes and restaurants have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegan • Vegetarian • Gluten Free <p>marks, and also calories are written. We can see American's thoughts of health.</p>	<p>About the Observation (Instagram)</p> <p>We visited today Military Intelligence Service where the history of Japanese-American soldiers were exhibited, as well as Japan Town. We learned from Japanese American people who live in San Francisco about how Japanese-American soldiers, their family and children spent a life in the United States, and how the culture of Japanese Americans were created. There were a lot of histories that we</p>

did not know. The day was full of learning and was very meaningful for me.

2) University of Shimane, Yamagata University



13 likes

kakehashishimane 12月13日 イオラニスクールを訪問しました。小学生から高校生と有意義な交流をしました。私たちのプレゼンテーションを熱心に聞いてくれました。石見神楽のプレゼンでは、神道の巫女の衣装を身につけて行いました。日本語が上手な生徒さんがたくさんいました。お互いに話が通じ合った時、心がつながったように思えました。目を見ながら話すことが大切だと思いました。

On December 13

We went to Iolani School and presented Lafcadio Hearn, Iwami Kagura, and Japanese dialects. We wore white robe trimmed with red worn by a female Shinto servant. The students watched our presentations attentively, and some of them spoke very good Japanese. We felt we were "connected" when our presentations were understood and we exchanged our ideas. I thought it's important to make an eye contact when we talked.

shigenou/22
Windward Community College



About the School Exchange (Instagram)



We went to Iolani School and presented Lafcadio Hearn, Iwami kagura, and Japanese dialects. The kagura team wore white robes trimmed with red worn by female Shinto maidens. The students watched our presentations attentively, and some of them spoke very good Japanese. We felt we were "connected" when our presentations were understood and we exchanged our ideas.

About the School Exchange(Instagram)


We visited Windward Community College to interact with students who are studying Japanese. It is one of ten campuses of the University of Hawaii. There was a lot of nature and it was a big campus. We gave a presentation about Japanese dialects, karate and the traditional toys, kendama and koma. I felt that the students were surprised after we introduced Japanese dialects and karate.

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

1)The University of Electro-Communications, Meiji University

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegan • Gluten-free • Vegetarian 	 <p>https://bakamondays.blog.chinobi.jp/Entry/385/</p> <p>https://www.pinterest.com/explore/san-jose-state-university/</p>
<p>Based on the discovery that attention to people with allergies and food labeling is more thorough in San Francisco than in Japan, we will use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other SNS to promote labeling of calories and use of vegan, gluten-free, and vegetarian marks among restaurants in Japan. In the coming six months we will use our personal SNS accounts to spread the news and information to restaurant managers and food service providers. For example, if a restaurant starts such a labeling or marks, we will take a photo and spread the news that this is the trend, to encourage other restaurants to follow suit.</p>	<p>Through SNS we will share the program experiences with those who are considering working overseas and those who want to study abroad. We will send out what we saw and felt from the visit to a high school, a college, and other educational institutions and what we found out about the differences in education style and industry-academia cooperation. By sharing about the overall character of America, San Francisco, and the American people and students there, we hope that many more students will be attracted to the charm of San Francisco and will want to visit there one day.</p>

2)University of Shimane, Yamagata University

<p>Outreach to our university</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Talking our experiences with our friends. *Announcement in our campus. *Hold school recital. *Publish a magazine. <p>Outreach to local community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Vice presidents radio. *To hold a public school recital. *Post factory reports to Hamada city hall. *Appeared in the Hamada which is magazine of Hamada. *We will visit high school *Appear on NHK. <p>Outreach to the world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *KAKEHASHI'S Instagram. *Interaction of Facebook. *Real reporter. 	<p>Action Plan: Traditional International Cuisine Party</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Traditional cuisine party • When During winter vacation • Who International exchange students • Why Understand each various cultures by eating and talking.
<p>We will share our findings on Hawaiian character and history including that of Japanese immigrants, culture and their interest. We will share our experiences, findings and acquired knowledge to our university, local community and the world, utilizing various means.</p>	<p>We will hold the international traditional cuisine party with exchange students from 5 countries in the engineering department. During the winter holiday, we will use the international exchange hall of the university for it. We want to deepen mutual understanding and friendship by talking and eating traditional dishes of each country.</p>