



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)

Outbound Program for Okinawa Program

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 75 Japanese high school students and supervisors visited the United States of America from October 31 to November 7, 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】

Chinen High School: 25 participants

Koyo High School: 25 participants

Okinawa Prefectural Naha Kokusai High School: 25 participants

【Destination】

Chico, State of California (Chinen High School)

State of Hawaii (Koyo High School)

Seattle, State of Washington (Okinawa Prefectural Naha Kokusai High School)

2. Program Schedule

1) Chinen High School: Chico, State of California

Oct. 31 (Wed)	[Arrival] [Observation] Japan House
Nov. 1 (Thu)	[Orientation] [Observation] Go for Broke National Education Center Move from Los Angeles to Sacramento (Chico)
Nov. 2 (Fri)	[School Exchange] Chico Senior High School [Observation] Gateway Science Museum
Nov. 3 (Sat)	[Observation] Chico Farmer's Market [Observation] California State University (CSU) [Workshop 1]
Nov. 4 (Sun)	[Workshop 2] [Observation] California Museum [Observation] Old Sacramento

Nov. 5 (Mon)	[Reporting Session] [Observation] Arden Fair Mall
Nov. 6 (Tue)	[Departure]
Nov.7 (Wed)	[Arrival in Japan]

2) Koyo High School: State of Hawaii

Oct. 31 (Wed)	[Arrival] [Observation] Pearl Harbor (Battleship Missouri, Arizona Museum) [Orientation]
Nov. 1 (Thu)	[Courtesy Call] Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu Move from Honolulu to Kona (Kohala) [Introduction Ceremony] Kohala Institute (Stay Overnight With Kohala High School Students)
Nov. 2 (Fri)	[School Exchange] Kohara High School [Observation] Hawai'i Institute of Pacific Agriculture
Nov. 3 (Sat)	[Observation] Pu'ukohola Heiau National Historic Site [Observation] Statue of King Kamehameha [Observation] Pololu Valley Observation [Farewell Party] Kohara High School
Nov. 4 (Sun)	Move from Kona to Honolulu [Workshop]
Nov. 5 (Mon)	[Observation] Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii [Reporting Session]
Nov. 6 (Tue)	[Departure]
Nov.7 (Wed)	[Arrival in Japan]

3) Okinawa Prefectural Naha Kokusai High School: Seattle, State of Washington

Oct. 31 (Wed)	[Arrival] [Observation] Pike's Place Market [Orientation]
Nov. 1 (Thu)	[Courtesy Call] Consulate General of Japan in Seattle [Observation] Nissei Veteran's Committee
Nov. 2 (Fri)	[School Exchange] Kamiak High School
Nov. 3 (Sat)	[Homestay]
Nov. 4 (Sun)	[Farewell Party with Host family] [Workshop]
Nov. 5 (Mon)	[Reporting Session] [School Exchange] University of Washington
Nov. 6 (Tue)	[Departure]
Nov.7 (Wed)	[Arrival in Japan]

3. Program Photos

1) Chinen High School: Chico, State of California



10/31 【Observation】 Japan House



11/1 【Observation】 Go for Broke National Education Center



11/2 【School Exchange】 Chico Senior High School



11/3 【Observation】 Chico Farmer's Market



11/4 【Observation】 California Museum



11/5 【Reporting Session】

2) Koyo High School: State of Hawaii



10/31 【Observation】 Pearl Harbor (Battleship Missouri, Arizona Museum)



11/1 【Courtesy Call】 Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu



11/2 【School Exchange】 Kohara High School



11/2 【Observation】 Hawai'i Institute of Pacific Agriculture



11/3 【Farewell Party】 Kohara High School

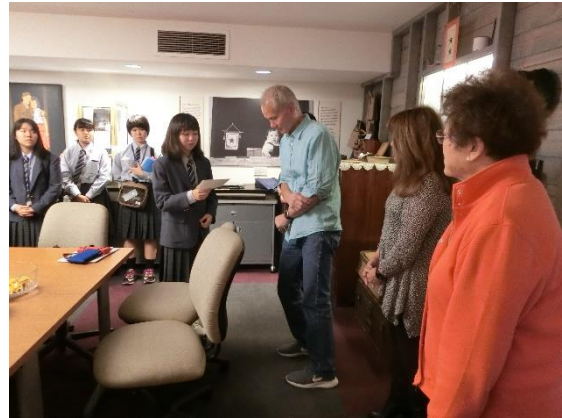


11/5 【Observation】 Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii

3) Okinawa Prefectural Naha Kokusai High School: Seattle, State of Washington



11/1 【Courtesy Call】 Consulate General of Japan in Seattle



11/1 【Observation】 Nissei Veteran's Committee



11/2 【School Exchange】 Kamiak High School



11/2 【School Exchange】 Kamiak High School



11/4 【Farewell Party with Host family】



11/5 【School Exchange】 University of Washington

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

◆ Chinen High School

I learned the history of Japanese-Americans for the first time. At Go for Broke, they went through the years of discrimination and prejudice in incarceration center during WWII. They were asked to show their loyalty only to the US. That was a heartbreaking story to me and

made me think about the importance of peace. We also met with Nisei and Sansei Japanese-Americans at California Museum and learnt a lot from them. Visiting Chico High School was a wonderful experience and we found so many differences from our school life in Okinawa. At Chico, there are so many class selections, such as Agriculture, Engineering, or Musical. It brings further opportunity for the students in their future career. Great system.

◆ **Koyo High School**

At the beginning, I was so nervous that I could not speak words with students from Kohala high school during the one night and two days program. While we were playing games, having dinner together, and watching movies with them, I got used to responding in conversations. Even though I could not understand whole sentences, I could understand individual words at least. Some students were thoughtful to speak slowly, which allowed me to actively speak to them with a peace of mind. It was only two days for exchange, but it was a very precious experience and hard to say goodbye.

◆ **Okinawa Prefectural Naha Kokusai High School**

What impressed me the most during the visit was "cultural differences" between America and Japan. There were some differences I felt while I was in Japan, but I sensed it more acutely when I actually went to America. For example, in Japan, it is not unusual to leave our purse in a car but they never do it in America. I thought it was not only because of a cultural difference but also a difference in security.

I got to feel proud of Japan after hearing stories of different people. At the same time, I learned that there were important facts that were not conveyed to Japan. For instance, the fact that many Japanese Americans were sent to an internment camp during the Pacific War, or the fact that there are many homeless people while large companies are doing good business.

I was able to experience American culture at school exchange. I found that there were less restrictions at school in America compared to Japan. They can take a class of their choice and they are allowed to drink water in class, for example. I was also glad to see that they had a good impression of Japan when we conducted our presentation on Japanese culture. During homestay, I had plenty of opportunity to communicate with all of my host family members. I enjoyed the cultural exchange and also my English improved through the communication. And I got to know American food culture deeply. I came to love Japan and also America through this program.

5. Voices from the US Students/Schools/Organizations

◆ **Student who participated in the school exchange program (Chico, California)**

It was very interesting and fun to learn about Japan, and see the students' faces light up when they talk about their school and culture. I enjoyed learning about Japan from a person who lives there not a textbook. I loved the activities and prizes which kept us really into it. I loved

learning about Japan and want to visit it now. I loved learning about festivals and dances and would love to witness it for myself.

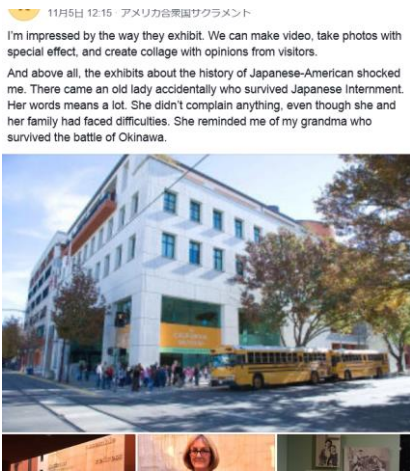

◆ **Student who participated in the school exchange program (Hawaii)**

Overall, the exchange program was an amazing experience for me as a host. I learned a lot about the Japanese culture and got to share about my culture as well. Everyone from Japan was very sweet, attentive, respectful, and positive. I really enjoyed conversing with the exchange students and showing them around the Kohala High campus. In the last couple of days, I have created bonds that I will cherish forever.

◆ **Student who participated in the school exchange program (Seattle, Washington)**

The Japanese students put on a wonderful presentation for the class. It was clear all of them had done research and were knowledgeable about America and enthusiastic about their visit. All the delegation seemed willing to share their own culture while appreciating ours which made for a fantastic experience on both sides. A major achievement of the exchange was the opportunity to see ourselves through the eyes of an exchange student. As we explained our own actions and tried to demonstrate our standard lifestyle, we had a chance to notice the variations in our lifestyle and culture when compared to the Japanese lifestyle. This created a worthwhile opening for introspection.

6. Dissemination by the participants

	
<p>(Chinen High School) About California Museum (Facebook)</p> <p>I'm impressed by the way they exhibit. We can make video, take photos with special effect, and create collage with opinions from visitors. And above all, the exhibits about the history of Japanese-American shocked me. There came an old lady accidentally who survived Japanese Internment. Her words means a lot. She didn't complain anything,</p>	<p>(Koyo High School) About School Program (Instagram)</p> <p>We went to Kohara High School. We gave a presentation about sightseeing spots in Okinawa. This presentation was a success. I was so happy.</p>

even though she and her family had faced difficulties. She reminded me of my grandma who survived the battle of Okinawa.



(Koyo High School) About Nikkei-jin (Instagram)

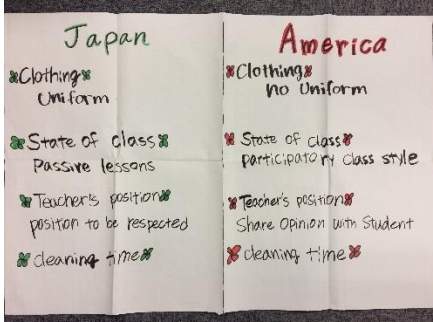
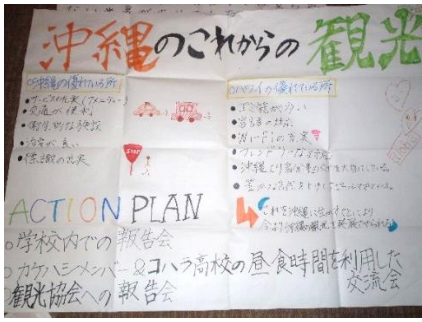
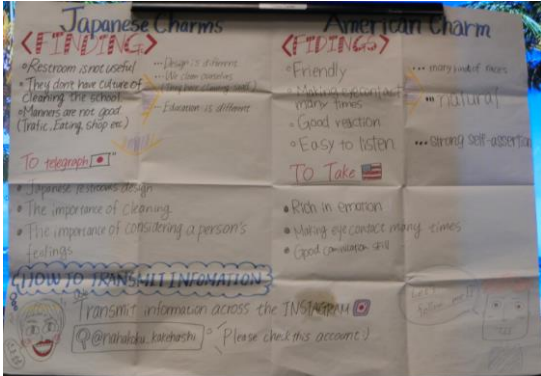
We arrived in Hawaii early in the morning. We were tired after a long flight but we were excited. We visited Pearl Harbor. We walked on the Battleship Missouri's deck. Japan formally surrendered there on September 2, 1945. The tour was great and the information given by the guide was interesting and informative. Unfortunately, Arizona was closed but we got on a boat to get closed to it. we visited both places where WW II started and ended. We learned a lot about history of Pearl Harbor and we were also able to look at the war from different point of view.



(Okinawa Prefectural Naha Kokusai High School) About the Courtesy Call (Instagram)

At the Consulate General in Seattle, I was able to hear stories from people who are working in consulates and from the Okinawa prefectural association. In the stories, there were many things that I didn't know about America as well as Japan. At the same time as the joy of knowing new things I do not know about Japan. It was a good opportunity to raise awareness as a Japan.

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

	
<p>Action Plan 1 (Chinen High School)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Participants will present their achievement and observations at the school meeting. In the Power Point, they will share their findings such as common points, differences and strong points in the US and Japan. 2) Participants will publish a school newspaper to show and keep their achievement as proof. Newspaper will be distributed within and out of the school so that more people will have their interests in the Japan-US culture. 3) Participants will share their experience and achievements through SNS to disseminate their message broader scale. Participants will present their achievements at the whole school meeting to raise more interests among other students. Also they plan to hold a report session at the local primary and Jr. high school to share their experience more. 	<p>Action Plan 2 (Koyo High School)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Having a meeting in the school for reporting on the trip, network exchange with Kohala high school, reporting to tourism association. 2) Start with friendly greetings like did in Hawaii. Try to be more optimistic like the character of Hawaiian people. 3) In SNS, try to post more considerate opinions to others.
	
<p>Action Plan 3 (Okinawa Prefectural Naha Kokusai High School)</p> <p>Good points of Japan and things they should learn from America will be shared through Instagram.</p>	