



**KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)**  
**Outbound Program for “Think of Okinawa’s Future in the United States”**  
**(TOFU)Program Report**

## **1. Program Overview**

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 25 Japanese high school & university students visited the United States of America from March 20 to March 27, 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 exchange program, they delivered a presentation and performance to introduce the attractiveness of Japan and Okinawa. 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】**

High School & University Students in Okinawa 25 Participants

### **【Destination】**

U.S.A. [Washington D.C., New York]

## **2. Program Schedule**

Mar.20(Wed)	【Courtesy Call】 U.S. Embassy in Japan (Mr. Joseph M. Young, Deputy Chief of Mission) 【Courtesy Call】 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Mr. Kiyoto Tsuji, Parliamentary Vice-Minister) 【Arrival】
Mar.21(Thu)	【Orientation】 【Courtesy Call】 U.S. Department of State 【Observation】 National Mall
Mar.22(Fri)	【Courtesy Call】 White House, National Security Council(NSC) 【Observation】 National Archives 【Courtesy Call】 Embassy of Japan in the United States (Mr. Kazutoshi Aikawa, Minister extraordinary and plenipotentiary)
Mar.23(Sat)	【Interaction】 Globalize DC Japan Plus (Japanese language school) 【Observation】 Japanese American Memorial 【Lecture】 Experiences in a Japanese Internment Camp Move to New York from Washington D.C

Mar.24(Sun)      **【Interaction】** Japanese American United Church  
                          **【Workshop】**  
                          **【Reporting Session】**



Mar.25(Mon)      **【Courtesy Call】** Japanese Permanent Mission to the United Nations (Mr. Koro Bessho, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United Nations)  
                          **【Courtesy Call】** Japanese Permanent Mission to the United Nations (Mr. Yasuhisa Kawamura, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United Nations)  
                          **【Courtesy Call】** Japanese Permanent Mission to the United Nations (Mr. Shigeki Komatsubara, TICAD Program Advisor, African Affairs Bureau, United Nations Development Program (UNDP))  
                          **【Courtesy Call】** Ms. Caroline Kennedy, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan  
                          **【Observation】** United Nations Headquarter

Mar.26(Tue)      **【Departure】**

Mar.27(Wed)      **【Arrival in Japan】**

### 3. Program Photos

	
<p>March 21 <b>【Courtesy Call】</b> U.S. Department of States.</p>	<p>March 22 <b>【Courtesy Call】</b> The White House</p>
	
<p>March 23 <b>【Interaction】</b> Globalize DC Japan Plus</p>	<p>March 24 <b>【Interaction】</b> Japanese American United Church</p>

	
<p>March 25 【Courtesy Call】 Ms. Caroline Kennedy, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan</p>	<p>March 25 【Observation】 United Nations Headquarter</p>

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

◆ Through this program, I strongly thought “World peace can be realized!” Since I had a once-in-a-lifetime experience in the past week alone, I cannot digest it well now. But after returning to Japan, I will organize what I experienced and transmit it to other people. I really appreciate the opportunity of this extremely special experience prepared for us. I'd like to carry out activities with other participants to let all the parties concerned including officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs know that it was good to take us to the US. To spend time together with highly ambitious high school and university students was also great experience for me. I am truly glad that I participated in this program.

◆ At the Embassy of Japan, when I heard that Japan plays an important role for all the countries of the world, it felt nice for Japan to be needed. I was surprised that people from the US and Japan have different impressions of the military. I came to know that American people trust it. I think the United Nations is great because it always sees things from two different points of view as well as from a neutral standpoint. By listening to what officials working for the UN said, I would like to think what I can do now in order to make the world peaceful for somebody and make use of it for the future, even though I still don't have a future dream. I've learned the importance of habitually relating issues and events to the world.

◆ We visited National Japanese American Memorial and heard a story from Mr. Yamada, who had experienced Japanese American internment during the war. I had learned only about the Battle of Okinawa, but seldom had an opportunity to know the existence of Japanese emigrants. I was fascinated by what Mr. Yamada said and I learned a lot from him. Even though the emigrants had a tough time when they could not consult anyone in the US far away from Japan, they worked very hard in order to live. I've never known nor experienced a war. However, exactly because we were born during peaceful times, we have to fight “new wars” such as terrorism or discrimination. And thanks to our ancestors' efforts, I was born and can have lived till today. That's why I will never forget feelings of gratitude and share the story with my friends.

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



### ◆ Adult who participated in the Interaction program

Program was very well organized. Our church members enjoyed talking with KAKEHASHI students who were friendly, intelligent, respectful, curious. Each group presented a different aspect of life in Okinawa or Japanese culture. I felt I got a comprehensive picture of their lives and interests. In a short time, we became friends.

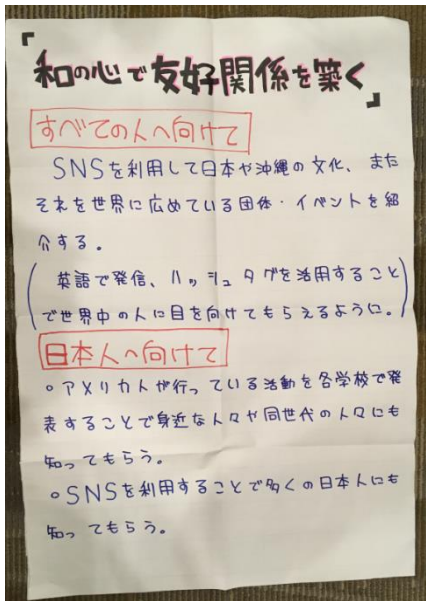
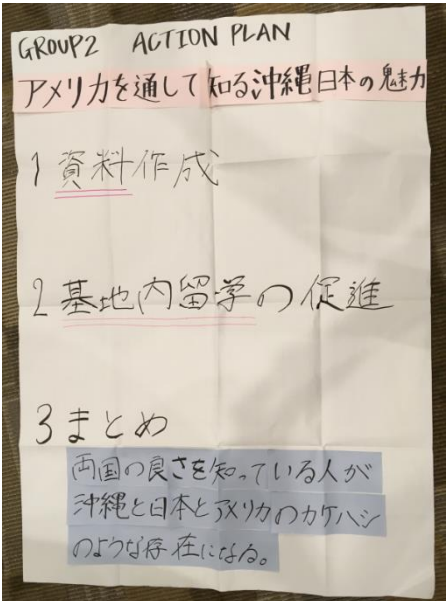
### ◆ Adult who participated in the Interaction program

I have been to Japan many times, but haven't been to Okinawa yet. Meeting all of these great young students motivates me to go in the future for sure. I learned a lot about Okinawa culture today in a fun and personable way. If this the goal of the KAKEHASHI project, then you are doing a great job. Keep up the good work.

## 6. Dissemination by participants

	
<p>About interaction with the students of Japanese language school (Instagram)</p> <p>Interacted with the students who learn Japanese in Washington D.C. We talked about Okinawa a lot and had a wonderful time. We want to keep our friendship.</p>	<p>About observation of United Nations (Instagram)</p> <p>We visited the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York City. We were honored to have a chance to see Mr. Koro Bessho (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United Nations), Mr. Yasuhisa Kawamura (Ambassador Extraordinary &amp; Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United Nations) and Mr. Shigeki Komatsubara, TICAD Program Advisor, African Affairs Bureau, United Nations Development Program (UNDP). They gave us very valuable lectures. Thank you for your great inputs.</p>

## 7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

	
<p><u>Action Plan1</u></p> <p>"To establish friendly relations with Japanese spirit"</p> <p><u>To all the people in the world</u></p> <p>By utilizing SNS, introduce cultures of Japan as well as Okinawa, and organizations/events spreading them to the world</p> <p><u>To Japanese</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By presenting activities Americans are doing at each school, let people close to and the same generation as the participants know</li> <li>• Through SNS many Japanese can recognize the activities.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Action Plan2</u></p> <p>"Charms of Okinawa and Japan through USA"</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepare explanatory material</li> <li>2. Promote educational programs at US bases</li> </ol>