



KAKEHASHI Project (Canada)

Inbound program for Asian Canadian Leadership

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 5 participants from Canada visited Japan from November 4 to November 11, 2018 to participate in the program aimed at promoting their understanding of Japan with regard to Japanese politics, economy, society, culture, history, and foreign policy. Through the lectures, observations and interactions with Japanese people etc., the participants enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to improve their understanding of Japan.

[Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants]

Canada: 5 participants

[Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo, Osaka

2. Program Schedule

Nov. 4 (Sun)	[Arrival]
Nov. 5 (Mon)	[Orientation] [Lecture] Second North America Division, North American Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Economic relations between Japan and Canada) [Lecture] First China and Mongolia Division, MOFA (Japan-China Relations) [Lecture] First Northeast Asia Division, MOFA (Japan-Korea Relations)
Nov. 6 (Tue)	[Observation] The Imperial Palace, National Diet Building [Courtesy Call] Mr. Kiyoto Tsuji, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs [Observation] Toyosu Market Sites [Observation] Panasonic Center Tokyo
Nov. 7 (Wed)	[Observation] TOYOTA MEGA WEB [Observation] The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan), Kawasaki Robostage Move to Osaka from Tokyo
Nov. 8 (Thu)	[Courtesy Call] Mayor of Sakai City [Observation] Nintoku-ryo Tumulus, Daisen Park [Cultural Experience] Japanese Matcha Tea experience [Observation] Ashi Cutlery Works Co.Ltd.
Nov. 9 (Fri)	[Observation] Osaka Castle, The Entrepreneurial Museum of Challenge and Innovation [Observation] Kuromon Market, Sumiyoshi Taisha Shrine
Nov. 10 (Sat)	Move to Tokyo from Osaka [Observation] Senso-ji Temple
Nov. 11 (Sun)	[Departure]

3. Program Photos

	
<p>11/5 [Lecture] Second North America Division, North American Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>11/6 [Courtesy Call] Mr. Kiyoto Tsuji, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs</p>
	
<p>11/7 [Observation] TOYOTA MEGA WEB</p>	<p>11/8 [Courtesy Call] Mayor of Sakai City</p>
	
<p>11/8 [Observation] Ashi Cutlery Works Co.Ltd.</p>	<p>11/9 [Observation] Sumiyoshi Taisha Shrine</p>

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)


◆ Meeting with the officers from Japanese Government (federal/city). Understanding Japanese culture (tradition, foods, act) closely from this KAKEHASHI Project. The order, politeness and friendliness, hospitality are very impressive. The entrepreneurs from Meiji era were impressive; their sacrifice and contribution to the society of Japan were very important and I felt respect to them. The roads are clean and in order even with heavy traffic; nobody honks and I never heard it on the road last full week. I greatly appreciate this KAKEHASHI Project and I now have a better understanding of Japan and Japanese culture because of it. I am impressed by the temperament of Japanese people; how they are kind, responsive, and patient. I will definitely revisit with my family or friends again.

◆ The program has brought five Asian Canadians from different professions, ethnic

backgrounds, and geographical residency together to share our unique experience and exchange ideas on issues of significance to us personally and as a Canadian. At the same time, it has also provided us with the opportunity to explore the diversity of an Asian country, Japan, and engage in a discourse with the Japanese people from our perspectives. Through the meetings with government officials, senior executives of high-tech companies, and representatives of cultural organizations, we were able to understand the business model and work ethics of Japan and learned how quickly Japan is moving forward to lead the world. In addition, communication with the local coordinators was absolutely inspiring as they educated us from the very human and layman's point of view what the real Japan is all about.

◆ The program is very well designed and organized overall. The vision by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to build a bridge for the future is very thoughtful. I am impressed by the dedication and hospitality of people we met all the way during the stay in Japan. First, the meeting with the vice minister really provides us a better way to look at how politicians think about the future of Japan. The candid discussion with us gave us a lot of insights. Second, the meeting with the leading Japanese firms such as Panasonic and Toyota also gave us direct experience to catch up with the latest technology developed in Japan. Lastly, all of the people we met in Japan showed great manners and hard work, which left us with the most impressions. Thanks again for organizing such a great program for us.

5. Dissemination by the participants

<p>Grateful for being part of the Canadian delegation for my first trip to Japan, invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Amazing culture, food, and technology. Look forward to continually building this bridge. #MOFA, #JICE, #Olympics2020, #MiraiKan</p> <p>翻訳を見る</p> 	<p>About the program (Facebook)</p> <p>Grateful for being part of the Canadian delegation for my first trip to Japan, invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Amazing culture, food, and technology. Look forward to continually building this bridge.</p>
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