



KAKEHASHI Project (Canada)

Inbound program for University Students

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 52 University student and supervisors from Canada visited Japan from February 17 to February 24, 2019 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 and shared their individual interests and experiences on social media. Based on their findings and learning in Japan, each group of participants made a presentation in the final session and reported on the action plans to be taken after returning to Canada.

[Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants]

Canada: 52 participants

(Breakdown)

Group A(17 participants) : University of Toronto

Group B(18 participants) : Simon Fraser University

Group B(17 participants) : Carleton University

[Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo, Osaka, Shiga

2. Program Schedule

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| Feb 17(Sun) | 【Arrival】 |
| | 【Orientation】 |
| Feb 18(Mon) | 【Lecture】 Professor Akira Nakamura, Meiji University |
| | 【Observation】 Diet Building (House of Representatives) |
| | Move to Osaka from Tokyo |
| | 【Observation】 Panasonic Corporation / Panasonic Museum |
| Feb 19(Tue) | 【School Exchange】 Osaka University |
| | 【Meeting with Host Family】 |
| Feb 20(Wed) | 【Homestay】 |

Feb 21(Thu) **【Farewell party with Host Family】**
 【Cultural Exchange】 Koka Ninja House
 【Observation】 Hikone Castle
 【Workshop】
 Move to Tokyo from Shiga
 Feb 22(Fri) **【Courtesy Call】** Mr. Kiyoto Tsuji, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign
 Affairs
 【Reporting Session】
 Feb 23(Sat) **【Observation】** Sensoji Temple / Edo-Tokyo Museum
 Feb 24(Sun) **【Departure】**

3. Program Photos



2/18 **【Observation】** Diet Building (House of Representatives)



2/19 **【Observation】** Panasonic Corporation / Panasonic Museum



2/19 **【School Exchange】** Osaka University



2/21 **【Cultural Exchange】** Koga Ninja House

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| 2/22 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. Kiyoto Tsuji, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs | 2/22 【Reporting Session】 |

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

◆ Canada, University Student (Group A)

The exchange discussion with the students of Osaka University allowed myself to engage in a fruitful dialogue regarding Japan's pop-culture, foreign affairs and local culture. Panasonic company was alright. But I thoroughly enjoyed the National Diet Building. Homestay with my host family was highly memorable. The short time we spent with them opened a new people-to-people exchange as we lived through their normal lifestyle from making tofu, walking around the neighborhood, visiting shrines and going to matsuris.

◆ Canada, University Student (Group A)

The 7/11 work ethic seemed impressive to me as I am quite laid back and admire the discipline of the Japanese workforce. Of course a balance must be found between work and leisure to maximize productivity.

It was enlightening to listen to the views of Osaka students on constitutional revision. It was ironic that one student wished to expand the SDF but was not personally willing to join the SDF. The veneration for the founder of Panasonic was interesting. The museum showed him not only as a businessman but as a husband, writer, and thinker.

The demeanor of our host was incredible, he was extremely nice and patient. We were encouraged to play with his 6 year old son. This type of openness has a profound emotional impact. Japanese punctuality is incredible.

◆ Canada, University Student (Group B)

Homestay program was a great experience for a Japanese language studying student. I was able to converse fully in Japanese with the family and listening to their different stories was very special to me. As the homestay families speak only Japanese, studying and learning Japanese beforehand allowed us to make more valuable memories through the stories tied to their neighborhood and lifestyle. As this was the first time to be in a home stay, I was open-minded to learn anything and everything that was provided. The amount of warmth and hospitality that this family has provided cannot be described with words. So, I look forward to

becoming the future of the bridging generation of Japan and Canada to spread the Japanese culture and their values.

◆ **Canada, University Student (Group B)**

With regards to school exchange, I am surprised that Japanese university students can speak English very well and I am glad that I have a chance to interact with Japanese students. As for government office, I am very amazed how they build the office and the structure is gorgeous. In addition, home stay is my favorite part of this trip because I have never experienced the lifestyle in Japan. I also love interacting with my host family. Thank you!

◆ **Canada, University Student (Group C)**

The homestay program offered a unique opportunity to experience rural Japanese life, which is an essential component of Japanese culture and society. As well, discussions with students from Osaka University about history and culture showed me the importance of continuing my study of these subjects and my efforts to apply this knowledge in the work I do now and in the future. Our time at Panasonic highlighted some of the significant differences between North American and Japanese corporate culture, especially the philosophical approach taken by Panasonic founder Konosuke Matsushita. Visits to historical sites were my favorite part of this trip as a student of Japanese history, and it was a fantastic opportunity to reach out and touch the history I normally only read about.

◆ **Canada, University Student (Group C)**

The lecture component was a unique way to learn more about the nature of Japanese business and technology since prior to this experience I had little knowledge of this.

Most interesting to me was the experiences involving the homestay, and life in Hino Town. Having previously read and learnt about some aspects of life in Japan it was great to truly experience this, to take in the scenery, visit the temples and festivals and live in a traditional household. In the same way the visit to the Diet was fascinating to see both similarities and differences to both Canada and Japan. Moreover, the school exchange was impressive to me to learn how young people in Japan think, this was indeed a learning experience, to see the many perspectives.

Lastly cultural landmarks, such as Hikone castle was impressive as a history student. I was able to experience and see the areas I had read about previously.

5. Voice from Japanese Students/Schools/Host Families/Organizations





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

It was a very valuable experience because we got a chance to compare Japanese and Canadian culture with the Canadian students. I also think that it was a great opportunity to get a more objective grasp on my own culture by explaining it to the students and then listening to their opinions. From now on, I think that I would like to study the cultures of Canada and other countries more actively, as well as get a better understanding of the culture of Japan.


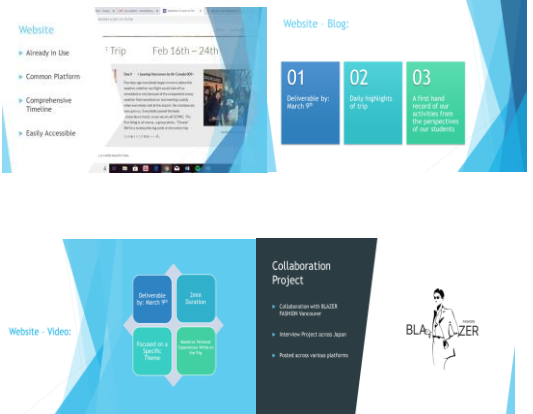
◆ Host Family

I was able to get a pretty good understanding of how life generally is in Canada, and their school system and school life. Seeing how politely they cleaned the room in the morning, I got the understanding that they are a very earnest kind of people.

6. Dissemination by the participants

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|  <p>The most loving, caring, and wholesome host family @Hino Town</p> <p>Irish Marigmenさん、他2人</p> |  |
| <p>(Group A) About the homestay (Facebook)</p> <p>The most loving, caring, and wholesome host family @Hino Town</p> | <p>(Group B) About the homestay (Twitter)</p> <p>Can proudly say I'm a professional tofu maker now.</p> |
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| <p>(Group C) About the program (Twitter)</p> <p>On the bus ride to Hino. The Japanese countryside is absolutely beautiful.</p> | <p>(Group C) About the cultural exchange (Instagram)</p> <p>I couldn't be a 16th century Japanese peasant.</p> |

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

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| <p>Action Plan (Group A)</p> <p><u>Panel Discussion and social night</u> : in March after we return</p> <p><u>Panel Discussion</u>: There will be three speakers that includes representatives from our trip, academic speakers, and someone from the Consul General to discuss about the past, present, and future of global Japan. These topics may include gender, immigration, and Article 9.</p> <p><u>Social Night</u>: We hope to organize a social, perhaps in a Japanese restaurant or a bar, to meet up with our friends and community, to chat about our experiences.</p> | <p>Action Plan (Group B)</p> <p><u>Action Plan 1</u></p> <p>We will disseminate our experience in Japan through the website which was created for this program.</p> <p>(https://sites.google.com/view/kakehashi-project-at-sfu/trip?authuser=0)</p> <p>Blog:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliverable by: March 9 2. Daily highlights of trip. A firsthand record of our activities from the perspectives of our students <p>Video:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliverable by: March 9th 2. 2min. Duration 3. Focused on a Specific Theme. Based on Personal Experiences While on the Trip <p><u>Action Plan 2</u></p> <p>Collaboration Project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaboration with BLAZER FASHION Vancouver 2. Interview Project across Japan (about Japanese people's fashion) Posted across various platforms <p><u>Action Plan 3</u></p> <p>Exchange:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. March 15-16 2. Exchange with Osaka University students who visit our university with |

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| | <p>Kakehashi program. Introducing Life in B.C.</p> <p>Visit to Consulate General of Japan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. March 14 2. Visit to Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver with Osaka University Students. Sharing our experiences and cultural exchange |
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Proposed Post-Program Activities

- Personal Engagement
 - Organizing future trips to Japan, staying in touch with Kakehashi participants, Learning Japanese
- Social Media
 - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.
- Education
 - Lectures, Departmental Blogs, Expanding Japanese Studies
- Public Outreach
 - Student Events, University Mural, Carleton Japanese Festival, Word of Mouth



Action Plan (Group C)

- Personal Engagement
 - Organizing future trips to Japan, staying in touch with Kakehashi participants, Learning Japanese
- Social Media
 - Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.
- Education
 - Lectures, Departmental Blogs, Expanding Japanese Studies
- Public Outreach
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