



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America and Canada)

Inbound program for 2019 Japan Bowls in the U.S. and Canada

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 51 high school students and supervisors from the U.S. and Canada visited Japan from July 17 to July 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 their home countries.

[Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants]

United States of America: 43 participants,

Canada: 8 participants

[Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo (All), Hokkaido (25 participants), Iwate (26 participants)

2. Program Schedule

7/17(Wed)	【Arrival】	
7/18(Thu)	【Orientation】	
	【Lecture】 Dr. KIMURA Hideo, Executive Managing Director, Strategic International Management Associates (SIMA)	
	(1) Group A : Hokkaido	(2) Group B : Iwate
	Move to Hokkaido from Tokyo	Move to Iwate from Tokyo 【School Exchange】 Iwate Prefectural Morioka Daiichi High School
7/19(Fri)	【Cultural Experience】 Zazen Meditation, Tea Ceremony(Zuiryuj Temple) 【School Exchange】 Hokusei Gakuen University High School 【Meeting with Host Family】	【Cultural Experience】 Key holder making (Iron Jewelry & Accessories Studio RYU) 【Observation】 Koiwai Farm 【Meeting with Host Family】

7/20(Sat)	【Homestay】 Sapporo City	【Homestay】 Morioka City
7/21(Sun)	【Farewell Party with Host Family】 【Workshop】 Move to Tokyo form Hokkaido	【Farewell Party with Host Family】 【Workshop】 Move to Tokyo from Iwate
7/22(Mon)	【Courtesy Call】 Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine / Harajuku / Tokyo Tower	
7/23(Tue)	【Courtesy Call】 Mrs. ABE Akie, Prime Minister's wife 【Interaction】 Japan Bowl Supporters Group, Experience in Yosakoi Solan (dance) 【Reception】 Interaction with the people related to the Japan Bowls	
7/24(Wed)	【Reporting Session】 【Departure】	

3. Program Photos

All groups (Tokyo)



7/18 【Orientation】



7/18 【Lecture】 Dr. KIMURA Hideo, Executive Managing Director, Strategic International Management Associates (SIMA)



7/22 【Courtesy Call】
Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado



7/23 【Interaction】 Japan Bowl Supporters Group, Experience in Yosakoi Solan (dance)

Group A (Hokkaido)



7/19 【Cultural Experience】
Zazen Meditation, Tea Ceremony
(Zuiryuji Temple)



7/19 【School Exchange】
Hokusei Gakuen University High School.



7/20 【Homestay】 Sapporo City



7/21 【Workshop】

Group B (Iwate)



7/18 【School Exchange】
Iwate Prefectural Morioka Daiichi High
School



7/19 【Cultural Experience】 Key holder
making (Iron Jewelry & Accessories Studio
RYU)



7/20 【Homestay】 Morioka City



7/21 【Farewell Party with Host Family】

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

Group A (Hokkaido)

◆ U.S.A. Student

The homestay was a wonderful opportunity to experience Japanese culture in person. I was able to learn more about Japanese customs at home and perform some customs I learned from studying for Japan Bowl. For example, our household had a specific bathing order: elderly, visitors, and everyone else by age. One of my other favorite memories from this trip was going to Harajuku. We were able to experience much of the current pop culture through streets in Harajuku.

◆ U.S.A. Student

Going to a Japanese high school made me sort of feel like a celebrity. There were a lot of people waving and welcoming us when we were still in the bus. They were all very nice and interesting. It was also my first time to see people doing kendo. Overall, it was great to meet others who were the same age as us in Japan. Meeting Princess Takamado was one of the best parts of this trip. Although most of us were very nervous, she was very welcoming and funny. The home stay was one of the best parts of this trip. I was able to experience Japanese life firsthand -- immersing myself in its culture and traditions. My host family was incredibly nice and understanding, even when my Japanese wasn't the best. They also took us shopping and introduced us to local specialties. I had a wonderful time with them and hope to meet them again in the future. As for other things, I truly enjoyed being able to explore the city at night. A group of friends and I would walk around, visit different shops and convenience stores, and stroll through small parks. This ability to simply explore the surrounding areas was incredible and really immersed me deeper into the whole experience.

Group B (Iwate)

◆ Canada Student

I really enjoyed the lecture on the Japan Economy. It's interesting to get an idea on the numbers in Japan and the problems they face and how hardworking they are to solve them. The speaker ended at exactly 11:30:00, enhancing his point of how punctual Japanese people are. He was a great speaker and funny. The courtesy call with Her Highness Takamado was also very interesting. The questions asked sparked some interesting information and I found her thoughts really educational and engaging. I also really enjoyed my time with my host family, who were very considerate of me and took care of me like a family member. Their interactions and life were fun to experience and I hope to meet them again in the future or continue to talk with them on social media and see how they're doing. Being my first time in Japan, though I have knowledge on customs and facts about the country, nothing beats knowledge better than experiences.

◆ U.S.A. Student

The lecture was interesting for it told us a lot of interesting facts about Japan in an economical, business, and political stance. For example, I found that the fact that a zaibatsu (Mitsubishi) is wealthier than some GDP of some countries. School Exchange was very fun and interesting to see the tea ceremony. It was my first time going through a whole ceremony and it was a very beautiful cultural experience. I've seen it in anime, manga, and dramas but it's nice to see the whole thing in real life. Also I was happy to experience the shoes customs (genkan, slippers in school) Company and government offices we visited were located nearby and organized as expected. I really like the structure of the buildings. Homestay was a great experience to meet and live with the natives of Japan and do what they do. We got to watch the shows that Japanese people watch and learn the daily lives of what they do and their house customs. Their treatment was very nice and it is an experience that I will never forget. When I come back to Japan, I would hope to visit them again, but this time be the ones giving to them. I love the toilets and their options and variety. It is not just a toilet anymore, it is so much more. I also love the convenient stores for they really put the meaning into "convenient." They have so much more than America. I enjoy the Japanese fashion and clothes at Harajuku too. I wasted all my money in Harajuku. The food was really great too. There is a certain balance and freshness that isn't as common in America.

5. Voice from Host Families (abstract)

◆ Host family (Group A)



Their Japanese was very proficient, so we hardly had to use English at all and the children enjoyed chatting to them in Japanese, too. Our daughter got on particularly well with them, due in part to the fact that they were girls of a similar age. I had prepared two futon sets for the two host students to sleep on, but they said they wanted my daughter to sleep in their room too, so the three of them shared the two futons. It was a very heartwarming sight.

◆ Host family (Group B)

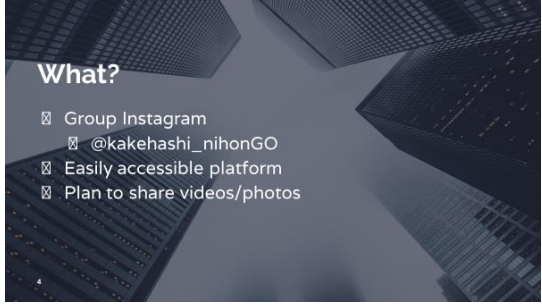
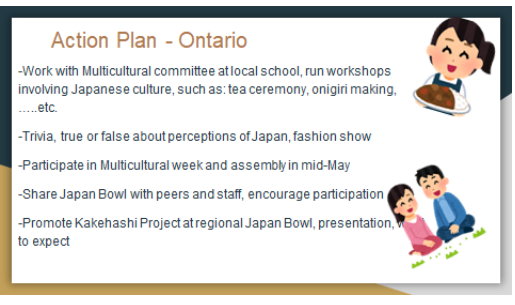
I was nervous, because it was our first time hosting students, but these children spoke Japanese very well, so we were able to converse without issues. I was also relieved because they hardly left anything on their plates at mealtimes. We dressed the children in yukata (cotton kimono) and drank matcha (powdered green tea) in an old mansion built in the late 19th century. They seemed to be pleased that we took lots of photographs of them. Hearing that the children were collecting *goshojin* (stamps at temples and shrines), we took them to a shrine. We also went to a Japanese indigo studio. It seems to have been a good experience for my daughter too. Thank you very much.

6. Dissemination by the participants

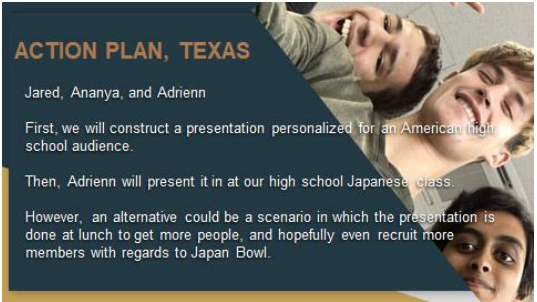


	
<p>About the homestay (Instagram) Adventures in Sapporo + host family!</p>	<p>About the homestay (Instagram) Thank you to our host family for bringing us around Sapporo.</p>

 <p>#akehashi</p> <p>vivian19340 · フォロー中</p> <p>spencl_さん他在「いいね！」しました</p> <p>vivian19340 Finally fulfilled my childhood dream of doing Japanese archery! I missed the mark completely, but this experience shot straight into my favorite memories. I wish we had an archery club</p>	 <p>#akehashi</p> <p>_elainekane · フォロー中 Morioka, Iwate</p> <p>spencl_さん他在「いいね！」しました</p> <p>_elainekane Name a better bonding activity than going to an onsen then rating puddings together, I'll wait.</p> <p>Two days seems like such a short time to get to know people. And yet, in that time, the Shikanai family genuinely welcomed me and my hostmates into their home with open, loving arms and made us feel truly like family. If you've never stayed with a host family</p>
<p>About the school exchange (Instagram)</p> <p>Finally fulfilled my childhood dream of doing Japanese archery! I missed the mark completely, but this experience shot straight into my favorite memories. I wish we had an archery club back in America. I like how the sport also focuses on the elegance of the movement, something not always seen in American sports.</p>	<p>About the homestay (Instagram)</p> <p>Two days seems like such a short time to get to know people. And yet, in that time, the Shikanai family genuinely welcomed me and my host mates into their home with open, loving arms and made us feel truly like family. If you've never stayed with a host family before, I highly recommend it. It gives you an experience and depth to a foreign country that you cannot get from just tourism. Connecting with my family has taught me so much about Japan, and this relationship is definitely going to be a long lasting one. They knew us for such a short time, and yet their love for us is so great. They even made us fresh karaage and came to the train station to give it to us and see us off (and made me cry by doing that)!</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

 <p>What?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Group Instagram ☑ @kakehashi_nihonGO ☑ Easily accessible platform ☑ Plan to share videos/photos 	 <p>Action Plan - Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Work with Multicultural committee at local school, run workshops involving Japanese culture, such as: tea ceremony, onigiri making,etc. -Trivia, true or false about perceptions of Japan, fashion show -Participate in Multicultural week and assembly in mid-May -Share Japan Bowl with peers and staff, encourage participation -Promote Kakehashi Project at regional Japan Bowl, presentation, to expect
<p>Action Plan (Group A)</p> <p>What</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group Instagram @kakehashi_nihonGO Easily accessible platform - Plan to share videos/photos once we return home and continue for around 2-3 months - Insight into the program for future Kakehashi participant - Create a group Instagram - Upload pictures and videos - Write personal experiences - Talk about big concepts 	<p>Action Plan (Group B Ontario)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with Multicultural committee at local school, run workshops involving Japanese culture, such as: tea ceremony, onigiri making, etc. - Trivia, true or false about perceptions of Japan, fashion show - Participate in Multicultural week and assembly in mid-May - Share Japan Bowl with peers and staff, encourage participation - Promote Kakehashi Project at regional Japan Bowl, presentation, what to expect

 <p>Action Plan San Jose, CA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed presentation to Japanese classes in the beginning of the school year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote Japan Bowl - Collab. with Japan Club and JNHS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan cultural activities (tea ceremony, calligraphy, etc.) mock trial, penpal - Create a short video overviewing Kakehashi - Create a blog or social media account to write about and post our wonderful experience <p>Sarah Li & Lauren Okamoto</p>	 <p>ACTION PLAN OUTLINE Los Angeles, CA Gabrielle Madjus, Tuyet-Nhi Nghiem, Megan Hur</p> <div>    </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upload stories/posts of photos, videos, and other quick memories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will/have been seen by friends & family - Impulsively - Collection of various photos and videos to share <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Available to be viewed by the public - At latest August 30th - Share a vlog and discuss the trip <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For students and faculty/staff at school - After obtaining a spot on the show
<p>Action Plan (Group B San Jose)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed presentation to Japanese classes in the beginning of the school year and promote Japan Bowl - Collaborate with Japan Club and JNHS and plan cultural activities (tea ceremony, calligraphy, etc.) etc. - Create a short video overviewing Kakehashi - Create a blog or social media account to write about and post our wonderful experience 	<p>Action Plan (Group B Los Angeles)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upload stories/ posts of photos, videos, and other quick memories (Will/have been seen by friends & family) - Collection of various photos and videos to share (<i>Available to be viewed by the public</i> at latest August 30th) - Share a vlog and discuss the trip (<i>For students and faculty/staff at school</i>)
 <p>Action Plan: Culture Shock (NOVA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group blog and individual social media posts/videos • A presentation about Kakehashi to gain more interest in Japan/Japan Bowl <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Present at our high school Japanese class • One person makes the site and share with group members. Each person would post their day-by-day experiences in Japan. • Presentation includes pictures/videos • Talk about experience and have a discussion about Japanese culture 	 <p>バンクーバー計画 / Action Plan Vancouver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late September lunch presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Garner interest for Japan Bowl, refer to Japanese teacher or Mr. Lenthien ◦ Talk about experience at Japan bowl itself and the Kakehashi program • Training program for Japan Bowl applicants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Event format ◦ Subject matter covered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Idioms ■ Facts ■ History ■ Culture ◦ Basic Japanese (particularly if unfamiliar) ◦ Meet for training as much as desired ◦ Information about living in Japan available online via Jade <p>Rationale: To promote interest in Japan and the Japan Bowl competition</p>
<p>Action Plan (Group B Culture Shock NOVA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A group blog and individual social media posts/videos - A presentation about Kakehashi to gain more interest in Japan/Japan Bowl (Present at our high school Japanese class) - One person makes the site and share with group members. Each person would post their day-by-day experiences in Japan. - Presentation includes pictures/videos - Talk about experience and have a discussion about Japanese culture 	<p>Action Plan (Group B Vancouver)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Late September lunch presentation (Talk about experience at Japan Bowl itself and the Kakehashi program) - Training program for Japan Bowl applicants (Subject matter covered: idioms, facts, history, culture / basic Japanese / information about living in Japan) <p>Rationale: To promote interest in Japan and the Japan Bowl competition</p>

 <p>ACTION PLAN, TEXAS</p> <p>Jared, Ananya, and Adrienn</p> <p>First, we will construct a presentation personalized for an American high school audience.</p> <p>Then, Adrienn will present it in at our high school Japanese class.</p> <p>However, an alternative could be a scenario in which the presentation is done at lunch to get more people, and hopefully even recruit more members with regards to Japan Bowl.</p>	 <p>• Vivian Chan, Nicole Chen, Joselle Quijano</p> <p>• Create our own presentation about our trip —</p> <p>Action Plan - ERHS, Maryland</p> <p>• Present it to Eleanor Roosevelt High School's Japanese Classes</p> <p>• Social media posts about our trip</p> <p>• Share stories with our friends and family</p> <p>• Attempt to make a travel video to advertise and showcase the Kakehashi trip</p>
<p>Action Plan (Group B Texas)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construct a presentation personalized for an American high school audience. - Present it at our high school Japanese class. (The presentation is done at lunch to get more people, and hopefully even recruit more members with regards to Japan Bowl.) 	<p>Action Plan (Group B Maryland)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create our own presentation about our trip and present it to Eleanor Roosevelt High School's Japanese Classes - Social media posts about our trip - Share stories with our friends and family - Attempt to make a travel video to advertise and showcase the Kakehashi trip
 <p>Action Plan - New York</p> <p>Eileen Wu, Fanny Yin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During and after <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take photos and upload them onto social media (e.g. facebook, instagram, snapchat, etc.) to share them with friends and give them insight into our lives at that time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Homestay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Places that we went to throughout our stay in Japan • Talk to friends and share our stories with them • Give omiyage to family, friends, etc. 	
<p>Action Plan (Group B New York)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take photos and upload them onto social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.) to share them with friends and give them insight into our lives at that time (homestay, places that we went to throughout our stay in Japan) - Talk to friends and share our stories with them - Give omiyage to family, friends, etc. 	