



# **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, 50 Okinawan high school students and supervisor visited the United States of America from October 23 to October 30, 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 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】**

Okinawa Prefectural Kaiho Senior High School: 25 participants

Okinawa Prefectural Nago Senior High School: 25 participants

#### **【Destination】**

State of Washington (Okinawa Prefectural Kaiho Senior High School)

State of Oregon (Okinawa Prefectural Nago Senior High School)

#### **2. Program Schedule**

##### **1) Okinawa Prefectural Kaiho Senior High School: State of Washington**

10/23(Wed)	【Arrival】 【Observation】 Pikes Place Market 【Orientation】
10/24(Thu)	【Courtesy Call】 Consulate General of Japan in Seattle 【Lecture】 Okinawa Association of America, Inc. 【Company Visit】 Toray Composite Materials America, Inc.
10/25(Fri)	【School Exchange】 Curtis High School
10/26(Sat)	【Homestay】
10/27(Sun)	【Farewell Party with Host family】 Curtis High School 【Workshop】
10/28(Mon)	【Reporting Session】 【Interaction】 University of Washington
10/29(Tue)	【Departure】
10/30(Wed)	【Arrival in Japan】

## 2) Okinawa Prefectural Nago Senior High School : State of Oregon

10/23(Wed)	【Arrival】
10/24(Thu)	<b>【Orientation】</b> <b>【Lecture】</b> Consular Office of Japan in Portland <b>【Company Visit】</b> Ajinomoto North America, Inc. <b>【Courtesy Call】</b> Consular Office of Japan in Portland
10/25(Fri)	<b>【School Exchange】</b> Churchill High School
10/26(Sat)	<b>【Homestay】</b>
10/27(Sun)	<b>【Farewell Party with Host family】</b> Churchill High School <b>【Workshop】</b>
10/28(Mon)	<b>【Reporting Session】</b> <b>【Observation】</b> Portland State University
10/29(Tue)	<b>【Departure】</b>
10/30(Wed)	<b>【Arrival in Japan】</b>

## 3. Program Photos

### 1) Okinawa Prefectural Kaiho Senior High School: State of Washington



10/24 **【Courtesy Call】**  
Consulate General of Japan in Seattle



10/24 **【Company Visit】** Toray Composite Materials America, Inc.



10/25 **【School Exchange】**  
Curtis High School



10/27 **【Farewell Party with Host Family】**  
Curtis High School



10/28 【Reporting Session】



10/28【Interaction】University of Washington

## 2) Okinawa Prefectural Nago Senior High School: Portland, State of Oregon



10/24 【Courtesy Call】  
Consular Office of Japan in Portland



10/24 【Company Visit】  
Ajinomoto North America, Inc.



10/25 【School Exchange】  
Churchill High School



10/27 【Workshop】



	
10/28 【Reporting Session】	10/28 【Observation】 Portland State University

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

◆ What most impressed me during the visit was that Americans recognize and praise other people's opinions and efforts. When we gave a presentation at Curtis High School, one of the students said "Thank you for the wonderful presentation" and everyone in the class applauded. I was worried whether the students could understand my presentation or not, but I was happy that the Curtis students listened to me seriously. Also, I was surprised that my host family told me "You are brave to stay at a stranger's house," and praised my actions. When I spent time with my host family, I noticed that the phrase "no preference either way" is not an acceptable excuse for them. I realized that giving no opinion on what was asked might be taken as disinterest. Also, through my interactions with a daughter of my host family, I witnessed her strong motivation to learn Japanese. For example, she immediately took notes on newly learned words. And when we went shopping, she carried a notebook for learning Japanese and talked to me using Japanese she knows. I found that her effort and passion are very much related to her acquisition of Japanese, and that I could learn from her example in diligence.

◆ I really enjoyed this program. My host family was very kind and I was lucky to have experienced life in America. Prior to this program, I did extensive research on the US, so I had some awareness, but my experience was beyond expectation. The American people were really open-hearted, happy, kind and warm. I also enjoyed the school exchange program. I was very nervous when I did my presentation, but the American students were so kind and tried hard to understand what I was saying. They also tried their best to talk to me in Japanese. As for the company visit, I had a valuable experience visiting Ajinomoto. I saw many Vietnamese working in the factory, and I wondered if they were working in the US to send remittances back to Vietnam. I hope that a leading Japanese company like Ajinomoto will keep playing an important role in the global economy. I also thought that we Japanese should be more proud of our country.

## 5. Voices from the US Students/Schools/Organizations(abstract)



### ◆ Student who participated in the school exchange program (State of Washington)

The Japanese students' English was extremely good, and their presentations were interesting and interactive, especially with the visuals. They were polite and answered all questions to the best of their ability, and were open to any questions we had. The students gave an amazing impression of Japan, because they were polite, respectful, and eager to learn about America and its culture. We compared the differences and similarities of the United State and Japan, which helped my family and I learn about Japan and its similarities in culture with America.

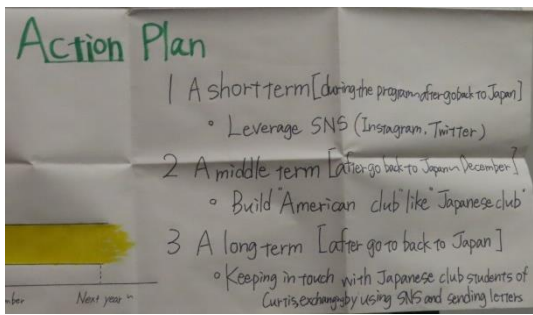
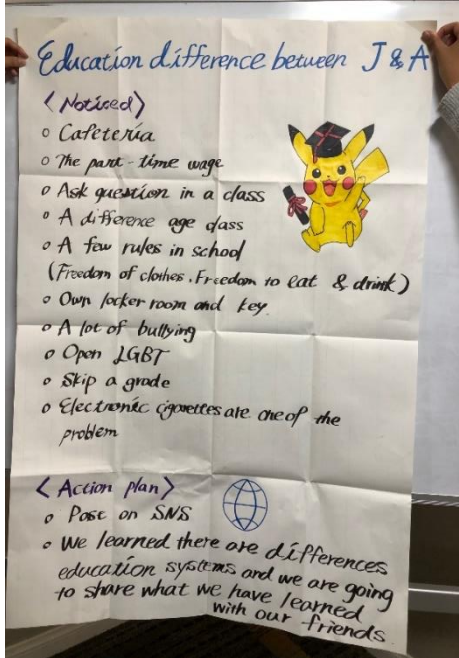
### ◆ Student who participated in the school exchange program (State of Oregon)

One of the students performed some KARATE. It was really interesting to see that martial art being performed in person and I thought it was really cool!! It was fascinating and fun to learn a little bit about Japanese culture through a performance. I thought the program was wonderful. I felt great learning about Japan and getting to teach my exchange student about the US We had a lot of fun learning together and I would love to do it again.

## 6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>ayy_bruno他が「いいね！」しました miyuu4737 I did homestay for 3 days from October 25th to October 27th. My homestay host was Melody. Melody was a very cute and kind person.</p>	 <p>We will go to Japanese Consulate General and the Japanese Company To-re(東レ) #HAKEHASHI2019</p> <p>we visited toray yesterday. There were some Japanese people who are working in America branch office. Toray is focusing on the development of highly functional materials using chemical technology.</p> <p>We could hear their career. It became a good opportunity that we could thought our future again.</p> <p>昨日、繊維事業を訪れた東レという日本の企業を訪れました。東レは化学技術を用いた高度機能性材料の開発に力を入れていると聞きました。また、アメリカ支店に勤務している日本人の話を聞けました。彼らのキャリアや将来の夢について聞けました。東レの材料が使われているスポーツウェアや飛行機への高いシェアを聞きました。</p> <p>ワシントンの東レで働いている日本人は私の予想以上に多く、彼らの高校生活やそれからの進路を詳しく聞くことができて、進路を再考する良い機会となりました。</p>
<p>About the Homestay (Instagram)</p> <p>I did homestay for 3 days from October 25th to October 27th. My homestay host was Melody. Melody was a very cute and kind person. I couldn't speak English well, but Melody listened to me, and she told me until I could understand when I could not hear it again and again. I was glad that I was able to talk using the words I knew in this homestay. I'm looking forward to meeting Melody again in December. Thank you very much Melody, her family and her friends.</p>	<p>About the Company Visit (Instagram)</p> <p>We visited Toray yesterday. Toray is focusing on the development of highly functional materials using chemical technology.</p> <p>There were some Japanese people who were working in America branch office. We could hear their career stories. It became a good opportunities to reconsider our future career path.</p>

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

 <p><b>Action Plan</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 A short term [during the program - after go back to Japan]             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Leverage SNS (Instagram, Twitter)</li> </ul> </li> <li>2 A middle term [after go back to Japan - December]             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Build "American club" like "Japanese club"</li> </ul> </li> <li>3 A long-term [after go to back to Japan]             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Keeping in touch with Japanese club students of Curtis, exchange by using SNS and sending letters</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Next year</p>	 <p><b>Education difference between J &amp; A</b></p> <p>&lt; Noticed &gt;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Cafeteria</li> <li>◦ The part-time wage</li> <li>◦ Ask question in a class</li> <li>◦ A difference age class</li> <li>◦ A few rules in school (Freedom of clothes, Freedom to eat &amp; drink)</li> <li>◦ Own locker room and key</li> <li>◦ A lot of bullying</li> <li>◦ Open LGBT</li> <li>◦ Skip a grade</li> <li>◦ Electronic cigarettes are one of the problem</li> </ul> <p>&lt; Action plan &gt;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Post on SNS</li> <li>◦ We learned there are differences education systems and we are going to share what we have learned with our friends</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action Plan (Kaiho Senior High School)</b></p> <p>To make American people know about Japan, Kaiho Senior High School students will send a newsletter featuring Japanese culture, Japanese school and recent news to Curtis High School 4 times a year.</p> <p>Kaiho Senior High School students will disseminate information on Japan through Instagram or Twitter. Establish "American club" with students who are interested in learning English, then welcome Curtis High School students when they visit us in December. Keep in touch with Japanese club members of Curtis High School using social media and sending letters.</p>	<p><b>Action Plan (Nago Senior High School)</b></p> <p>Post our experiences on social media. We learned there are differences in American and Japanese education systems. We are going to share our experiences with our friends.</p>