



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)

Outbound program for America Bowl

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 11 Japanese high school students and supervisor those who achieved distinguished results of the winners of the American Bowl in Japan visited the United States of America from August 15 to August 22, 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 introduce the attractiveness of Japan to local community and high school students. 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 KAKEHASHI Alumni Meeting and reported on the action plans to be implemented after returning to Japan.

【School Names and Number of Participants】

Keio Senior High School: 3 high school students

Kaisei Senior High School: 2 high school students and 1 supervisor

Kaichi Mirai Senior High School: 3 high school students

Japan-America Society: 2 supervisors

【Destination】

Washington D.C., Commonwealth of Virginia

2. Program Schedule

8/15 (Thu)	【Arrival】 【Observation】 The United States Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima Memorial), Lincoln Memorial, National World War II Memorial, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial 【Orientation】
8/16 (Fri)	【Observation】 Georgetown University 【Observation】 United States Capitol, National Archives Museum 【Interaction / Welcome party】 Ambassador John R. Malott, Former President of The Japan-America Society of Washington D.C.
8/17 (Sat)	【Interaction】 Hayfield Secondary School, Thomas Jefferson High School 【Observation / Interaction】 Farmer's Market, Arlington County Fair, National

	Gallery of Art (Observation with local high school students and introducing Japanese culture)
8/18 (Sun)	【Orientation】 Christ Church in Alexandria 【Observation】 Mount Vernon
8/19 (Mon)	【Workshop】 【Lecture】 Internment of Japanese Americans 【Observation】 Japanese-American National Memorial 【Company visit】 Keidanren USA, Japan Commerce Association of Washington, D.C. 【Observation】 Japan-America Society of Washington D.C.
8/20 (Tue)	【Workshop】 【Courtesy Call】 Embassy of Japan in the United States of America 【Reporting Session and KAKEHASHI Alumni Meeting】
8/21 (Wed)	【Departure】
8/22 (Thu)	【Arrival in Japan】

3. Program Photos



8/16 【Interaction】 Ambassador John R. Malott, Former President of The Japan-America Society of Washington DC



8/17 【Interaction】 Activity with Students from Hayfield Secondary School and Thomas Jefferson High School(Arlington County Fair)



8/19 【Lecture】 Internment of Japanese Americans



8/19 【Company visit】 Keidanren USA

	
<p>8/19 【Observation】 Japan-America Society of Washington D.C.</p>	<p>8/19 【Workshop】</p>
	
<p>8/20 【Courtesy Call】 Embassy of Japan in the United States of America</p>	<p>8/20 【Reporting Session and KAKEHASHI Alumni Meeting】</p>

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

◆ There are three points which particularly impressed me through this program. The first was that I was able to proactively transmit the attractiveness of Japan to Americans. In a short-term, study-abroad program that I participated before, I was not able to present the attractiveness of Japan effectively because of the lack of my language ability and knowledge. This time, however, I researched the culture and politics of Japan in advance so that I could deliver the attractiveness of Japan as a high school student ambassador, and I prepared a picture scroll which would help me transmit Japan's attractiveness. At the place we visited, I could interact with local people while making the use of this preparatory learning. The picture scroll I had prepared was exhibited at the booth for transmitting Japanese culture at a local county fair. In addition, at an art museum we visited, I was given an opportunity to explain about a Japanese painting and the cultural background of why such painting was created. At each local high school, students listened intently to my explanation, which reinforced in me the attractiveness of Japan. The second point is that I was able to learn the values of American people. Since I participated in this program after learning basic knowledge about the United States through the America Bowl, I appreciated the museum visits and other site visits that much more. Also, I actively asked questions to a group leader (an American) about

the ways American people think. For example, I asked, "What is freedom for American people?" A question like this is not easy to ask through a personal trip, and so I was given a very precious opportunity. The third point is that I could think about Japan and myself from a new perspective by having the opportunity to listen to the stories of the people who look at Japan from the world and who are active abroad. After listening to the talks of diplomats or persons who work in the US, I learned why Japanese culture is popular in the world and how a lot of people exert their efforts to transmit the attractiveness of Japan in the world. I also learned about the courage and endeavor of living in foreign countries through the Japanese locals who took the time to speak to us. These people have become role models for me, inspiring me to prepare for my future career more than ever. Also, I was able to listen to talks by women in business, which impressed upon me that an environment exists where women can also fully advance in their careers.

◆ This was my first time to stay in the US, so everything I saw was very fresh and impressive. Among those things that I saw, I would like to talk about three things that particularly impressed me. The first is food. Of course, I myself and other Japanese people in general knew that food in the US is different from that of Japan. But I was surprised by the extent of that difference, specifically regarding the portion size and flavor of U.S. food. In addition, I renewed my understanding of how delicate and rich in ingredients Japanese food is. This motivated me to raise awareness about the goodness of Japanese food overseas. The second is the interaction with local high school students. I learned about the lifestyles and mindsets of Americans in my generation, as well as how they perceive Japan. In particular, I felt that many of them have a firm understating of their own future dreams or objectives despite being of the same generation as me. In addition, there are surprisingly many things that are not well known about Japan. There were also many things which I saw or noticed for the first time only after I visited the US. I thought that we need to know each other better. The third is the Americans' strong awareness and attachment toward freedom and peace. Through the program, we visited various monuments and buildings in Washington D.C., including the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the World War II Memorial. I can't recall seeing that many structures and buildings in major Japanese cities that record wars and history. I believe this indicates a strong awareness among American people, more than Japanese people, that they won freedom and peace by themselves. In particular, like the words "Freedom is not free" inscribed into the wall of the Korean War Veterans Memorial, I felt that they are strongly aware that the present peace has been built on enormous sacrifices of their predecessors. As the Tokyo Olympics is just one year away and interactions with foreigners are increasing, we must know about ourselves first in order to let overseas visitors know about us. To do so, I thought that the consciousness of American people toward their history (the history of winning freedom and peace) is quite useful for us.

5. Voice from Students (abstract)

◆ Student who participated in the school exchange program

The Japanese students were very well-versed in English, so it was really easy to communicate even with a limited Japanese proficiency. On the whole, I managed to have very in-depth and informative conversations about Japanese and American culture and lifestyles, gaining a first-hand glimpse into daily school life. At the museum of Modern Art's Japanese Exhibit, I and a few other students explored the floor of Japanese artwork and cultures. Talking to some students about the meaning of certain items such as the animal-shaped vessels and the beautifully depicted tapestries was a unique experience I have never had before. The entire trip was not only memorable, it was also very fun, and I made some friendships with the Japanese students that I hope will last.

◆ Student who participated in the school exchange program

In the very short time, I was able to talk about many topics with the two students in my group. We of course talked about fun and casual things at first, such as our favorite Japanese food, or what cities we wanted to visit. But to my pleasant surprise, we also talked about more serious topics, such as the perception of America and Japan around the world and how we, as young future leaders, can think of ways to bridge the gap between our various countries. Of course, a lot of that was due to the extremely high English levels of the students. Talking about international politics is hard even for native English abilities, so I was extremely impressed with the Kakehashi students for their English abilities and their passion and interest regarding our two countries. It's quite easy to feel pessimistic about the future of our world with how politics are right now with the US and the world, and Japan and the rest of East Asia. But after talking with the Kakehashi students, I feel more optimistic with how thoughtful and well-spoken the future generation will be.

6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>112358taku6 I'm really enjoying this visit to Washington D.C. as a member of #kakehashi project! There are so many differences between Japan and US, but this time I will write two points that I especially felt the differences.</p>	 <p>jazzandmoodさん他が「いいね！」しました</p> <p>miyu047 Kakehashi ③ ~Discover 🇯🇵 in 🇺🇸~ アメリカのカウンティフェアで日本の魅力を発信してきました😊 アメリカ人高校生がけん玉やお箸を体験しました。みんなとても上手だった～！ 日本美術展を見た際には、作品とその形成背景の文化の紹介をしました！これからより多くの方が日本の美しい文化に興味を持ってくれたら嬉しいなあ～ I found a lot of Japanese culture, foods, people who like our country and so on in America!! As a Kakehashi student, I tried to tell attractiveness of Japan in America as much as I could. Hope my</p>
<p>About KAKEHASHI project (Instagram)</p> <p>I'm really enjoying this visit to Washington D.C. as a member of kakehashi project.</p> <p>There are so many differences between Japan and US, but this time I will write two points that I especially felt the differences.</p> <p>First one is the food. I was really surprised at the amount of a meal, what a lot of food. The second is American strong awareness of freedom is not free. There are many monuments commemorating their history in Washington D.C. but I think Japan doesn't have buildings like that enough. I think we Japanese should refer the thinking way like that.</p>	<p>About the observation (Instagram)</p> <p>I found a lot of Japanese culture, foods, people who like our country and so on in America!! As a Kakehashi student, I tried to tell attractiveness of Japan in America as much as I could. Hope my friends got more interested in Japan with our meeting. If you have any questions about Japan, just feel free to ask me. I'm always waiting you guys to come to Japan.</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session



What you learn at school is not always useful in your life.



Keio Senior High School

- 1) Participants will post information through SNS such as Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. They share about Japan to foreign people, culture and values of foreign countries to Japanese.
- 2) Participants will hold a quiz competition of U.S. at school. This action lead students to raise their interest of U.S.

Kaisei Senior High School

We would also like to keep our own grassroots exchange and get interested in Japan. We will share our experiences at the summer school debriefing session at our school. Rugby World Cup and Tokyo Olympic 2020 will be held soon. There are many foreign tourists coming to Japan. Our school is close to Asakusa and Yanaka Ginza, so we can help tourists and get directions. In addition, I would like to interact with people who come to Japan in the same training program as we did.



Kaichi Mirai Senior High School

Participants from Kaichi Mirai high school students are going to make a platform by sharing their opinions and ideas from pop-culture to politics. The purpose is to deepen their understanding toward their countries and promote Japan and build Kakehashi between two countries.