



## **KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)**

### **Inbound program for Jewish Americans the 1st Slot**

### **Program Report**

#### **1. Program Overview**

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 15 Jewish Americans from the U.S. visited Japan from February 2 to February 9, 2020 to participate in the program aimed at promoting their understanding of Japan with regard to Japanese politics, economy, society, culture, history, and foreign policy. They deepened their knowledge on the history of Japan-Jewish relations through the lectures and visit to the Sempo Museum, and strengthened the friendship between Japan and the U.S. while reflecting on their own roots by attending interaction sessions. 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 the U.S.

#### **【Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants】**

United States of America: 15 participants (American Jewish Committee (AJC))

#### **【Prefectures Visited】**

Tokyo, Kyoto



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

2/2 (Sun)	<b>【Arrival】</b>
2/3 (Mon)	<b>【Orientation】</b> <b>【Lecture】</b> First Middle East Division, Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs <b>【Courtesy Call】</b> U.S. Embassy in Japan <b>【Opinion Exchange】</b> Alumni of AJC Exchange Program (MOFA)
2/4 (Tue)	<b>【Observation】</b> Hie Jinja Shrine <b>【Courtesy Call】</b> Embassy of Israel in Japan <b>【Courtesy Call】</b> Ms. OMI Asako, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs <b>【Observation】</b> Tokyo SkyTree
2/5 (Wed)	Move to Kyoto from Tokyo <b>【Observation】</b> Koho Tatsumura Japanese Traditional Textile Studio, Kinkaku-ji Temple

2/6 (Thu)	<b>【Lecture】</b> Professor AGAWA Naoyuki, Faculty of Law, Doshisha University <b>【Cultural Experience】</b> Meditation (Kodai-ji Temple) <b>【Observation】</b> Shin-Kyogoku, Nishiki Market
2/7 (Fri)	Move to Tokyo from Kyoto <b>【Observation】</b> Chiune Sugihara Sempo Museum <b>【Exchange Program】</b> Jewish Community of Japan
2/8 (Sat)	<b>【Workshop】</b> <b>【Reporting Session】</b> <b>【Opinion Exchange】</b> Researchers in Jewish Study who joined KAKEHASHI outbound program <b>【Observation】</b> Nezu Museum
2/9 (Sun)	<b>【Departure】</b>

### 3. Program Photos

	
2/3 <b>【Lecture First Middle East Division, Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b>	2/3 <b>【Exchange Program】</b> Alumni of AJC Exchange Program(MOFA)
	
2/4 <b>【Courtesy Call】</b> Embassy of Israel in Japan	2/4 <b>【Courtesy Call】</b> Ms. OMI Asako, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

	
2/4 【Observation】 Tokyo SkyTree	2/6 【Lecture】 Professor AGAWA Naoyuki, Faculty of Law, Doshisha University
	
2/6【Cultural Experience】Meditation (Kodai-ji Temple)	2/8 【Reporting Session】



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

◆ This was my second visit to Japan after having fallen in love with this spectacular country the first time. I never could have imagined how much more beauty and inspiration I would receive on my second experience, and this is all thanks to the Kakehashi program. Our meetings with politicians, especially Ms. Omi Asako and H.E. Mrs. Yaffa Ben-Ari, were powerful lenses into the Japanese-American and Japanese-Israeli relationships. Highlights of our cultural moments included the Shinto Temple Visit, the tea ceremony at Kinkaku-ji, the Tsukiji fish market tour, and our Zazen meditation. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity.

◆ I enjoyed everything about the program, especially hearing from Professor Agawa Naoyuki, visiting the Chiune Sugihara Sempo Museum and having lunch to chat with the researchers in Jewish studies. I really enjoyed the entire program. I had very little knowledge about Japan and have always heard great things about the country. I had a wonderful time in Japan and learned so much about the rich culture. The program was put together very nicely and the coordinators were very knowledgeable and helpful. I have a very positive view of Japan and hope we continue to have good relations. Despite the language barrier, the people of Japan were very welcoming and it was nice to learn about Japan's history and modern day life. I really am so grateful I was able to participate in the program. I found it very meaningful and rewarding.

◆ Learning about the history behind the textiles was fascinating. I also really enjoyed the tea ceremony at the Golden Temple and the zazen meditation. In Japan, the lecture style is very frontal where information is delivered at you. Getting to know the Jewish community was a major highlight for me. It was both familiar and comfortable as well as engaging and interesting.

## 5. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>You Retweeted</p> <p><b>ACCESS Global</b> @ajcaccess · Feb 5</p> <p>AJC #Kakehashi participants had the privilege of meeting Omi Asako, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of #Japan.</p> <p>They discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PMV Omi's work in strengthening Japanese-Jewish ties</li> <li>• The importance of  -  relations</li> <li>• @Tokyo2020</li> </ul> <p>ありがとうございました！</p> <p>You and 3 others</p> <p>4 8</p>	 <p><b>Lisa Lebovitz</b> is in Tokyo , Japan. February 7 at 2:40 PM · 🌐</p> <p>Had the honor of meeting Madoka Sugihara, the granddaughter of Chiune "Sempo" Sugihara, Righteous Among the Nations. In 1940, as a diplomat in Lithuania, he gave over 2,000 visas to Jews that covered their entire household, saving over 6,000 individuals. Today, descendants of "Sugihara Survivors" number over 250,000. 🇺🇸❤️🇯🇵 #visasforlife #righteousamongthenations #japan #kakehashi2020 #jice #ja1 #yadvashem @ajc.global #ajcaccess @ Tokyo , Japan</p> <p>You, Gabby Spatt, Ali Terkel and 144 others</p> <p>13 Comments</p> <p>Love Comment</p>
<p>About the courtesy call (Twitter)</p> <p>AJC participants had the privilege of meeting Omi Asako, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. They discussed: PMV Omi's work in strengthening Japanese-Jewish ties and the importance of US-Japan-Israel relations</p>	<p>About the observation (Facebook)</p> <p>Had the honor of meeting Madoka Sugihara, the granddaughter of Chiune, Sempo Sugihara, Righteous Among the Nations. In 1940 as a diplomat in Lithuania, he gave over 2,000 visas to Jews that covered their entire household, saving over 6,000 individuals. Today descendants of "Sugihara Survivors" number over 250,000.</p>



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

	<p><b>After action plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Editorials in Jewish publications</li><li>- Panels, meetings, outreach events with regional and national AJC ACCESS offices</li><li>- Events at other Jewish organizations and Synagogues to spread the word about the project</li></ul>
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