



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)

Inbound program for Japanese Americans the 1st Slot

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Programs, 100 Japanese-Americans and supervisors from the U.S. visited Japan from December 17 to December 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 the U.S.

[Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants]

United States of America: 100 participants,

[Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo and Kanagawa (All), Aichi and Fukui (Group A/B, 50 Participants), Fukushima (Group C/D, 50 Participants)

2. Program Schedule

12/17 (Tue)	【Arrival】		
12/18 (Wed)	【Orientation】 【Lecture】 Mr. KOJIMA Shigeru, The Association of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad 【Observation】 Japanese Overseas Migration Museum Move to Aichi from Kanagawa (Group A/B)		
12/19 (Thu)	(1) Group A/B: Aichi, Fukui		(2) Group C/D: Fukushima
	【School Exchange】 Chukyo University 【Observation】 Osu Kannon, Shopping District Move to Fukui from Aichi	Move to Fukushima from Tokyo 【Lecture】 Mr. FUKUCHI Seiji, Director, Department of Industry, Kitakata City	
		Group C	Group D
		【Observation】 Yamatogawa Brewery	【Culture Experience】 Akabeko (red cow) painting experience

12/20 (Fri)	【Lecture】 Mr. TANIGUCHI Tatsuya, Vice Director, Department of Business, Industry and Labor Fukui Prefectural Government 【Observation】 Yokokan Garden 【Culture Experience】 Meditation (Daihonzan Eihei-ji Temple) 【Meeting with Host Family】	【School Exchange】 Koriyama Women's University	
		Group C	Group D
		【Culture Experience】 Akabeko (red cow) painting experience	【Observation】 Yamatogawa Brewery
		【Meeting with Host Family】	
12/21 (Sat)	【Homestay】		
12/22 (Sun)	【Farewell Party with Host Family】 【Workshop】		
12/23 (Mon)	Move to Tokyo from Fukui	Move to Tokyo from Fukushima	
	【Reporting Session】		
12/24 (Tue)	【Courtesy Call】 Ms. OMI Asako, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs 【Departure】		

3. Program Photos

All Group (Tokyo,Kanagawa)

	
12/18 【Lecture】 Mr. KOJIMA Shigeru, The Association of Nikkei & Japanese Abroad	12/18 【Observation】 Japanese Overseas Migration Museum
	
12/23 【Reporting Session】	12/24 【Courtesy Call】 Ms. OMI Asako Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

Group A/B (Aichi and Fukui)



12/19 【School Exchange】
Chukyo University



12/19 【Observation】 Osu Kannon,
Shopping District



12/20 【Lecture】 Mr. TANIGUCHI Tatsuya,
Vice Director, Department of Business,
Industry and Labor Fukui Prefectural
Government



12/20 【Culture Experience】
Meditation(Daihonzan Eihei-ji Temple)



12/21 【Homestay】



12/22 【Farewell Party with Host Family】

Group C/D (Fukushima)



12/19 【Observation】 Yamatogawa Brewery



12/20 【School Exchange Koriyama Woman's University



12/20 【Culture Experience】 Akabeko (red cow) painting experience



12/21 【Homestay】



12/22 【Farewell Party with Host Family】



12/22 【Workshop】

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

◆ Group A (Aichi and Fukui)

The lecture about Nikkei was very interesting and I learned new information such as the difference between "Nikkei" and "Nikkei-Jin". The school exchange was really fun because we learned about issues that Japanese college students find important. We learned about disaster prevention and remote work culture and tried to communicate with Japanese people around our age. One student told us he hadn't known people like us (Nikkei) until then, and I thought it was very interesting for both us Nikkei and probably the Japanese students as

well. The local visit taught us a lot about Fukui and gave us a history of the area which allowed me to gain a deeper appreciation of Fukui before meeting the host family. I think this was especially interesting because so many of the people we met in Fukui (both my homestay family and others we met through activities with them) were born and raised in Fukui. I didn't know about Fukui before coming here with Kakehashi but I think it was more interesting because we went to a more rural place in Japan rather than only to a more well-known place like Tokyo. I was struck most by the kindness of my homestay family. Because I am not fluent in Japanese, verbal communication was difficult at times but it was easy to feel the warmth of the couple my group stayed with. Because they were farmers, they grew everything they made in their garden and otherwise made a lot of things from scratch. I was struck by how much I was able to understand about my own (Japanese side of the) family through staying with them.

◆ **Group B (Aichi, Fukui)**

The lectures were very helpful to learn about background information. I really enjoyed the lecture from the lecturer, Japanese Overseas Migration Museum. His studies are very interesting because there is a growing population of interracial individuals. This topic seems very relevant to our society and show us that everyone has their own unique history and background. The school exchange was also very interesting because the students were studying natural disasters in other countries. Learning about prevention and recovery in Japan made me realize the lack of preparation we have in the United States. The homestay experience was great to experience the culture in Japan. Instead of reading it in a textbook or watching Japanese life on a television set, we were able to experience the little things in Japanese culture.

◆ **Group C (Fukushima)**

For my most significant impressions of the lectures we have had during the program, I have realized that there are many different facets and views regarding the idea of being nikkei and/or nikkeijin. In general, being Japanese and of Japanese descent means we have a profound view of the world because of our interesting and comprehensive cultural experiences and past history. The school exchange has not only allowed me the opportunity to try on a yukata and participate in a tea ceremony, but it has also allowed me to interact with Japanese students and realize that we are not so different. Our experiences with the company and government office has shown that both organizations care about the people they oversee and do their best to reach the goals for the good of everyone. The home stay was definitely one of the most significant experiences and I deeply appreciated the hospitality of the family I stayed with. Not only did I experience what a traditional home was like and the delicious foods, but I felt like a member of my Japanese family.

◆ **Group D (Fukushima)**

Visiting the JOMM was an amazing experience, as I could see many other stories similar to that of my family's. For being in the dark my whole life until now, expanding my vast family tree has been an eye-opening experience. Also, my previous expectations of Japan were that it was all city. However, after the homestay I feel very fulfilled. It was quite a humbling experience living on a farm for 3 days/2 nights and I'd love to adopt some of the Japanese practices. Obasan opened her home to us and showed us her ways of life. Helping her transplant many flowers that she will sell in the local farmers market when they bloom was quite unique, and it put a different perspective on the hard work and manual labor that goes into such beauty. Not only is the end result beautiful, but the process was something to appreciate as well. After my experience here and learning about the nikkei community, I can now confidently identify with a group of others like me. I'm proud to be Nikkei-jin.

5. Voice from Japanese Students/Schools/Host Families/Organizations (abstract)





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

I have never had the experience of actually meeting and talking with foreigners so far, and this was a very valuable experience. I also had the opportunity to listen to the presentations of Japanese Americans, which was about their actual experiences of discrimination and prejudice. I was impressed by the fact that they took this opportunity to share their experiences and spread awareness. It was great that regardless of what we talked about, our conversations stayed lively. I also became motivated to speak better English, and should I come across another such occasion, I would like to converse more.

◆ **Host family**

The Japanese-American students shared with us about their families and their customs rooted in their Japanese heritage (New Year, Bon Festival, Kimono dressing, etc.). I had a very delightful three days. They also wrote messages to us in Japanese.

6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>Emma Anderson is feeling appreciative in Echizen. Yesterday at 5:53 AM</p> <p>Can't get over how beautiful the city of Echizen-Shi is. We stayed here for two nights with a homestay family that toured us all over the region. The city is famous for its soba noodles, handcrafted knives, and washi paper. A refreshing break from fast-paced Tokyo and Nagoya. I have so much love and appreciation for rural Japan 🍵 #JACLkakehashi #kakehashi2019</p> <p>Sara Golshani, Archita Ganesh and 35 others · 3 Comments</p>	 <p>Liked by gwentrapp and others</p> <p>kenzijoko arigatogozaimashita, oshima-san! glad to have considered these two my obachan and ojichan the past few days:) till next time<3 #kakehashi</p> <p>View all 3 comments</p> <p>truebunny Also this is so cute 🥰</p> <p>leighoharris LOVE 💕💕💕</p> <p>42 minutes ago</p>
<p>About the homestay (Facebook)</p> <p>Can't get over how beautiful the city of Echizen-Shi is. We stayed here for two nights with a homestay family that toured us all over the region. The city is famous for its soba noodles, handcrafted knives, and washi paper. A refreshing break from fast-faced Tokyo and Nagoya. I have so much love and appreciation for rural Japan.</p>	<p>About the homestay (Instagram)</p> <p>Arigatogozaimashita, oshima-san! Glad to have considered these two my obachan and ojichan the past few days. Till next time.</p>
 <p>Liked by lindsaaywhaat and 13 others</p> <p>chris.miyashiro With our yukatas on and our stomachs full, Kakehashi group C was lookin 100 last night. In Kitakata city we sipped sake, ate ~quality~ ramen, and danced traditional obon dances. Thank you #kakehashi2019 for bringing us together and giving us the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the vibrant culture of Japan. #jice #usa #kakehashiaward #japan</p>	 <p>Liked by riaplay and others</p> <p>whattheheckert #latepost of painting akabeko (red ox), riding the shinkansen & soaking in the onsen in Kitakata City!</p>
<p>About KAKEHASHI Project (Instagram)</p> <p>With our yukatas on and our stomachs full, Kakehashi group C was looking 100% last night. In Kitakata city we sipped sake, ate quality ramen, and danced traditional obon dances. Thank you #kakehashi2019 for bringing us together and giving us the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the vibrant culture of Japan.</p>	<p>About KAKEHASHI Project (Instagram)</p> <p>Painting of Akabeko (red ox), riding the Shinkansen & soaking in the onsen in Kitakata City.</p>

6. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

	
<p>(Group A)</p> <p>We are calling our action plan 'Paying it Forward' because we feel so grateful for this opportunity to travel to Japan and want to make sure we can share how incredible Japan is with other people.</p> <p>We will be posting on Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, YouTube, LinkedIn, Twitter, Blogs, and Tik Tok to show this incredible experience we have had in Japan to encourage a positive view of this country and maybe even encourage people to visit!</p> <p>There are three target audiences for our action plan. The first is our friends and family. The second audience is our communities. Our final audience is general audience on social media.</p>	<p>(Group B)</p> <p>We will share our experiences and pass down our findings and Japanese Culture at Nikkei Student Union, campus organizations, academic departments, community organization meetings/events, JACL meetings/events, summer programs/camps and youth groups and campus clubs.</p>
	
<p>(Group C)</p> <p>We will create a video showcasing the trip, create a flyer promoting Kakehashi Project, reach out to 3 Japanese-American individuals and encourage them to apply to the program in order to raise awareness and share cultures.</p>	<p>(Group D)</p> <p>We plan on giving a short lecture followed by a Q&A session, to introduce the various aspects of the Kakehashi Project to members of the Japanese American Student Society.</p> <p>The actual execution of this plan will be done using a PowerPoint presentation, in which we will include various images and</p>

	social media posts that we took and made throughout the course of the trip, to make the parts of the trip more tangible and to supplement the talks of our own experiences on the Kakehashi Project.
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