



# KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)

## Inbound program for Young Researchers the 1st Slot

### Program Report

#### 1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Programs, 38 young researchers from the U.S. visited Japan from January 7 to January 14, 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. 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.

#### [Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants]

United States of America: 38 participants

(Breakdown)

Group A (12 participants) University of Pennsylvania

Group B (16 participants) The George Washington University, Johns Hopkins University

Group C (10 participants) Think tank staff members

#### [Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo (All), Hiroshima (Group A), Ibaraki/ Kyoto/ Shiga (Group B), Okinawa (Group C)

#### 2. Program Schedule

	(1) Group A : Hiroshima	(2) Group B : Ibaraki, Kyoto, Shiga	(3) Group C : Okinawa
1/7 (Tue)	<b>【Arrival】</b>		<b>【Arrival】</b> <b>【Orientation】</b>
1/8 (Wed)	<b>【Orientation】</b> <b>【Welcome Address】</b> Mr. FUJIMOTO Kentaro, Director, First North America Division, MOFA <b>【Lecture】</b> Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation Division, MOD		<b>【Briefing】</b> Mr. FUJIMOTO Kentaro, Director, First North America Division, MOFA <b>【Briefing】</b> U.S. Embassy in Japan <b>【Briefing】</b> Ministry of Defense <b>【Observation】</b> Tokyo Metropolitan
	<b>【Observation】</b> Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku	<b>【Observation】</b> Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency	

			Government Building Observation Decks
1/9 (Thu)	<b>【Observation】</b> Fukagawa Edo Museum <b>【School Exchange】</b> Sophia University	<b>【Opinion Exchange】</b> Mr. KOKUBU Takashi, editorial board member of the Asahi Shimbun Company <b>【School Exchange】</b> Waseda University, Faculty of International Research and Education, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (GSAPS)	<b>【Observation】</b> State Guest House, Akasaka Palace <b>【Observation】</b> Toshimaya Sake Brewery
1/10 (Fri)	Move to Hiroshima from Tokyo <b>【Lecture】</b> mint, Inc. (Start-up Incubator , Venture Company) <b>【Culture Experience】</b> Tour of Atomic Bomb Heritage/ Peace Memorial Park	<b>【Observation】</b> Edo-Tokyo Museum Move to Shiga from Tokyo <b>【Meeting with Host  family】</b>	Move to Okinawa from Tokyo <b>【Observation】</b> Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST)
1/11 (Sat)	<b>【Lecture】</b> Testimony of the War Survivor <b>【Observation】</b> Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum <b>【Meeting with Host  family】</b> <b>【Homestay】</b> Akiota Town	<b>【Observation】</b> Aitou Eco Plaza Nanohanakan <b>【Homestay】</b> Higashiomi City	<b>【Observation】</b> Naminoue-gu Shrine <b>【Meeting with Host  family】</b> <b>【Homestay】</b> Yaese Town
1/12 (Sun)	<b>【Farewell with host  family】</b> <b>【Observation】</b> Miyajima	<b>【Farewell with host  family】</b> Move to Kyoto from Shiga <b>【Observation】</b> Kinkaku-ji Temple,	<b>【Farewell with host  family】</b> <b>【Lecture】</b> Testimony of the War Survivor <b>【Observation】</b> Okinawa Prefectural

		Nishiki Market, Yasaka Shrine	Peace Memorial Museum, Peace Memorial Park
1/13 (Mon)	Move to Tokyo from Hiroshima 【Observation】 Senso-ji Temple, Nakamise 【Cultural Experience】 Tea ceremony 【Experience of Cutting- Edge Technology】 Mori Building Digital Art Museum (EPSON teamLab Borderless)	Move to Tokyo from Kyoto 【Observation】 Imperial Palace, Nijyu- bashi Bridge 【Observation】 Tokyo National Museum	Move to Tokyo from Okinawa 【Observation】 Senso-ji Temple, Nakamise 【Cultural Experience】 Tea ceremony
1/14 (Tue)	【Observation】 House of Representatives 【Departure】	【Observation】 Independent Observation 【Departure】	【Observation】 Yokota Air Base 【Departure】

### 3. Program Photos

#### Group A (Hiroshima)



1/8 【Lecture】 Japan-U.S. Defense  
Cooperation Division, Bureau of Defense  
Policy, MOD



1/9 【School Exchange】 Sophia University



1/10 【Lecture】 mint, Inc.(Start-up Incubator, Venture Company)



1/11 【Lecture】 Testimony of the War Survivor



1/12 【Observation】 Miyajima



1/13 【Cultural Experience】 Tea ceremony

### Group B (Ibaraki/ Kyoto/ Shiga)



1/8 【Observation】  
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency



1/9 【Opinion Exchange】 Mr. KOKUBU  
Takashi, editorial board member of the  
Asahi Shimbun Company





1/9 【School Exchange】 Waseda University, Faculty of International Research and Education, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies (GSAPS)



1/10 【Observation】 Edo Tokyo Museum



1/11 【Homestay】



1/12 【Observation】 Kinkaku-ji Temple,

### Group C (Okinawa)



1/8 【Briefing】 Mr. FUJIMOTO Kentaro, Director, First North America Division, North American Affairs Bureau, MOFA



1/9 【Observation】 Toshimaya Sake Brewery

	
<p>1/10 【Observation】 Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University(OIST)</p>	<p>1/11 【Observation】 Naminoue-gu Shrine</p>
	
<p>1/12 【Farewell with Host Family】</p>	<p>1/12 【Lecture】 Testimony of the War Survivor</p>

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

##### Group A (Tokyo/ Hiroshima)

##### ◆ Undergraduate student

It was a toss-up between the Hiroshima peace memorial park/museum and the homestay. In the end I went with the peace memorial park because I've never been so emotionally moved by a museum before. Thank you for giving us the chance to do this. I will not only prepare traditional dishes (yakisoba, sushi) that I've learned for my friends and family, but try to reunite with my Kakehashi program group every few weeks to maintain connections with each other. I found the lectures given by the professor at Sophia University very impressive. It was clear he'd prepared a lot and did a very thorough job explaining everything necessary. Meeting new friends was the most significant part. I became friends with our tour guide at Sophia Univ. and she took us around Tokyo later that night. It's a friendship that I know will last for a long time, and I'm very grateful to have had the chance to meet her. Toby-san from mint.inc. sokoiko made a fantastic impression on me. He was so energetic and full of life that I was immediately drawn into his presentation and enthusiasm for bringing tourism into Hiroshima. My host parents were the best people I could have hoped to meet. They were somewhat

reserved yet very open, kind, and quietly funny. In a way they reminded me of my own parents, which I appreciated and will cherish. The bike tour at Hiroshima blew me away, as did Miyajima Island (the wild deer!) and the Hiroshima peace memorial park/museum. I loved Tokyo but being able to explore Hiroshima (a city I would never have gone to on my own) has given me an entirely new perspective.

### **Group B (Ibaraki/ Kyoto/ Shiga)**

#### **◆ Graduate student**

I particularly enjoyed the defense briefing. We study defense and security in our graduate program, but hearing this information from an actual government employee really brought this information and knowledge to life. Learning the impressions and perspective of our graduate school counterpart was informative. I honestly learned that we have similar problems that we are looking for solutions. The government and company site visits were one of my favorite parts of the trip. I study Japanese government institutions, so being able to actually see these agencies/institutions and interact with their members was a real treat. I have not even been to the counterpart agencies in my home country (such as NASA). The homestay was the best part of the program. Here we learned how Japanese people (especially outside of Tokyo) live and more "traditional" aspects of Japanese society (temples, kimono, taiko, etc). But the interactions—such as asking questions, sharing experiences, developing ideas—is what will leave the most lasting impression of Japan. I especially enjoyed the local sustainability lecture. I think that meeting new people, exchanging ideas, and making new friends (with the host family) was the best part of the program. These are people I hope to stay in touch with and the hands-on experience with Japanese culture and people was eye-opening.

### **Group C (Okinawa)**

#### **◆ Adult**

The lecture on Okinawa was powerful in its personal meaning for the speaker and for the continued relevance of the subject matter. I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to visit MOFA, MOD, and U.S. Government facilities, including the Embassy and Yokota. The lectures were very informative; the government offices were accommodating and forthcoming. It was very interesting to learn more about the Japanese defense policy and how its doctrine is applied to defense policy. The home stay on Okinawa was a wonderful way to get to see the island from a local's perspective. The opportunity to connect with real Okinawan people in a private environment was extremely valuable. All parts of the trip were impressive. In general, I enjoyed the cultural experiences the most, with learning about the history of Okinawa and the tea ceremony and temple in Asakusa being particular highlights. I plan to create a PowerPoint presentation to share with my home organization as well as family and friends.



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

### ◆ Student who participated in the school exchange

We had a lecture on US-Japan economic agreements, immigration issues and cultural differences, then we had a group discussion with students from the University of Pennsylvania. The students from the University of Pennsylvania were full of curiosity, and asked many questions, so we had a very good discussion. In particular, it was an opportunity to talk and think seriously about the political interests of young people, labor shortages due to aging populations, and immigration issues in Japan and the United States. After the discussion, we had a campus tour of Sophia University and had a chance to talk about memories and student life while I was studying at the University of Pennsylvania, which was a fun and meaningful time.



### ◆ Host family

Even though we couldn't understand the words, we used the smartphone app to have a conversation and thought we managed it somehow. We had never had such a friendly exchange like this before. We would like them to come to the Japanese countryside more and more to explore life there. Going forward, we would be happy to host such groups if it furthers international exchange.

### ◆ Host family

The weather was beautiful, so we were glad to see them ecstatic upon seeing the beautiful color of Okinawa's ocean. We made gyoza, but at first, we all laughed about their ugly shapes. They enjoyed it when we taught them a couple of words of Okinawan dialect, like "Churakaagi (beautiful)" and "Yanakaagi (ugly)".

## 6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>Britney Firmin is in Hiroshima. 5 hrs · 🌐</p> <p>Yesterday I toured through Hiroshima, one of the two cities in Japan nearly decimated by the atomic bomb set off by the U.S during World War II. From 8/6/1945 onward, A-bomb survivors literally had to rebuild this city from the ground up. Hiroshima is nicknamed the "city of the Phoenix" for this very reason, because of the way that survivors rose from the ashes. #Kakehashi2019</p>	 <p>Judy Ly is with Gwen Mazzotta in Higashiomori. Yesterday at 10:17 AM · 🌐</p> <p>We spent this weekend in Higashiomori, Shiga Prefecture. It was an immersive experience and we were fortunate to stay with our wonderful host family! Our host family took us on neighborhood walks, their rice fields, gardens, and local shrines. As seen in previous post, we made bean bags with our obaachan. #kakehashiproject #WeAreElliott</p>
<p>About the cultural experience (Facebook) Yesterday I toured through Hiroshima, one of the two cities in Japan nearly decimated</p>	<p>About the homestay (Facebook) We spent this weekend in Higashiomori, Shiga Prefecture. It was an immersive</p>



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About the observation (Facebook)  
Spent the afternoon touring Japan’s national space agency, JAXA. We learned without Japan’s assistance, the ISS would not have a designated area specifically for the experiments in outer space, many of which benefit life here on the ground.

About the homestay (Instagram)  
My group got the opportunity to stay at the home of a local resident of Okinawa. We were split up into groups and myself and two others ended up staying at the home of two farmers, and it was truly a magical experience. Okinawans have such a vibrant culture rooted in tradition and it was such a pleasure to be a witness to it. Our Oka-san (mother) took us to the farm she and her husband run where we helped harvest green beans. We then got to watch a rare sunset on one of Okinawa’s many beaches. In the morning, before we had to part ways, Oka-san taught us a traditional Okinawan dance. We performed our dances for the rest of the group in a closing ceremony for the home stay visit. Our trip is quickly coming to an end, but the time spent with our Oka-san and Oto-san (father) is something I will truly cherish.