

KAKEHASHI Project (Canada) Outbound program for High School Students Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the "KAKEHASHI Project" of Japan's Friendship Ties Programs, 14 Japanese high school students and supervisors visited Canada from January 18 to January 26, 2020. The program aims to promote a better understanding of Japan through an introduction to its history, culture and society, political-economic situation, and foreign policy.

During the program, the students were given opportunities to promote Japan and its merits, as well as its charm to the local Canadian community, and to high school, university and language school students. Through visits to various sites, the participants had wide-ranging opportunities to improve their understanding of Canada and of Canada-Japan relations. They consistently shared their interests and experiences through social media. In a workshop before departing Canada, the participants developed an action plan to share their findings and experiences in Canada after their return to Japan.

[School Names and Number of Participants]

Sapporo Kaisei Secondary School: 12 high school students and 2 chaperones

[Destinations]

Canada (Vancouver, British Columbia and Victoria, British Columbia)

1/18 (Sat)	[Arrival]	
	[Orientation]	
	【Observation】 Stanley Park, Gastown	
1/19 (Sun)	[Observation] Grouse Mountain	
	【Homestay】	
1/20 (Mon)	[School Exchange] Moscrop Secondary School	
1/21 (Tue)) 【Observation】Kamui Mintara	
	[Observation] Britannia Shipyards	
	[Observation/Lecture] Gulf of Georgia Cannery	
	[Observation] Chinatown	
1/22 (Wed)	[Observation] Legislative Assembly of British Columbia	
	[Observation] Royal British Columbia Museum	
	[Observation] Craigdarroch Castle	
1/23 (Thu)	[Cultural Experience] Curling (Royal City Curling Club)	
	[Observation] Nikkei National Museum	
	[School Exchange] Simon Fraser University	
	[School Exchange] Vancouver Japanese Language School	
1/24 (Fri)	[Courtesy Call] Dr. Scott Harrison, APFC Program Manager, Asia Pacific	
	Foundation of Canada	

2. Program Schedule

	[Observation] Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden
	[Observation] Bill Reid Gallery
	[Observation] Robson St.
1/25 (Sat)	[Workshop]
	[Reporting Session]
	[Departure]
1/26 (Sun)	[Arrival in Japan]

3. Program Photos





4. Voices from the students

◆ The most impressive contents of the program was the homestay. My host father said "In Canada, each person has a sense of identity as a Canadian. In addition to that, we respect each other's original background." The host parents were Serbian. They experienced harsh times when they migrated to Canada. I was really moved to notice that their son, my buddy, was proud of his Serbian roots, spoke Serbian language and respected his identity. I think that it happens because Canadian society is very tolerant. It really touched me. I think we need to study Canadian society and education, refer to their perspectives to realize a society.

◆ I was truly impressed by Canadians' view on cultural diversity. When we visited Moscrop Secondary School, I noticed that all students regardless of culture and roots were studying together without hindrance. I found a variety of national flags such as US and Japan displayed on the ceiling. I heard that they regularly had "Multi-cultural festivals" to study culture of other countries. All of them showed me that Canadian people regularly think about multiculturalism. In addition, during the homestay program, my host family member said "To live in a country like Canada where each person has a unique background, we need to open our minds to others." I told him, "I envy you how at classes in Canada, students have a lot of opportunity to speak out their opinions." He responded, "Canada has its own good aspects while Japan also has its good aspects." I was

impressed that Canadian people would not compare cultures of any countries and never mark a grade on them, they just respect the cultures.

◆ I think I need to study hard to understand my own country. I was embarrassed because I was not able to fully answer questions about the Ainu, Japan or Hokkaido. As a Japanese citizen, I need to deepen my understanding about Japan before I learn more about other countries. Also, I would like to enhance my English skills. I managed to communicate during the homestay program, but I wish I could speak English more fluently to enjoy conversations with the host family or to dig deeper in discussions with Canadian students. Even though the homestay program was a short, two-day program, I was delighted to be immersed in an English-only environment. I was glad when they understood my English. Regarding education, I think we need to change the grade-oriented education system in Japan, to a system which builds character. In the future, I would like to work in the educational field and facilitate such kind of system.

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

• Student who participated in the school exchange program

I really enjoyed their presentation. I thought it was cool to learn about the culture they grew up with. It was fun to see them put personal connections into the presentation. The calligraphy was interesting to experience. Canadian and Japanese cultures can be very similar and also very different.

• Student who participated in the school exchange program

I felt that the Japanese students were very friendly and kind. Their performances were energetic and enthusiastic. So, it was extremely enjoyable. I also found them very talented and skilled as they performed really professionally. I had the chance to communicate with them and they were very open-minded and eager to share their culture. I also learned a lot from their presentations.

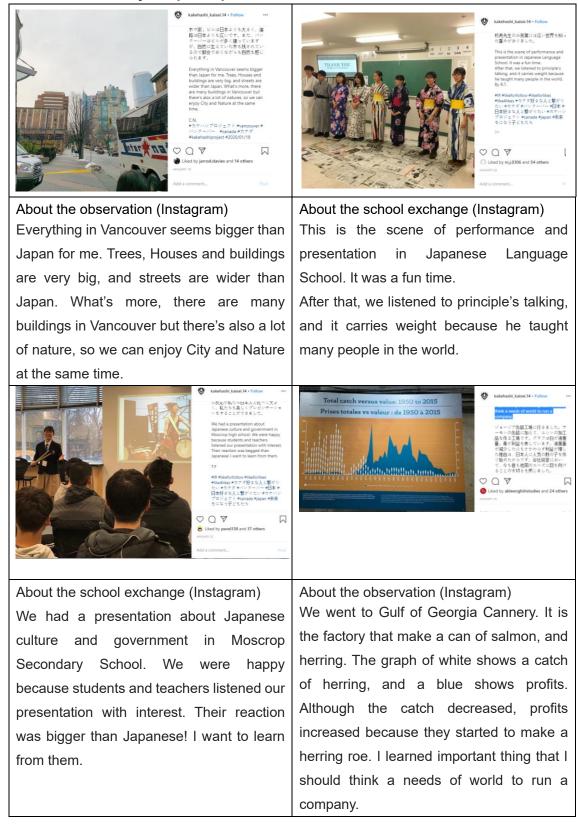
• Student who participated in the school exchange program

The Japanese High School students' traditional performance "YOSAKOI" was really excellent. All of them were so kind and nice. So impressed to watch this energetic dance. I think this was a good opportunity for both Simon Fraser University students and Japanese High School students to have a better understanding of different learning environments as well as cultures.

• Student who participated in the school exchange program

I thought that their dances and performances were very interesting and presented a new side of Japan that I never knew. Overall, the presentations were very positive. All of the students were very friendly and deepened my impression of Japanese culture. With the exchange program, our relations with Japanese students further cultivated our interests in Japan.

6. Dissemination by the participants



7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

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• We will make a poster and have a	• We found appealing points of Japan in		
presentation by the end of March to	the fields of education, industry, culture and		
enhance our knowledge of Japanese-	technology while we were in Canada. We		
Canadians who have the same Japanese	will disseminate how to adopt those		
roots as us.	advantages and also good points of Canada		
• We also think about our understanding	to Japanese society. Besides, we would like		
toward the indigenous people and how	to show people what kind of society we		
Japanese people should face to indigenous	would like to establish.		
people. The targets of the poster and	• We will make a poster and a newspaper.		
presentation are Kaisei Secondary School	We will print a QR code of the questionnaire		
students and Sapporo citizens.	on them and have feedback from the		
	readers. We will finish the poster and		
	newspaper by March and have the		
	feedback in April. The readers could be		
	students at Kaisei Secondary School and		
	elementary school children because		
	younger generation has more potential in		
	the future.		
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• We will make a poster with a design full of visual impacts to allow people to interpret the meaning of the poster on their own. The poster will be posted at Kaisei Secondary School and other venues starting on March 2nd. Students, faculties and guests of the school will see the poster.

• We will give a presentation with other teams at our school. We will use the keynote and other materials.

• We will host a round-table talk or a workshop in our school for Junior High School students who are interested in studying abroad, probably in the end of March. If possible,

we will host a similar workshop for general people at International Exchange Plaza.