



KAKEHASHI Project (Canada)

Inbound program for University Students

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Programs, 49 university students and supervisors from Canada visited Japan from February 16 to February 23, 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. 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 Canada.

[Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants]

Canada: 49 participants

(Breakdown)

Group A (24 participants) : University of Toronto

Group B (25 participants) : Carleton University / University of Ottawa

[Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo, Miyagi

2. Program Schedule

2/16(Sun)	【Arrival】	
2/17(Mon)	【Orientation】 【Lecture】 Mr. HASEGAWA Kenji , Associate Professor, Yokohama National University 【Observation】 Imperial Palace Plaza Move to Miyagi From Tokyo	
2/18(Tue)	(1) Group A: Minamisanriku Town	(2) Group B: Tome City
	【School Exchange】 Tohoku University	
	【Meeting with Host Family】	【Meeting with Host Family】
2/19(Wed)	【Homestay】	【Homestay】
2/20(Thu)	【Farewell Party with Host Family】	【Farewell Party with Host Family】

	【Observation】 Ishinomaki Community & Info Center, Hiyoriyama Park 【Workshop】	【Observation】 Matsushima (Zuigan-ji temple, Godaido)
2/21(Fri)	Move to Tokyo From Miyagi 【Observation】 Embassy of Canada in Japan 【Reporting Session】	
2/22(Sat)	【Observation】 Hama-rikyu Gardens 【Observation】 Honda Welcome Plaza Aoyama 【Observation】 Japan Olympic Museum 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu	【Observation】 Japan Olympic Museum 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu
2/23(Sun)	【Observation】 Edo-Tokyo Museum 【Observation】 State Guest House Akasaka Palace 【Departure】	

3. Program Photos

All (Tokyo, Miyagi)



2/17 **【Orientation】**



2/17 **【Lecture】** Mr. HASEGAWA Kenji , Associate Professor, Yokohama National University



2/18 **【School Exchange】** Tohoku University



2/20 **【Workshop】**

Group A (Minamisanriku Town)



2/18 【Meeting with Host Family】



2/19 【Homestay】



2/20 【Farewell Party with Host Family】



2/20 【Observation】 Ishinomaki Community & Info Center



Group B (Tome City)



2/18 【Meeting with Host Family】



2/19 【Homestay】

 <p>2/20 【Farewell Party with Host Family】</p>	 <p>2/20 【Observation】 Matsushima (Zuigan-ji temple, Godaido)</p>
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4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

Group A (Minamisanriku Town)

◆ The lecture prepared me well to engage with the subsequent program. I was grateful for the understanding of the different regions and the regional identity of Tohoku. I got to have a long conversation with one of the students on exchange over lunch to learn more about her experience. The home stay was the highlight and we learned a lot about the fishing industry from our hosts.

◆ The lecture provided a good background to Japan. I did not know much about Japanese history, economics and politics prior to the lecture so I was very interested to know a little bit more about the history and organization of the country. As a biomedical research student, I hope that next time there is more information on Japanese industry, research and technological history as those are also sectors Japan excels in. The school exchange was also a highlight of the trip. I enjoyed being able to learn about the student lifestyle in Japan and comparing it to academic lifestyle in Canada. The cultural activity exchange the Tohoku university students set up was also very informational and fun. I loved getting to do origami, learn about Japanese toilet technology, Japanese dialects and pastimes, etc. I believe I made many new friends in Japan that day, so for that I am grateful. The homestay was the absolute highlight of the trip. Being able to experience daily life, authentic Japanese food, baths, practicing Japanese, etc. was invaluable to me in understanding Japan and its people. I especially loved being able to share photos and memories with the host family. This was the activity that truly built the bridge between nations that Kakehashi aspires to create as sharing about ourselves provided a deeper, meaningful understanding of each culture. I was so touched by the experience that I cried during the farewell party. Such a strong bond was formed during that stay and this will be an experience I will never forget. I am still in contact with my host family now through social media. I believe visiting the embassy would be more meaningful if there was a speaker to educate participants on the current relationship and understanding of Japan.

Group B (Tome City)

◆ Meeting the home stay family was my highlight because it gave me a better perspective of life outside of Tokyo. It was better interaction with the culture. The family was very kind and took very good care of us. We were happy with the kimono and the natural disaster museum gave me a profound understanding of how the Japanese people are resilient and strong.

◆ I was most impressed by the students at Tohoku level of English and interest in Canada. They did an amazing job presenting us different aspects of local Japanese culture, providing us with ideas for future visits.

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



◆ Host family

I was happy to see that the students were pleased with the Japanese culture experiences, such as kimono dressing, Japanese cuisine and tea ceremony. The students told us about maple syrup and the culture and important symbols of Canada. The students were diligent, sincere, polite and eager to learn. When they visited the remains of Kesennuma Koyo High School in Miyagi prefecture, which was destroyed in the earthquake disaster in 2011, they concentrated on learning about the earthquake and its reconstruction while listening to lectures from the victims.



◆ Student who participated in the school exchange

At first, I strongly wanted the students to learn about Japanese culture and universities through school exchange, but I also learned a lot about Canadian culture. I think that this was because the Canadian students were so eager to share their information. I feel that it is also important that we have a sense of mutual learning when we go to Canada as well. I was also pleased that the Canadian students had already learned a lot about Japan. In the exchange, I was able to experience that mutual understanding enriches human relations, and we also exchanged our contact information including social media. In the future, I would like to disseminate the charm of Japan and also learn more about Canada.

6. Dissemination by the participants

 <p>The buildings here have signs indicating how high the water level was during the 2011 disaster</p> <p>ISHINOMAKI, MIYAGI</p>	 <p>@joshhubble 2 days ago Pictures from Tohoku university a few days ago! It was super fun doing a cultural exchange and making a bunch of new friends! ありがとう! #kakehashi2019 #jice #japan #canada #kakehashi @asiapacificfoundation</p>
<p>About the observation (Facebook)</p> <p>The buildings here have signs indicating how high the water level was during the 2011 disaster.</p>	<p>About the school exchange (Instagram)</p> <p>Pictures from Tohoku university a few days ago! It was super fun doing a cultural exchange and making a bunch of new friends. Arigato.</p>

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

 <p>#1 Kakehashi Information Reporting Session</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Purpose</th> <th>Actions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>• To share experiences in person with people interested in Japan</td> <td>• Prepare a presentation comprised of the highlights of the Kakehashi Project</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• To attract future Kakehashi participants by promoting various aspects of Japan</td> <td>• Show our experiences, further introduce the Kakehashi Project, through Q&A sessions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• To answer questions about the Kakehashi Project and about Japan in general</td> <td>• Promote our reporting session through the use of the UoT EAS Department and UTJA</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The KAKEHASHI Project Building New Bridges of Friendship and Cooperation Between Japan and the United States!</p>	Purpose	Actions	• To share experiences in person with people interested in Japan	• Prepare a presentation comprised of the highlights of the Kakehashi Project	• To attract future Kakehashi participants by promoting various aspects of Japan	• Show our experiences, further introduce the Kakehashi Project, through Q&A sessions	• To answer questions about the Kakehashi Project and about Japan in general	• Promote our reporting session through the use of the UoT EAS Department and UTJA	 <p>LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word of mouth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Friends, coworkers, classmates, family, etc. • Others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mini-publicity (Posters in offices) ○ Promotion of the Kakehashi Project
Purpose	Actions								
• To share experiences in person with people interested in Japan	• Prepare a presentation comprised of the highlights of the Kakehashi Project								
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<p>Action Plan 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a presentation comprised of the highlights of the Kakehashi Project. • Show our experiences, further introduce the Kakehashi Project through Q&A sessions. • Promote our reporting session through the use of the University of Toronto East Asian Studies (EAS) Department and University of Toronto Japan Association (UTJA). <p>Action Plan 2</p>	<p>Action Plan 1</p> <p>Title: "With Friends / LES AMIS (French)"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will posting on social media as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, Wordpress, YouTube and LinkedIn. • We will make a presentation of Kakehashi Project at our University class, University clubs and High Schools. • We will open our events the name of Get-togethers and we will make Japanese cuisine together. • We will share our experiences for Friends, coworkers, classmates, family etc. 								

<p>Title: “A bridge between two countries”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a showcase of traditional Japanese cooking for Munk and University of Toronto students. • Hold a presentation about Canada and Toronto for the Tohoku University students; divide them into groups and roundtable presentations on certain aspects of Canadian culture • Have a post-trip group meetings and delegate tasks between each other. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will make a posters in offices and promotion of the Kakehashi Project. <p>Action Plan 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will share our experiences though social media. • We will make a departmental newsletter. • We will advocate natural disaster awareness. • We will take Podcast episode and audio book. • We will use the Alumni network effectively. • We will retain worldwide connections for life though Kakehashi Project.
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