



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)

Inbound program for Congressional Leaders the 3rd slot

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Program, 3 Congressional Leaders from the U.S. 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.

[Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants]

United States of America: 3 participants

[Prefectures Visited]

Tokyo, Kyoto, Okinawa

2. Program Schedule

2/16(Sun)	【Arrival】
2/17(Mon)	【Lecture】 National Security Secretariat 【Lecture】 Ministry of Defense 【Observation】 National Diet Building
2/18(Tue)	【Lecture】 U.S. Embassy in Japan at Yokota Air Base 【Lecture】 U.S. Forces Japan at Yokota Air Base 【Opinion Exchange】 First North America Division, North American Affairs Bureau, MOFA 【Observation】 NEC Corporation Move to Kyoto from Tokyo
2/19(Wed)	【Observation】 Sanjusangen-do 【Cultural Experience】 Zazen (meditation) (Shorin-ji Temple) 【Observation】 Chion-in 【Observation】 Suntory Yamazaki Distillery
2/20(Thu)	【Observation】 Horiba, Ltd. Move to Okinawa from Kyoto
2/21(Fri)	【Observation】 Marine Corps Air Station Futenma 【Observation】 Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum 【Observation】 Air Self-Defense Force Naha Base Move to Tokyo from Okinawa

2/22(Sat)	【Cultural Experience】 Tea Ceremony 【Observation】 Toyosu Market 【Observation】 Tokyo Skytree
2/23(Sun)	【Departure】

3. Program Photos



2/17 **【Observation】** National Diet Building



2/18 **【Observation】** NEC Corporation



2/19 **【Cultural Experience】**
Zazen (meditation) (Shorin-ji Temple)



2/20 **【Observation】** Horiba, Ltd.



2/21 **【Observation】** Air Self-Defense Force Naha Base



2/22 **【Cultural Experience】**
Tea Ceremony

4. Voice from Participants (abstract)

◆ The meditation with the monk was awesome. The meeting with a commander of the base of the Self Defense Forces in Okinawa was impressive. He described ongoing interactions with the Chinese and Russian militaries which were important insights.

◆ In Okinawa, we visited Futenma Base and met with SDF units that do intercepts over South China Sea. It was a great opportunity to see things “on the ground”, that you cannot get in Washington D.C.