



KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)

Inbound program for AJS Young Researchers

Program Report

1. Program Overview

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan’s Friendship Ties Programs, 4 graduated students from the US visited Japan to research their studies. Through their research at universities, private organizations, National Diet Library and so forth, the participants enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to improve their understanding of Japan and shared their individual interests and experiences through social media. Based on their findings and learning in Japan, participants made a presentation in the final session and reported on the action plans to be taken after returning to their home country.

【Participating Countries and Numbers of Participants】

United States of America: 4 students (University of Virginia, University of British Columbia, Harvard University and Columbia University)

【Prefectures Visited】

Tokyo, Tochigi, Kyoto, Osaka

2. Program Schedule

(1) University of Virginia

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| 7/4(Thu) | 【Arrival】 |
| 7/8(Mon) | 【Orientation】 America-Japan Society 【Opinion Exchange】 Institute of Environmental Rehabilitation and Conservation (ERECON) 【Observation】 Tokyo University of Agriculture |
| 7/10(Wed) | 【Opinion Exchange】 Services for the Health in Asian and African Regions (SHARE) |
| 7/11(Thu) | 【Observation】 People’s Hope Japan |
| 7/13(Sat) | 【Lecture】 A development conference at Sophia University on the topic of Japan’s international development |
| 7/15(Mon) | Move to Kyoto from Tokyo |
| 7/17(Wed) | 【Cultural Experience】 Gion Festival parade |
| 7/18(Thu) | 【Presentation】 Kyoto University’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies |
| 7/19(Fri) | 【Presentation】 Kyoto University’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies |
| 7/22(Mon) | Move to Tokyo from Kyoto |
| 7/24(Wed) | 【Opinion Exchange】 Nippon Foundation |
| 7/25(Thu) | 【Opinion Exchange】 Services for the Health in Asian and African Regions (SHARE) |

- 7/26(Fri) **【Lecture】** The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) on “Reconsidering Masculinity in Japan and East Asia”
- 8/5(Mon) **【Opinion Exchange】** Non-Governmental Organizations Cooperation Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 8/8(Thu) **【Reporting Session】** America-Japan Society
- 8/10(Sat) **【Departure】**

(2) Columbia University

- 7/9(Tue) **【Arrival】**
 【Orientation】 America-Japan Society
- 7/10(Wed) **【Observation】** National Diet Library
- 7/11(Thu) **【Observation】** Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 7/15(Mon) **【Opinion Exchange】** Professor Umemori Naoyuki, Waseda University
- 7/17(Wed) **【Opinion Exchange】** Professor Emeritus Asako Hiroshi, Waseda University
 【Opinion Exchange】 Professor Araragi Shinzo, Sophia University
- 7/18(Thu) **【Opinion Exchange】** Professor Hamashita Takeshi, Research Department Head, Toyo Bunko
- 7/23(Tue) **【Reporting Session】** America-Japan Society
- 7/24(Wed) **【Departure】**

(3) Harvard University

- 8/4(Sun) **【Arrival】**
- 8/5(Mon) **【Orientation】** America-Japan Society
- 8/6(Tue) **【Observation】** National Diet Library
- 8/14(Wed) **【Observation】** Ota Memorial Museum of Art
- 8/15(Thu) **【Observation】** Suntory Museum of Art
- 8/16(Fri) Move to Tochigi from Tokyo
- 8/17(Sat) **【Observation】** Nakagawa-machi Bato Hiroshige Museum of Art
Move to Tokyo from Tochigi
- 8/20(Tue) **【Opinion Exchange】** Professor Kobayashi Fumiko, Hosei University
- 8/25(Sun) **【Opinion Exchange】** Professor Naito Masato, Keio University
- 8/27(Tue) **【Opinion Exchange】** Professor Yamamoto Satomi, Waseda University
- 8/29(Thu) **【Reporting Session】** America-Japan Society
- 9/2(Mon) **【Departure】**

(4) University of British Columbia

- 9/1(Sun) **【Arrival】**
- 9/2(Mon) **【Orientation】** America-Japan Society
- 9/6(Fri) **【Presentation】** NPO Fathering Japan “FJ Academia / Study Group on Fatherhood” (Tokyo)

Move to Osaka from Tokyo

9/13(Fri) **【Presentation】** NPO Fathering Japan “FJ Academia / Study Group on Fatherhood” (Osaka)

9/14(Sat) **【Opinion Exchange】** 29th Assembly of Japan Society of Family Sociology

9/15(Sun) **【Opinion Exchange】** 29th Assembly of Japan Society of Family Sociology

Move to Tokyo from Osaka

9/26(Thu) **【Reporting Session】** America-Japan Society

10/1(Tue) **【Departure】**

3. Program Photos

(1) University of Virginia



7/10 **【Opinion Exchange】** Services for the Health in Asian and African Regions (SHARE)



7/11 **【Observation】** People's Hope Japan

(2) Columbia University



7/23 **【Reporting Session】** America-Japan Society



7/23 **【Reporting Session】** America-Japan Society

(3) Harvard University

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| <p>8/17 【Observation】 Nakagawa-machi Bato Hiroshige Museum of Art</p> | <p>8/29 【Reporting Session】 America-Japan Society</p> |

(4) University of British Columbia

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| <p>9/6 【Presentation】 NPO Fathering Japan “FJ Academia / Study Group on Fatherhood” (Tokyo)</p> | <p>9/26 【Reporting Session】 America-Japan Society</p> |

4. Voice from Participants

◆ During my time in Tokyo, I was able to conduct 3 interviews in donor organizations and 17 interviews with Japanese NGO practitioners. This opportunity greatly improved my dissertation data collection. First, I was able to gain a better understanding the history of the Japanese NGO sector. Through reading, I learned that many Japanese NGOs began at the Thai-Cambodia border during and just after the post-Khmer Rouge civil war. But I did not know why. While here, I was able to learn from long time NGO practitioners about what was happening in Japan at that historical moment: the strong media coverage of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, the formation of voluntary groups, and then, how many of these groups were instrumental in the later passing of Japan’s NPO law in 1998. Understanding the national and historical context within which NGOs work is essential to comprehending the type of programs they design and implement abroad. Second, I also clarified my knowledge about the priorities of JICA and MOFA, their requirements, and funding procedures. Finally, I learned how NGO headquarters in Japan provide assistance to Cambodia offices. While there are many

similarities in the duties of NGO headquarters in D.C., such as reporting and gaining funding, the decision-making processes are a bit different.



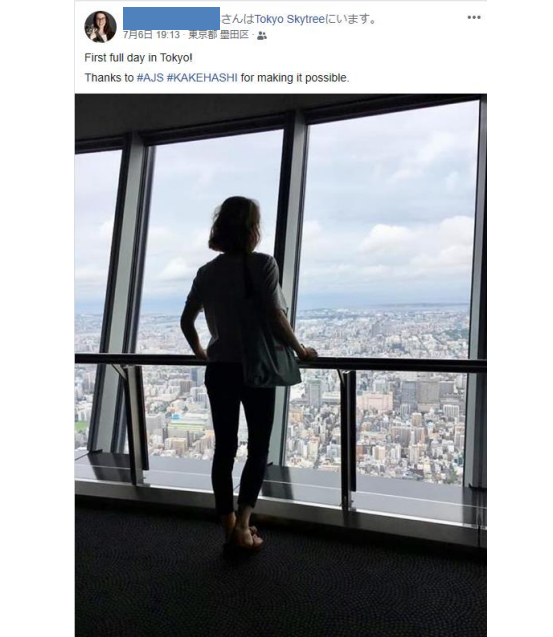
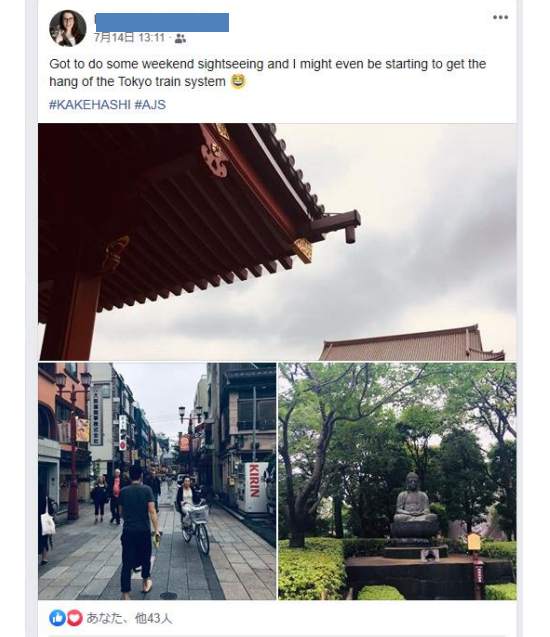
◆ I would like to extend my deepest thanks for the opportunity to return to Japan, deepen the connections I made, and make significant progress on my own research, even in the short time I was here. This trip was especially fortunate for me because it allowed me to reconnect with Japanese academic colleagues that I have collaborated with in the past. While we naturally all have slightly different research interests, not to mention training in different scholarly contexts, understanding the kinds of research that Japanese colleagues are engaged in and the pressing questions that they are trying to answer is the foundation of cross-cultural academic exchange and also valuable for me to reflect on the bases of my own work. In today's globalized world, turning inward to state-based modes of writing history and thinking about changes in human society is insufficient for understanding the past and the present. I am very grateful for this opportunity to forge ties at the individual level and to have had the opportunity to play a role, however minor, in striving towards a shared and more complete understanding of both history and of the present.

◆ Each time I went to meet a professor (three in total), I was really grateful for their advice and their enthusiasm for my thesis project, as well as my translation project. I really look forward to working with them in the future.

When I visited the Ota Memorial Museum of Art, I was struck by the incredible collection of paintings they have, and how valuable the museum is. I was honored that I was allowed to privately view the paintings at the museum.

◆ Perhaps the most rewarding portions of my trip were the presentations that I gave at events hosted by a nonprofit organization. Speaking about my research in Japanese to a general audience was a challenge, but an excellent experience that helped me to grow as a scholar. It also pushed me to frame my research in a way that is accessible to people outside of academia. During the question and answer session, I was able to solicit valuable feedback from the audience. Additionally, the round table discussion that occurred after all of the presentations were finished was a great opportunity to converse about my topic with other panelists. At the two-day academic conference that I attended, interacting and exchanging ideas with Japanese scholars allowed me to deepen my understanding of how researchers in Japan are analyzing and pursuing similar themes to my own. Finally, the interviews that I collected during my time in Japan have provided important insights into questions that I have wanted to pursue for some time. They include both follow-up interviews with people whom I spoke to over two years ago, as well as interviews with new individuals whom I had hoped to speak with, but never got the opportunity. The interviews will ultimately strengthen my arguments and my research as a whole.

5. Dissemination by the participants

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| <p>About FJ Academia (study group on father) (Source: http://zushi.life/fj-academia/)</p> | <p>About the research at the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Facebook)</p> |
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| <p>About experience in Tokyo (Facebook)</p> | <p>About Weekend experience in Tokyo (Facebook)</p> |

7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

◆ This program allowed me, not only to complete my dissertation data collection but also to develop the personal contacts necessary to conduct future research in Japan. Currently, I need to return to the US. for my final year of in my PhD program. In this year, I will analyze all the data from my fieldwork year and write up my dissertation thesis. During this year, I also plan to apply to postdoctoral fellowships. In my time visiting Kyoto University's Southeast Asian Studies Department, they urged me to apply for a postdoctoral fellowship offered by their department and I intend to do so. My long-term goal is to be a professor at a university or a professional researcher in an international development think-tank or USAID. I have a passion for research and I would like to continue doing it. This experience has stoked my interest in Japan and international development. I would like to consider researching JICA's trainings and education programs for Southeast Asians in the future. As a professor, I would also consider

bringing my own students to Japan in the future.

◆ Cross-cultural relations and the role of individuals in maintaining international relations on the individual level is more important than ever. I would like to keep researching about these findings and become a KAKEHASHI between the two countries.

◆ While I am not sure if I can implement my plan—which is to publish a book—within three months, I do plan to continue working on my translations and refining them. I would also like to speak to my partner at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston to see about publishing a Japanese version as well.

◆ I am currently working on transcribing the interview and incorporating the data into my dissertation. I would like to keep in touch with Japanese scholars and friends and I will focus on more about my study.