



# **KAKEHASHI Project (United States of America)**

## **Outbound Program for KAKEHASHI Inouye 3rd Slot**

### **Program Report**

#### **1. Program Overview**

Under the “KAKEHASHI Project” of Japan's Friendship Ties Programs, 25 Japanese university students and supervisors visited the United States of America from March 1 to March 8, 2020 to participate in the program aimed at promoting the understanding of Japan with regard to its politics, economy, society, culture, history, and foreign policy.

Through the observation of various sites, the participants enjoyed a wide range of opportunities to improve their understanding of the US and Japan US relations, and shared their individual interests and experiences through social media.

#### **【School Names and Number of Participants】**

Rikkyo University: 23 university students and 2 supervisors

#### **【Destination】**

Washington D.C., Virginia

#### **2. Program Schedule**

3/1(Sun)	<b>【Arrival】</b> <b>【Orientation】</b>
3/2(Mon)	<b>【Observation】</b> Washington Monument, WWII Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial <b>【Lecture】</b> Ms. Nicole Uehara, Sojitz Corporation of America, Washington Branch (US business ties) <b>【Observation】</b> National Japanese American Memorial <b>【Lecture】</b> Mr. Gerald Yamada (Japanese American history and internment in the US)
3/3(Tue)	<b>【Courtesy Call】</b> Embassy of Japan in the United States of America <b>【School Exchange】</b> American University
3/4(Wed)	<b>【Observation】</b> National History Museum <b>【Observation】</b> US Capitol
3/5(Thu)	<b>【Opinion Exchange】</b> The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation <b>【Opinion Exchange】</b> US-Japan Council
3/6(Fri)	Move from Washington D.C. to Virginia <b>【Opinion Exchange】</b> Dr. Lauren Bell, Randolph-Macon College <b>【Observation】</b> Hollywood Cemetery, Tredegar Iron Works, Tyler Potterfield Bridge

3/7(Sat)	【Departure】
3/8(Sun)	【Arrival in Japan】

### 3. Program Photos



3/2 【Lecture】 Ms. Nicole Uehara, Sojitz Corporation of America, Washington Branch (US business ties)



3/2 【Lecture】 Mr. Gerald Yamada (Japanese American history and internment in the US)



3/3 【Courtesy Call】 Embassy of Japan in the United States of America



3/5 【Opinion Exchange】 The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation



3/5 【Opinion Exchange】 US-Japan Council



3/6 【Observation】 Hollywood Cemetery, Tredegar Iron Works, Tyler Potterfield Bridge

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

◆ I learned about America's history at the extensive National Mall. I was impressed by the many American flags fluttering in the wind. These were found not just the Washington Monument, but in the bus and at the entrance of houses, etc. I seldom see the Rising-Sun flag at home nor at the shops in Japan, so I felt a strong sense of patriotism from Americans. On the 5 dollar bill is the portrait of the President Lincoln and Lincoln Monument. It was a memorable experience for me to go and see things with my own eyes what you used to see only from the reading materials. On our final day in the US, Professor Lauren Bell from Randolph Macon College gave us a lecture about an overview of the US political system. She did so in comparison to the Japanese parliamentary system, which piqued my interest in US political system. I was so thrilled to have received handwritten message cards from the students from the college. I already started to exchange emails with them. All of my studies in English have paid off, knowing I could communicate with them. As part of the program, we paid tribute to the grave of Rev. Channing Moore Williams, the founder of Rikkyo University. He contributed to English and Christianity education in Japan just after the Meiji Restoration, when prejudice against foreigners still prevailed. The monument was engraved with wording in Japanese that praised his accomplishments. To see such a connection with the U.S. so far from Japan was remarkable. We appreciate the work of those involved in the KAKEHASHI Project, which has provided us with many unforgettable experiences.

◆ We had a fruitful time talking with Japanese officials at the Embassy of Japan in Washington D.C. The visit was particularly important in terms of thinking about my own career. I remember very well that the officials said, "When you decide your job, you have to consider what kind of person you will pursue to become through your work, and this is important." I want to become a woman like the Embassy official who has her own opinion and own will. Professor Bell of Randolph-Macon College briefed us about the difference of politics between the two countries, and engaged many of us who don't have a background in politics. At American University, we received an explanation on the admission system to enter US colleges and graduate schools and an exchange session with the students. When we visited the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, Mr. Frank Jannuzi spoke about his teaching experience and teaching method at a university in Japan. As someone considering a teaching career, I was impressed by his remarks that good teachers will give a lot of opportunities to debate among the students, and that students learn through debating each other, as the teachers alone do not have all the answers. I am always pursuing to become an idealistic teacher and his lesson strengthened my wish to let the students learn how to think for themselves. At the same time, I became interested in observing more classrooms in American schools. I want to visit other states in the US to learn about the different characteristics.

◆ I discovered many things through the KAKEHASHI Project. One is regarding characteristics of American society. I understood that Japan's strength lies in the hospitality



to welcome others, but I found that Americans also share this spirit, although different in approach. I was greeted with a smile by a stranger, and was even asked about where I was from. I was a bit surprised because this was quite a new experience for me, but I was delighted to realize that this is how Americans welcomed me. I was nervous being in a foreign country, so a warm reception was much appreciated. This kind of daily communication of welcome is necessary to include into Japanese hospitality, in addition to providing quality service. This experience motivated me to talk to students from abroad more proactively and help them get used to Japanese way of living. I am also grateful to the students from Randolph-Macon College. Though we were not able to see them, they sent us their kind, handwritten message to each of us. When they have an opportunity to visit Japan, I will make every effort to support their stay. I will study more about Japan so that I can guide them in Japan. They were sorry that they were not able to meet us due to the recent infectious disease prevention measures and they are looking forward to see in the future. We usually post short message to social media but this handwritten message made me realize the importance of handwriting or directly speaking our feelings to friends. By joining the KAKEHASHI Project, I re-discovered how wonderful Japan is, and also it has given me an opportunity to think about my future career.

## **5. Voice from American Students (abstract)**

### **◆ Student who participated in the school exchange**

Randolph-Macon College Professor Lauren Bell guided the students of Rikkyo University and R-MC along the riverfront in Richmond and we together visited the grave of Rikkyo's founder, Bishop Channing Moore Williams. Along the riverfront, we took many photographs and exchanged email addresses and social media contact. We spent an unforgettable time.

## 6. Dissemination by the participants

	
<p>About the American food (Instagram)</p> <p>The meals we had so far. Throughout this trip we found out that American food cannot be explained in one word. Since America is a multiracial nation composed of various races, many food cultures are accepted and acknowledged by people.</p>	<p>About KAKEHASHI Project (Instagram)</p> <p>Today we visited to the Embassy of Japan. We learned about the Embassy and the duties of a diplomat. In the afternoon, we visited American University and we received a lot of information about the school from graduate students. We had a great time and these experiences made us think about our future vision. Thank you so much. Today March 3rd, Hina-matsuri, the festival of Dolls, is held in Japan. People celebrate the health and happiness of girls.</p>

## 7. Action Plan Presented by Participants at the Reporting Session

<p>Action Plan (Group 1)</p> <p>To disseminate the charms of Japan by posting to Instagram based on the presentation contents that we had made.</p>	<p>Action Plan (Group 2)</p> <p>To disseminate the seasonal items which we find or feel in Japan to let Americans feel the four seasons as they do not have seasonal cuisine in America.</p> <p>To create a new design for the art of folding paper into various figures, and to disseminate the process of making them by video and photographs using Instagram.</p> <p>To read the photo PR magazine by the MOFA “NIPONIKA”, and disseminate its link and impressions by posting to Instagram.</p>
<p>Action Plan (Group 3)</p> <p>We disseminate and post the charm of Japan</p>	<p>Action Plan (Group 4)</p> <p>We will introduce Japanese manners by</p>

that we discovered in the US twice a week to Instagram using the group account of Kakehashi Rikkyo University for those who are interested in Japan and plan to come to Japan.	posting to our account of Instagram for those who are interested in visiting Japan for their comfortable stay in Japan. Rikkyo Global lounge is a venue for luncheon for the foreign students and we will interview them about what they are surprised at in Japan and post the article to Instagram 3 times by the end of May.
--	---