



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Visiting Japan Program for Latino American Young Leaders Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

Three young Latino leaders from Los Angeles County, USA, visited Japan from October 22 to October 28, visiting Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara, and Kanagawa Prefectures. The primary objective of the visit was to deepen their understanding of Japan's politics, economy, education, and culture through a visit to a local high school, exchanges with entrepreneurs, university professors, and researchers, and exploring cultural sites. At the same time, the program aimed to strengthen networks between Japan and the United States. During their stay, the participants actively absorbed the many attractions of Japan and shared their experiences, learnings, and the appeal of the places they visited through social media and other platforms.

【Participants】 Total: 3 Latino American young leaders (working youths) from the United States

【Locations】 Tokyo, Kanagawa, Kyoto, Nara

【Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program:

Oct. 15 (Wed) **【Pre-departure Orientation】** Project objective and mission, rundown of the schedule, overseas travel warnings, precautions of infectious disease, etc.

Set Period Prior to Arrival **【Video Viewing】** "Lecture on Japan" (Choose on Web Japan)

■ Invitation Program:

Oct. 22 (Wed) Arrival at Haneda Airport

【Post-arrival Orientation】

Oct. 23 (Thu) **【Opinion Exchange】** with Entrepreneurs funded by BORDERLESS JAPAN CORPORATION

【Observation】 Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building (Assembly Hall and Observation Deck)

【School Exchange】 Morimura Gakuen Senior High School

【Cultural Experience】 Tea Ceremony and Karate club at Morimura Gakuen

Oct. 24 (Fri) **【Lecture】** "Latin American Communities in Yokohama's Tsurumi Ward and Initiatives for Multicultural Coexistence"

Lecturer: Ms. KOBAYASHI Hiroko, Tsurumi International Lounge

【Observation】 Parliamentary Museum, House of Representatives

【Opinion Exchange】 The Japan Institute of International Affairs

【Observation】 MIYASHITA PARK ("NOSE SHOP" and other shops)

Oct. 25 (Sat)	Travel from Tokyo to Kyoto 【Observation】 Kinkaku-ji Golden Pavilion, Shoeido Incense Shop and Museum “Kunjyukan”, Kiyomizu-dera Temple
Oct. 26 (Sun)	【Exchange】 Exchange with Japanese and foreign residents in Nara “NaFu! International Exchange Camp One day Camp 2025” Nara Fureai Association of International Communication 【Observation】 Fushimi Jukkubune Boat Tour Travel from Kyoto to Tokyo
Oct. 27 (Mon)	【Observation】 Honjo Life Safety Learning Center 【Observation】 Tokyo Skytree Town® Campus, Chiba Institute of Technology 【Opinion Exchange】 Dr. NANBA Yu, Graduate School of Economics, Course of Public-Private Partnership, Toyo University
Oct. 28 (Tue)	【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans) 【Reporting Session】 Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans Departure from Narita International Airport

2. Program Photos

Invitation Program

	
October 23 【Opinion Exchange】 BORDERLESS JAPAN CORPORATION	October 23 【Observation】 Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building (Assembly Hall and Observation Deck)
	
October 23 【School Exchange】 【Cultural Experience】 Morimura Gakuen	October 24【Lecture】“Latin American Communities in Yokohama’s Tsurumi Ward and Initiatives for Multicultural Coexistence”



October 24 【Observation】
Parliamentary Museum, House of Representatives



October 24 【Opinion Exchange】
The Japan Institute of International Affairs



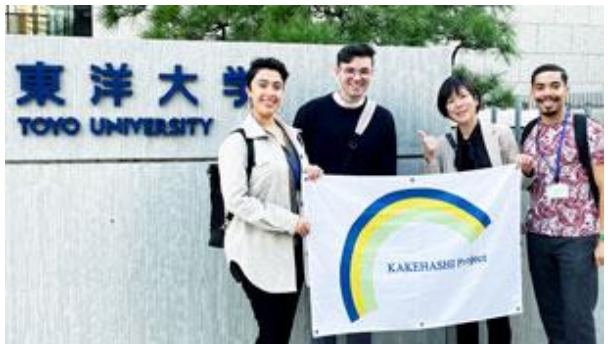
October 25 【Observation】 Kinkaku-ji Golden Pavilion, Shoeido Incense Shop and Museum "Kunjyukan", Kiyomizu-dera Temple



October 26 【Exchange】
"NaFu! International Exchange Camp One day Camp 2025" Nara Fureai Association of International Communication



October 27 【Observation】 Tokyo Skytree Town® Campus, Chiba Institute of Technology



October 27 【Opinion Exchange】 Dr. NANBA Yu, Graduate School of Economics, Course of Public-Private Partnership, Toyo University



October 28 【Reporting Session】



October 28 【Reporting Session】 Group photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth

I most enjoyed the exchange experiences! I felt that this was an opportunity many visitors to Japan don't get to experience and I am so thankful for it. I appreciated being able to learn about real Japanese people's experiences in business, school, policy, and more. These exchanges allowed me to learn about what it is like to live in Japan and get to know the country in a much deeper way. I feel fortunate to have had these experiences.

◆ Working Youth

I greatly enjoyed being able to meet Japanese people in their institutions. Being able to learn about Japanese culture, politics, and society from people who directly experience these systems was an amazing experience. Typically, I learn about Japan through the context of American politics and foreign policy. It was very illuminating to learn about the people behind the news and policy.

◆ Working Youth

This entire experience has been rewarding, informative, eye-opening, and most importantly fun. I'm forever grateful for this experience.

A few of my favorite elements that felt truly impactful and impressive are: (1) our ability to communicate with locals/natives and understand the ways of life here in Japan in the past and present; (2) having the school exchange and visit was full of so much young energy and excitement; (3) lastly having deeper conversations and sessions with experts and seasoned professionals in various fields which allowed me to see similarities/differences between Japan and the U.S.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Observation Destination Representative

"Learning about how foreigners from Latin America and Asia coexist in Japan was particularly memorable." "We also discussed challenges that Japan shares with the United States, and I look forward to seeing Japan make progress in promoting diversity." These comments reassured me that our initiatives and efforts toward multicultural coexistence in Tsurumi Ward, Yokohama, were effectively communicated. It was very encouraging to share a common understanding with these young American leaders about the importance of multicultural coexistence. We sincerely hope we were able to help them become bridges between Japan and the United States.

The exchange of opinions gave us an opportunity to learn about how immigrant communities coexist in the United States, making this a valuable learning experience for us as well.

◆ Exchange Partner Representative

The participating leaders each worked in different fields such as the business sector and lobbying activities. Hearing about their work and engaging in discussions was extremely educational.

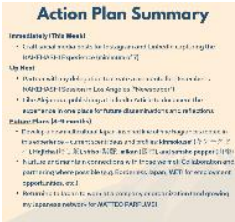
While our workplace happens to have members from six different countries working together, and we naturally use English and have an international mindset, we don't often interact with youth leaders who run their own businesses. This provided an opportunity for us to consider our projects from a different perspective.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt), Articles, etc.

	
October 25, 2025 (Instagram) Working Youth Went to the Parliamentary Museum to learn about Japanese Government. Us "voting" on free college for all.	October 25, 2025 (Instagram) Working Youth We also met incredibly smart researchers at the Japan Institute for International Affairs. I got to talk a bit about US higher ed policy and edtech.
	
October 28, 2025 (Tsurumi International Lounge's Instagram) Three young leaders from the United States visited the Tsurumi International Lounge as part of the Japan's Friendship Ties Program, "Visiting Japan Program for Latino American Young Leaders" and talked about "Latin American Communities in Tsurumi Ward and Multicultural Coexistence."	November 6, 2025 (BORDERLESS JAPAN CORPORATION's Facebook) Cooperating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' international exchange program, the "KAKEHASHI Project" Young Latino American leaders and entrepreneurs from BORDERLESS exchanged ideas. Despite differences in country and language, the desire to "make society better" is shared. As they discussed each other's activities, new perspectives and connections emerged.

6. Presentation of Program Findings and Action Plan at the Reporting Session (excerpt)

Locations: Tokyo, Kanagawa, Kyoto, Nara– Presentations by a total of 1 group


【Results of the Program】

We could see broadly foreign policy, society and culture of Japan. Compared to the US, it is very unique. Japan has a much longer history than the US and we felt spiritual to see long-history architecture.

【Individual Action Plans】

- I look toward Japan as a model for PPP in my work. I will host an event on Japan's new prime minister and multilateral development with the US, and invite the Japanese Consul General to an event on multilateral foreign policy in the fall.
- I will craft social media posts and LinkedIn, and create a memento for KAKEHASHI participants this upcoming December. I would also like to develop a new line of fragrance rooted in this experience in collaboration with people I met over the program.
- I will continue to generate online content, such as Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube. I would like to also generate real collaboration (business partnership, research, international study opportunities) with the people we interacted with.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)