



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Visiting Japan Program for Congressional Leaders the 2nd Slot Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

Through this program, U.S. congressional leaders who are strong disseminators and who bear the future were invited to Japan to deepen their understanding of Japan's politics, economy, society, culture, history, diplomatic policies, and other such aspects of Japan through visits and exchanges at relevant locations in Tokyo, Kanagawa, and Kyoto from February 15 to February 22. By providing this opportunity, the program aimed to strengthen networks for the further deepening of U.S.–Japan relations.

【Participants】 Total: 5 U.S. Congressional Aides

【Locations】 Tokyo, Kanagawa, Kyoto

【Schedule】

■ Invitation Program:

Feb. 15 (Sun)	Arrival at Haneda Airport
Feb. 16 (Mon)	【Briefing】 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) 【Opinion Exchange】 Luncheon Hosted by the Director of the North America Exchange Division, North American Affairs Bureau, MOFA 【Observation】 National Diet Building (House of Councilors) 【Company Visit】 Hitachi, Ltd. 【Opinion Exchange】 Dinner with Young Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
Feb. 17 (Tue)	【Briefing】 Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry 【Opinion Exchange】 U.S. Embassy in Japan 【Briefing】 New Sanno U.S. Force Center
Feb. 18 (Wed)	【Company Visit】 National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology Tokyo Waterfront 【Observation】 SHIBUYA SKY (rooftop observation deck) 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu 【Company Visit】 NEC Corporation 【Opinion Exchange】 Meeting with Diet Members, followed by dinner
Feb. 19 (Thu)	Travel from Tokyo to Kanagawa 【Observation】 United States Fleet Activities Yokosuka 【Observation】 Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Yokosuka Naval Base

Travel from Kanagawa to Kyoto

【Observation】 Shinkansen Driver's Cab (JR Central)

Feb. 20 (Fri)

【Observation】 Kinkaku-ji Golden Pavilion

【Cultural Experience】 Tea Ceremony experience

【Observation】 Kiyomizu-dera Temple

【Observation】 Fushimi Inari Taisha

Feb. 21 (Sat)

Travel from Kyoto to Tokyo

Feb. 22 (Sun)

【Observation】 Asakusa

Departure from Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos

Invitation Program



February 16, 2026 【Observation】
National Diet Building (House of Councilors)



February 16, 2026 【Company Visit】 Hitachi, Ltd.



February 17, 2026 【Briefing】
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry



February 18, 2026 【Company Visit】
National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science
and Technology Tokyo Waterfront

	
February 18, 2026 【Company Visit】 NEC Corporation	February 19, 2026 【Observation】 Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Yokosuka Naval Base
	
February 19, 2026 【Observation】 Shinkansen Driver's Cab (JR Central)	February 20, 2026 【Observation】 Kinkaku-ji Golden Pavilion
	
February 20, 2026 【Observation】 Kiyomizu-dera Temple	February 20, 2026 【Cultural Experience】 Tea Ceremony experience

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth

The meetings with the Diet members, Japanese government agencies (MOFA & METI), and Japanese industries (Hitachi & NEC) were the most valuable meetings. Overall I am very pleased with the balance between business meetings and cultural exchange.

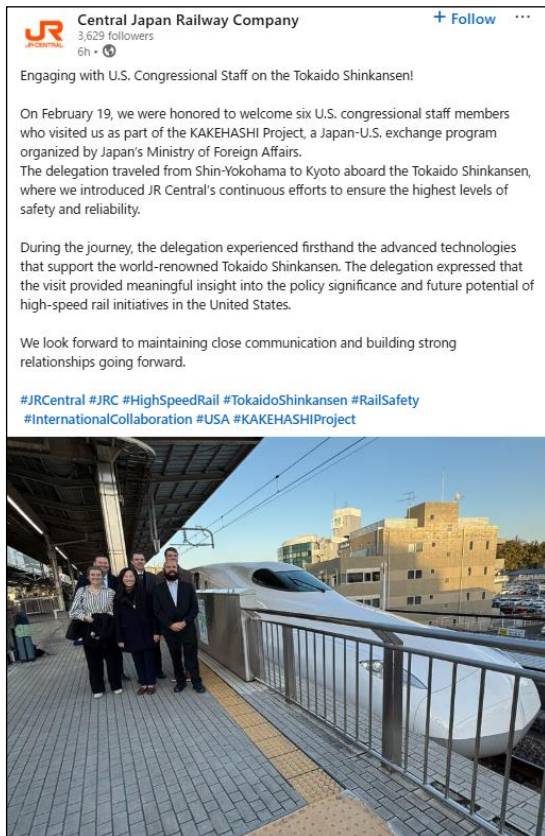
◆ Working Youth

Really enjoyed the briefings from MOFA and the JSDF, the Diet tour was really excellent, and all of the meals were amazing. Very grateful for the opportunity to speak with the LDP elected officials as well.

◆ Working Youth

Our visits to Hitachi and NEC were an excellent opportunity to learn more about how industry and government interact, as well as what the private sector is looking for. Hearing their perspectives on foreign policy, economic policy, and trade security was also extremely valuable, and I'm sure it will be very useful in our work moving forward.

4. Articles



February 27, 2026 (Central Japan Railway Company's LinkedIn)

Engaging with U.S. Congressional Staff on the Tokaido Shinkansen!

On February 19, we were honored to welcome six U.S. congressional staff members who visited us as part of the KAKEHASHI Project, a Japan-U.S. exchange program organized by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The delegation traveled from Shin-Yokohama to Kyoto aboard the Tokaido Shinkansen, where we introduced JR Central's continuous efforts to ensure the highest levels of safety and reliability. During the journey, the delegation experienced firsthand the advanced technologies that support the worldrenowned Tokaido Shinkansen. The delegation expressed that the visit provided meaningful insight into the policy significance and future potential of highspeed rail initiatives in the United States.

We look forward to maintaining close communication and building strong relationships going forward.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)