



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Online Visiting Japan Program (Working in Japan/ JET)

Follow-up Project Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

This program was organized for alumni of the KAKEHASHI Project with the aim of providing essential information on working in Japan and facilitating interaction with fellow alumni involved in English education in Japan. Through these activities, the program sought to promote a deeper understanding of Japan, encourage greater interest in the country, and support continued engagement in Japan-related and network-building initiatives. In addition, the program further strengthened the alumni network by providing opportunities for interaction and the exchange of opinions among participants.

【Participants】

Total: 21 participants from the U.S. (KAKEHASHI Project alumni from up to FY2025)

(Breakdown) 21 participants from the U.S. (3 undergraduate/graduate students, 18 working youths)

【Location】 Ehime

【Schedule】

■ Online Visiting Japan Program: February 17 (Tue), 2026

1. Opening Remarks

2. Address

Mr. HARADA Seitaro, Researcher, First North America Division, North American Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

3. 【Lecture】 “Japan’s Employment Landscape for Global Talent”

Lecturer: Ms. TAMANO Erika Intercultural Integration Department, Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)

4. Presentation by a KAKEHASHI Alumni Representative

“Working in Japan as a JET Programme ALT”

(Note) JET Programme: The Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme, ALT: Assistant Language Teacher

Presenter: Mr. Ryan Okazaki, KAKEHASHI Project alumnus (FY2019 Japanese Americans 1st Slot)

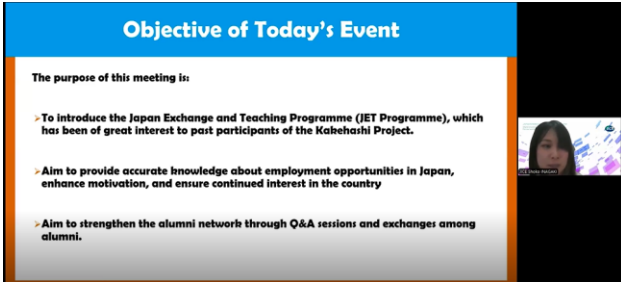
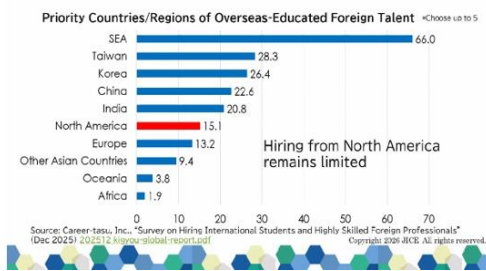
5. Q&A Session

6. Commemorative Photo

7. 【Exchange】 Networking with KAKEHASHI Alumni (breakout rooms)

8. Information for Participants, Closing Remarks

2. Program Photos

 Objective of Today's Event The purpose of this meeting is: - To introduce the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme (JET Programme), which has been of great interest to past participants of the Kakehashi Project. - Aim to provide accurate knowledge about employment opportunities in Japan, enhance motivation, and ensure continued interest in the country - Aim to strengthen the alumni network through Q&A sessions and exchanges among alumni.	 Priority Countries/Regions of Overseas-Educated Foreign Talent (Choose up to 5) <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Country/Region</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SEA</td> <td>66.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Taiwan</td> <td>28.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Korea</td> <td>26.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>China</td> <td>22.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>India</td> <td>20.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North America</td> <td>15.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Europe</td> <td>13.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Asian Countries</td> <td>9.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oceania</td> <td>3.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Africa</td> <td>1.9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Hiring from North America remains limited Source: Career-tatsu, Inc., "Survey on Hiring International Students and Highly Skilled Foreign Professionals" (Dec 2021) 10/23 12:45pm (local report).pdf Copyright 2021 JICE. All rights reserved.	Country/Region	Percentage	SEA	66.0	Taiwan	28.3	Korea	26.4	China	22.6	India	20.8	North America	15.1	Europe	13.2	Other Asian Countries	9.4	Oceania	3.8	Africa	1.9
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 KAKEHASHI Alumni Event Tuesday, February 17, 2026 Working in Japan as a JET Programme ALT																							
【Presentation by a KAKEHASHI Alumni Representative】 “Working in Japan as a JET Programme ALT”	【Commemorative photo】																						

3. Participants’ Inquiries and Interests (excerpt)

- ◆ **Regarding: 【Lecture】 “Japan’s Employment Landscape for Global Talent”**
 - How long are semesters in Japan and do you keep working in one area or do they move you around?
- ◆ **Regarding: 【Presentation by a KAKEHASHI Alumni Representative】**
 - You mentioned that this is your 5th year doing JET programme. Do you need to apply every year? What are your plans for the future (How long do you plan to stay with JET, what you plan to do afterward)?

4. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

- ◆ **Graduate Student (U.S.)**

The program we attended was called the “Working in Japan,” and it was very informative, and we learned a lot about the different opportunities to work abroad.
- ◆ **Working Youth (U.S.)**

Due to my background in sociology and ethnic studies, I was already somewhat familiar with the concept of high context versus low context communication styles, and I liked how the JICE lecturer used these concepts to apply to the particular case of foreigners seeking work in Japan. I also liked the statistics used as I was unaware of how uncommon it is for Americans to be employed in Japan despite a relatively strong relationship between the two countries.

5. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Lecturer

While opportunities for people from North America to work and build a life in Japan remain limited, the participants' reactions after the presentation were especially notable. Several asked about employment possibilities at U.S. branches of Japanese companies as well as ways to further improve their Japanese-language skills. Their questions reflected a clear determination not to give up on the idea of living and working in Japan, along with a thoughtful willingness to assess the realities and consider concrete next steps toward their goals.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)