



KAKEHASHI Project (United States／Canada) Alumni Study Program Follow-up Project Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

Over the course of two days, past participants of the KAKEHASHI Project residing in Japan (from the United States, Canada, and Japan) learned about the current state of disasters and recovery efforts in Japan, as well as related disaster prevention initiatives. Through workshop discussions, the program also aimed to deepen mutual understanding among participants and enhance their sense of identity as KAKEHASHI alumni.

【Participants】

Total: 9 KAKEHASHI Project alumni from up to FY2024

(Breakdown) Undergraduate students, graduate students, and working youths from the U.S. (5), Canada (1), and Japan (3)

【Locations】 Tokyo

【Schedule】

■ In-person Student Conference for Alumni:

Nov. 8 (Sat)

【Orientation】

【Icebreaker】

【Lecture】 “Sediment-related Disasters in Japan and Countermeasures”

Lecturer: Mr. OYAMA Makoto, Land Conservation Division, Sabo (Erosion and Sediment Control) Department, Water and Disaster Management Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

【Q&A Session】

【Observation】 Tokyo Restoration Memorial Hall

【Mini Workshop】

【Exchange Session】

Nov. 9 (Sun)

【Observation】 Ikebukuro Life Safety Learning Center

【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, confirming social media posts, preparation of action plans)

【Reporting Session】 Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans

【Social Gathering】

2. Program Photos



November 8 【Orientation】



November 8 【Icebreaker】



November 8【Lecture】“Sediment-related Disasters in Japan and Countermeasures”



November 8【Lecture】“Sediment-related Disasters in Japan and Countermeasures”
Commemorative photo



November 8 【Observation】
Tokyo Restoration Memorial Museum



November 9 【Observation】
Ikebukuro Life Safety Learning Center



November 9 【Reporting Session】



November 9 【Reporting Session】 Group photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth (Canada)

Those sessions provided me with both the basic knowledge of different disasters and hand-on practices teaching me how to protect myself during those situations. After this study program, I gained deeper understanding of how resilient the Japanese communities have been even during hard times. I am also impressed by the community/individual-focus on disaster preventions that combine disaster prevention technologies and educational trainings. I feel very prepared for my life in Japan, and I would continue engaging in those training for the sake of myself and my community. I would also recommend those places to my friends who are visiting/moving to Japan to understand this country in a different aspect.

◆ Working Youth (U.S.)

I really liked the disaster prevention program. It was very insightful to learn about SABO and fun to participate in the earthquake simulation! I plan on bringing my wife to the disaster prevention center to learn and participate in the earthquake simulation as well. I liked the ability to connect with other alumni, and would love to participate in more events, happy hours, and other learning experiences with my colleagues. I plan on bringing the information I learned back to my work and provide training to them on these offerings!

◆ Working Youth (Japan)

This program was quite challenging for me since I'm not very fluent in English, but the past two days were truly rewarding. Not only did it give me the opportunity to learn more about disaster preparedness, but it also allowed me to connect with other alumni, which was a huge plus.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Lecturer

Since the participants were from countries (the U.S. and Canada) that are not very familiar with landslides, I was a little worried about whether they could relate to my lecture, so I made sure to broadly cover not just landslides, but also other natural disasters that occur in Japan, such as earthquakes, floods, and volcanic disasters. I was very relieved to get positive reactions from the participants.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

Wonderful to learn more about disaster preparation and resilience in Japan. My favorite part was getting to experience a simulation of a magnitude 7 earthquake! Thank you to JICE for putting this wonderful alumni event together! #kakehashiproject #KAC 翻訳を表示 	November 8, 2025 (LinkedIn) Working Youth (U.S.) Wonderful to learn more about disaster preparation and resilience in Japan. My favorite part was getting to experience a simulation of a magnitude 7 earthquake!
2.5yrs later #kakehashi2025 	November 8, 2025 (Instagram) Working Youth (Canada) Tokyo Restoration Memorial Museum
	November 8, 2025 (Instagram) Working Youth (Japan) Learning the disaster prevention weekend.

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

Locations: Tokyo – Presentations by a total of 2 groups

Group A		
		
【Action Plan】 - Develop educational, experiential tourism projects with local communities (Highlighting SABO technologies: sediment control technology such as measures against debris flows, landslides, and loose slopes) - Use and Share Hazard Maps (Use hazard maps and disaster info apps regularly. Encourage family and friends to check them too.) - Raise awareness of disaster prevention (Do more emergency drills to practice for the real emergency. Discuss with your family before disaster happens.)		
Group B		
		
【Results of the Program】 Japan is located in a high-risk environment when it comes to disasters. Therefore, preparation in advance is key, and we believe that intangible measures are particularly important. 【Action Plan】 A. Preparedness - Assess Your Location Risk (where you live) - Review Lease Contracts - Memorize Evacuation Routes - Have a Go-Bag on Hand B. Foreigner Awareness AWARENESS CAMPAIGN STRATEGY incorporating Digital & Educational Initiatives: - Digital Entry Point (Integrate essential preparedness information and links into the "Visit Japan" QR code website) - Interactive Engagement (short, fun, multi-lingual quiz or game on disaster) - Community Training & PR (offer regular, hands-on classes and training sessions at local Disaster Preparedness Centers)		

C. During a Disaster

- Execute Your Evacuation Plan
- Monitor Real-Time Updates
- Prioritize Communication with Your Family

【Conclusion】

- Secure Your Space (of Safety)
- Equip Yourself (for Disasters)
- Stay Informed (Regarding Disasters)

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)