



KAKEHASHI Project Alumni Meeting (Washington D.C.) Follow-up Project Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 This program was conducted give past KAKEHASHI Project participants (alumni) from the U.S. the opportunity to learn about the activities of Japanese companies in the U.S. and to experience Japanese culture in order to stimulate their continued interest in Japan. At the same time, the main objective of the program was to strengthen the alumni networks through in-person exchanges at the reception.

【Participants】

- Total: 41 alumni from the United States and Japan (FY2015-FY2023 KAKEHASHI Project participants)
Breakdown: 1 high school student, 6 undergraduate students, 8 graduate students,
26 working youths
- 7 guests
 - Mr. Tim White, The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation
 - Mr. Lan Diep, The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies
 - Ms. Izumi Swarts, The U.S.-Japan Council
 - Mr. Gabriel Rebeck, Laurasian Institution
 - Mr. Jack Shimabukuro, Japanese American Citizens League
 - Ms. Emily Johnson, The Japan-America Society of Washington DC
 - Ms. Drew Trevelyan, The Japan-America Society of Washington DC

【Location】 Washington D.C., United States

【Program Schedule】

■ In-person Alumni Meeting Program:

Saturday, December 2, 2023

1. 【Opening Remarks】

Mr. Taichi Kaneshiro , Counsellor of Education, Embassy of Japan in the United States

【Introduction of Activities】

Mr. Ryota Yoshimura, Sumitomo Corporation of Americas, Managing Director & General Manager, Intelligence & Government Affairs

【Introduction of Activities】

Mr. Charlie McCrudden, DAIKIN U.S. CORPORATION, Director, Government Affairs

【Presentations】 Presentations by 4 alumni

“Memories of KAKEHASHI and its connection to the present, and future aspirations as KAKEHASHI alumni”

Presenters:

1. Ms. Asano Wakana (FY2015 Outbound Program 2nd Slot (University Students))
2. Mr. Kazuma Parkinson (FY2022 Japanese American (Nikkei) Youth (JACL) Inbound Program)
3. Ms. Wantakan Arcado (FY2022 Young Researchers the 2nd Slot Inbound Program)
4. Mr. Jake Tennenbaum (FY2017 Business School Students 3rd Slot)

2. Social Gathering

【Commemorative Photo】

【Exchange】

【Cultural Experience】 Tea ceremony experience, Shochu tasting

2. Program photos

	
【 Opening Remarks 】 Alumni serving as moderators of the event	【Opening Remarks】 Mr. Taichi Kaneshiro , Counsellor of Education, Embassy of Japan in the United States
	
【Introduction of Activities】 Mr. Charlie McCrudden, DAIKIN U.S. CORPORATION, Director, Government Affairs	【Presentations】 Presentations by alumni

	
【Presentations】 Presentations by alumni	【 Presentation 】 Gallery enjoying the presentations
	
【Commemorative Photo】	【Exchange】 Participants interacting with one another
	
【 Cultural Experience 】 Tea ceremony experience	【Cultural Experience】 Shochu tasting

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Undergraduate Student

I was extremely impressed by today's alumni program! I went into this experience not really knowing what to expect, but I am so happy that I attended! I had the opportunity to form connections with other students who share similar passions for US-Japan relationships. I also had the unique opportunity to speak with some of the Japanese diplomats at the embassy. Overall,

I am beyond grateful for this experience and look forward to continuing my relationship with the Kakehashi program!

◆ Working Youth

Yesterday's event was lovely! It was great to meet some other Kakehashi alumni, and the ceremonial matcha and shochu tastings were a really enjoyable way to learn more about the detail and technique surrounding favorite Japanese drinks.

◆ Working Youth

I really enjoyed the event. It was great meeting other alumni since I've only met those from my original cohort. The speakers were also really interesting and love to hear more about their perspective.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Cooperating Organization

At the reception after the presentations, you could see that the participants were very intrigued, and many participants enthusiastically asked questions. We felt that the youths particularly had a strong interest in Japanese culture and Japanese companies. We have been conducting exchanges like this whenever possible, including appointing student interns at our office, and we would like to continue participating in such exchanges whenever requested. We believe these exchanges will be also mutually beneficial in the future.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

I had an incredible time helping out at the KAKEHASHI Project alumni event at the Japanese Embassy last month! us 🇺🇸🇯🇵 Grateful for the opportunity to connect with the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) management team visiting from Tokyo HQ and share insights with Counsellor of Education Taichi Kaneshiro. Special thanks to Kaneshiro-san for sporting a Satsuma lapel pin in honor of our Laurasian Institution Tokyo Office director Yume Hidaka and me (JET ALT in Kagoshima). 🌸 It was also a pleasure to reconnect with our former JOI Coordinator, Maika Yamaoka, in her new position with JICE!

Engaging conversations flowed with guest speakers like Daikin Director of Government Affairs, Charlie McCrudden, and the diverse group of alumni present. It's heartening to witness the enduring passion for international exchange among students, even years after their program experiences. 🌟 Let's continue fostering connections and cultural understanding through KAKEHASHI and all of our important Laurasian Institution programs!

The Japan Foundation The Japan Foundation, New York
#KAKEHASHI #AlumniEvent #japanese #nihongo #japaneselanguage #japaneseteacher #japanesestudy #日本 #日本語 #日本語の勉強 #日本語の先生



December 10, 2023 (LinkedIn)

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I had the honor of attending the Kakehashi Alumni event at the Embassy of Japan in the USA on Dec 2nd, where I gained insights from remarkable speakers like Mr. Taichi Kaneshiro Mr. Randy Yoshimura and Mr. Charlie McCrudden on US-Japan relations and career prospects! Connecting with fellow Kakehashi alumni during the reception allowed us to share our mutual interests in Japan and engage in an insightful conversation with Public Affairs diplomat, Yuki Sugiyama 🌐

My journey with KAKEHASHI Project began in 2016 when my high school participated in the program, offering me a transformative visit to Japan! Grateful for the opportunities it opened, I now find myself, almost a decade later, humbly contributing to the Kakehashi alumni community. I look forward to continuing my involvement and deepening the Kakehashi alumni network!

A heartfelt thank you to Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) for making the Kakehashi Alumni event possible! Your efforts in building connections and enriching experiences are truly appreciated. 🙏
[#kakehashi2023](#) [#kakehashiAlumni](#) [#JICE](#)



December 12, 2023 (LinkedIn)

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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)