



KAKEHASHI Project Visiting U.S. Program for Okinawa Part 2 (Yaeyama High School) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 This program primarily aimed to provide an opportunity for high school students in Okinawa to visit the United States where they could deepen ties of friendship and trust between the United States and Japan and experience American culture and society through a call on the Consular Office of Japan in Portland, Oregon, observation of companies, and exchanges with local students in Oregon. Another objective was to encourage the participants to actively disseminate the learnings and discoveries they gained through their experience and exchanges in the program. This program was the second part of a U.S.-Japan mutual exchange program for high school students.

【Participants】 Total: 10 students and faculty from Okinawa Prefectural Yaeyama High School

【Location】 Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.

2. Program Schedule

■ Pre-study Program (Online)

Oct. 26 (Thu) **【Pre-departure Orientation】** Project objective and mission, schedule, travel warnings, COVID-19 countermeasures, etc.

■ U.S. Outbound Program:

Nov. 8 (Wed) Departure from Haneda Airport, arrival at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (Seattle, Washington), transfer to a connecting flight for arrival at Portland International Airport (Portland, Oregon)

【Orientation】

Nov. 9 (Thu) **【Courtesy Call】** Mr. YOSHIOKA Yuzo, Consul General, Consular Office of Japan in Portland

【Lecture】 “Relationship between Oregon and Japan”

Lecturer: Mr. SHIGEHISA Naoto, Consul, Consular Office of Japan in Portland

【Lecture】 “Message to the Students of Yaeyama High School”

Lecturer: Mr. OKADA Hayato, Senior Manager, Portland Branch, Sojitz Corporation of America

	【School Exchange】 Roosevelt High School
Nov. 10 (Fri)	【Observation】 Travel Portland, Portland Visitor Center 【Observation】 Japanese American Museum of Oregon 【Homestay】 Homes of students at Roosevelt High School
Nov. 11 (Sat)	【Homestay】 Homes of students at Roosevelt High School
Nov. 12 (Sun)	【Homestay】 Homes of students at Roosevelt High School 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program learnings and discoveries, preparation of action plans)
Nov. 13 (Mon)	【Observation】 Japanese American Historical Plaza 【School Exchange】 Central Catholic High School 【Reporting Session】 Presentation of action plans 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】 Host families and faculty of Roosevelt High School
Nov. 14 (Tue)	Travel from Portland International Airport to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport via domestic flight, departure via international flight
Nov. 15 (Wed)	Arrival at Haneda Airport

3. Program Photos

	
November 9 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. YOSHIOKA Yuzo, Consul General, Consular Office of Japan in Portland	November 9 【Lecture】 Mr. SHIGEHISA Naoto, Consul at the Consular Office of Japan in Portland, and Mr. OKADA Hayato, Senior Manager at the Portland Branch of Sojitz Corporation of America
	
November 9 【School Exchange】 Cultural	November 10 【Observation】 Travel Portland,

exchange with students of Roosevelt High School	Portland Visitor Center
	
November 10 【 Observation 】 Japanese American Museum of Oregon	November 11 【Homestay】 Home of a student at Roosevelt High School
	
November 12 【Workshop】	November 13 【 School Exchange 】 Central Catholic High School
	
November 13 【Reporting Session】 Reporting of Findings	November 13 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】

4. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student

It was fascinating to hold exchanges with my host family and discover the differences and similarities between our cultures. I also learned about the difficult and tragic history of Japanese Americans and vowed to keep this knowledge alive so the same thing will never happen again.

◆ High School Student

I enjoyed the presentation session on the final day the most. After delivering an English presentation about my experiences and impressions of the program to an audience composed of our host families and local students, I was happy to receive their direct feedback and know that I was able to get across to my audience.

◆ School Faculty

I thought the school visit was very meaningful. Our students interacted with the local students full of energy and appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves even while being puzzled by the various differences with Japan.

5. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Lecturer

The visiting students listened with strong interest to my lecture on the relationship between Japan and Oregon, the current state of affairs in Portland, and the status of activities by Japanese companies in the city. I would be happy if they took the opportunity of my lecture to broaden their perspective on international activities.

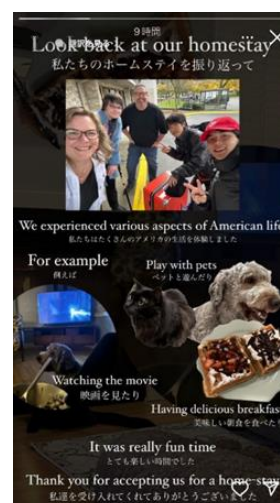
◆ Lecturer

Engaging with the Japanese high school students was a precious opportunity that took me back to the basics and renewed my desire to apply myself to my job with a pure spirit.

◆ Faculty of the Exchange School

The visit by the Japanese high school students was highly welcome. Students in our Japanese language class were especially excited to hold an exchange with the Japanese students.

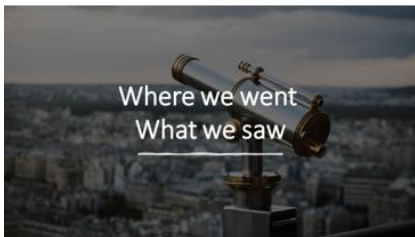
6. Disseminations by the Participants



November 9, 2023 (Instagram) We gave three presentations about Japan to the students of Roosevelt High School. After that, we set up a hands-on corner where the students could experience two traditional Japanese cultures, namely origami and calligraphy. The students of Roosevelt High School enjoyed and learned from the experience, engaging in delightful conversation with us. It was very rewarding to see them develop even more interest in Japanese culture.	November 12, 2023 (Instagram) Looking back at our homestay, we experienced various aspects of American life. For example, we played with pets, watched a movie, ate a delicious breakfast, and simply enjoyed a fun time. Thank you for receiving us for the homestay.
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7. Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans at the Reporting Session

Presentations by a total of 3 groups (Location: Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.)

Group 1			
			
【What we Learned】 We learned that the relationship between Japan and Oregon (Portland) has been good for a long time, and that Japanese culture is more famous and popular than we had imagined. We also learned that the city and its facilities themselves have become tourism resources, with public transportation such as streetcars and buses being upgraded for the sake of tourism development. 【Action Plan】 Compared to Portland, Ishigaki's main attraction for tourism is its rich nature. We would like to promote Ishigaki as a group by coming up with a customized sightseeing plan to bring people from Portland and other places abroad to Ishigaki where they can enjoy its unique subtropical nature.			

Group 2



【What we Learned】

We examined the similarities and differences between Japan and the U.S. in terms of food, housing, personality, pets, and other items. In Portland, people seem to value nature and the city itself, and this is also true of Ishigaki. We hope to further cherish our local life in Ishigaki.

【Action Plan】

We will give a PPT presentation titled "Lifestyle" in class on December 25, 2023. First, we will share with the other students what we have seen and heard in Portland, and then we will review our lifestyle in Japan and our local hometown of Ishigaki and think about what we need to appreciate more. We will also show a video message from Roosevelt High School and continue our interactive exchange.

Group 3



【What we Learned】

Unlike the image we had before coming to the U.S., many people here seem to be good at using chopsticks, and we learned that Japanese food is popular along with Chinese and Thai food. However, the taste is relatively strong and the quantity of food is larger than in Japan.

【Action Plan】

We plan to use social media such as Instagram to disseminate information about Japanese food culture and food manners to foreigners who are interested in Japan and are planning to visit Japan in the future. We will also post recipes and cooking methods for local dishes that are not well known.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)