



KAKEHASHI Project (Canada)

Visiting Canada Program for University Students Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 University students from Japan visited the Province of Ontario, Canada, and learned about Canadian politics, history, culture, and other aspects of the country through observations of various relevant locations. Also, through exchanges with university students and past KAKEHASHI Inbound Program participants in Canada, the program aimed to deepen intercultural understanding by having participants experience local lifestyles and customs and by having them introduce the many attractions of Japan and Ishikawa Prefecture.

【Participants】 Total: 6 university students from Japan (Komatsu University)

【Locations】 Toronto, Waterloo and Ottawa, Ontario

【Program Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program :

Feb. 21 (Wed) 【Pre-arrival (pre-departure) Orientation】 Program objectives and mission, itinerary outline, travel precautions, COVID-19 preventative measures, etc.

■ Outbound Program:

Mar. 3 (Sun) Departure from Haneda Airport, Arrival at Toronto Pearson International Airport

Mar. 4 (Mon) 【Observation, Courtesy Call】 Japan Foundation, Toronto
 【Observation】 The Provincial Legislature of Ontario (Queen's Park)
 【Courtesy Call】 Her Honour Elizabeth Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

 【Observation】 Toronto New City Hall, Old City Hall

 【Observation】 Nathan Phillips Square

 【Observation】 Eaton Centre (shopping center)

Mar. 5 (Tue) 【School Exchange】 University of Waterloo

Mar. 6 (Wed) 【Observation】 Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake

 【Observation, Courtesy Call】 Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC)

 【Observation】 Aga Khan Museum

 【Exchange】 KAKEHASHI Alumni residing in Toronto

Mar. 7 (Thu) Travel from Toronto to Ottawa

 【Courtesy Call】 Global Affairs Canada

 【Courtesy Call】 Embassy of Japan in Canada

	【Observation】 National War Memorial
	【Observation】 Rideau Canal
	【Observation】 Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica
	【Observation】 National Gallery of Canada
Mar. 8 (Fri)	【Observation】 Supreme Court of Canada
	【Observation】 Canadian Museum of History
	【Observation】 Ottawa Art Gallery
	【Exchange】 KAKEHASHI Alumni residing in Ottawa
Mar. 9 (Sat)	【Observation】 Proulx Maple Farm
	【Observation】 Rideau Hall, Official Residence of the Governor General of Canada
	【Observation】 ByWard Market
	【Observation】 Houses of Parliament, West Wing
	【Observation】 Bank of Canada Museum
	【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (Summarizing program findings and preparation of action plans)
Mar. 10 (Sun)	Departure from Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport
Mar. 11 (Mon)	Arrival at Narita International Airport

2. Program Photos

Outbound Program

	
March 4 【Observation, Courtesy Call】 Japan Foundation, Toronto	March 4 【Observation】 The Provincial Legislature of Ontario (Queen's Park)
	
March 5 【School Exchange】 University of Waterloo	March 6 【Observation, Courtesy Call】 Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC)



March 6 Exchange】
KAKEHASHI Alumni residing in Toronto



March 7 【Courtesy Call】 Global Affairs Canada



March 7 【Courtesy Call】
Embassy of Japan in Canada



March 8 【Observation】
National Gallery of Canada



March 8 【Exchange】
KAKEHASHI Alumni residing in Ottawa



March 9 【Observation】 Proulx Maple Farm



March 9 【Workshop】



March 10 Date of return

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ University Student

Thanks to the KAKEHASHI Program. I had the rare opportunity to visit the Embassy of Japan in Canada and interact with government agencies and dignitaries that I would never have set foot in even if I had traveled to Canada on a personal trip or for study. It is not every day that you get the chance to hear directly from the kind of people I met during the program, and I think I gained a great deal because I am now a university student who has gained some insight into society and am at the point in my life where it will have a great impact on my future. I also felt that it was very beneficial for me to be able to visit Canada, where understanding and awareness of diversity, which is for better or for worse a popular topic these days, has advanced considerably. I was able to observe the current situation and experience firsthand the differences of diversity in Canada and Japan, and to truly think about why understanding of diversity has advanced so far in Canada. This was very beneficial for me. I was particularly interested in hearing about the indigenous peoples in Canada, for some areas were similar to the Ainu people in Japan.

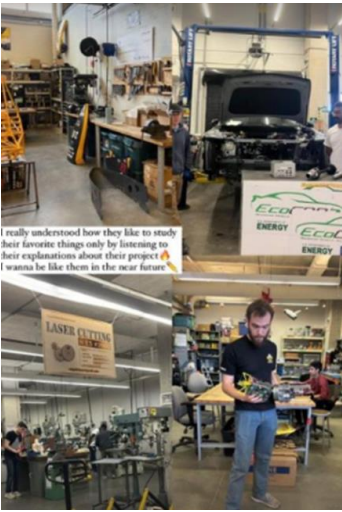
◆ University Student

The talk at the Embassy of Japan in Canada was beneficial for my future and was a great experience for me. I learned that I should not worry about what others think of me and limit myself in what I want to try in life. This was particularly great for me to hear, as I tend to be concerned about what others think of me.

◆ University Student

I think the best parts of the program were the school exchange at the University of Waterloo and the exchange with KAKEHASHI Project alumni living in Ottawa. In learning about cultural differences, being around the same age made us want to learn more about each other, which led to a deeper mutual understanding and friendship.

4. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

	
March 5, 2024 (Instagram) I really understood how they like to study their favorite things only by listening to their explanations about their project. I wanna be like them in the near future.	March 5, 2024 (Komatsu University International Exchange Center's Instagram page) Students visited the University of Waterloo today. Students from University of Waterloo made a campus tour for our students and they also attended some academic classes in the morning. There was a welcome ceremony and a panel discussion with faculty and students at University of Waterloo in the afternoon. Komatsu University students had been preparing for around 1 month to prepare for the panel discussion, and it ended in success! Everyone could make a deep bond so please keep in touch with your new friends.

5. Summary of Program Findings and Action Plans by the Participants (excerpt)

【What we Learned】

- The importance of understanding Japan

We learned that sometimes people living abroad know about attractions of Japan that even Japanese people don't know about. In order to have people learn about Japan, it is important for Japanese people themselves to learn more about their own country. Japanese people also need to have opportunities to learn about the history of Nikkei.

There are already institutions overseas that disseminate information on Japan to those who are interested in the country. Rather than disseminating information on an individual level through social media or other platforms, we felt that disseminating information on Japan's culture, attractions, history, etc. to Japanese people and foreigners living in Japan and developing human

resources within Japan who can connect Japan to the rest of the world can lead to a better overall understanding of Japan.

- Diversity in Japan and Canada

Canada has two official languages, English and French, and many people are bilingual. Although there is an overwhelming majority of English speakers, there is a common perception that French is a language that needs to be protected/maintained.

- Students' motivation to study

It seemed to us that students in Canada are highly motivated to study. People had the freedom to learn or not to learn, and students voluntarily attended university with the intention to learn. They were not studying simply to graduate, but to pursue their academic interests.

- Diplomacy between Canada and Japan

Japan is the only Asian country to participate in the G7. It is important that Japan and Canada continue to have a good relationship as partners.

- The appeal of Japan as a nation

Through our exchanges, we rediscovered the appeal of Japan. I was happy to see many people learning the Japanese language, which is used only in Japan in the world. We recognized once again the appeal of the diverse culture and traditions of Japan.

【Action Plan】

All of the participants will carry out the following action plans.

- Objectives: To inform and provide opportunities for university students to think about the fact that there are institutions abroad that promote Japanese culture, that there is a need for Japanese people themselves to have a deeper understanding of Japan, and that Japan also needs opportunities to deeply consider "diversity" and other issues in their daily lives.
- Content: We will give a presentation on the following agendas at the Komatsu University Kizuna Camp (an event for new freshmen) on April 6.
 - Summary of diversity in Canada and Japan based on the question, "What is diversity?"
 - The opportunity to think about diversity.
 - Sharing the need for Japanese people themselves to learn about "Japan."
 - Sharing the meaning of embracing the new while preserving the old (traditions).

Implementation Agencies: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE), Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APFC)