



KAKEHASHI Project

Visiting U.S. Program for University Graduate Students (FOIP) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 This program was held with the primary objective of providing university graduate students in Japan an opportunity to visit the United States and gain a shared understanding of the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” concept and the visions of “Promotion and establishment of the rule of law,” “Pursuit of economic prosperity,” and “Commitment to peace and stability,” which comprise the principles of FOIP, through a call on the local Consular Office, observations of facilities related to Japanese Americans, and exchanges of opinions with local students. Another main objective was to have the participants actively disseminate the learnings and discoveries they gained from experiencing American culture and society.

【Participants】 Total: 9 university graduate students from Yokohama National University

【Location】 Los Angeles and San Diego, California, U.S.A.

2. Program Schedule

■ Pre-study Program (Online)

Oct. 16 (Tue) 【Pre-departure Orientation】 Project objective and mission, schedule, travel warnings, COVID-19 countermeasures, etc.

■ Outbound Program:

Nov.11 (Sat) Departure from Narita International Airport, arrival in the United States from Los Angeles International Airport

 【Observation】 Santa Monica Pier

 【Orientation】 Orientation

Nov. 12 (Sun) 【Observation】 Japanese American National Museum

 【Observation】 Japan House

 【Observation】 The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles

Nov. 13 (Mon) 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. SONE Kenko, Consul General, Consular Office of Japan in Los Angeles

 【Observation】 Japanese language class at Grand Arts (Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts)

 【Observation】 Los Angeles City Hall

Nov. 14 (Tue)	【Travel】 Travel from Los Angeles to San Diego 【Observation】 Japanese Friendship Garden and Museum, San Diego
Nov. 15 (Wed)	【Observation】 USS Midway Museum 【School Exchange】 University of California San Diego 【Class Experience】 “Japanese Governance” Lecturer: Professor Ulrike Schaede, University of California San Diego
Nov. 16 (Thu)	【Class Experience】 "Innovation Eco-system in San Diego" Lecturer: Dr. KIYOIZUMI Takashi, University of California San Diego 【Class Experience】 “Returns and Constraints (North Korea)” Lecturer: Professor Stephan Haggard, University of California San Diego 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program learnings and discoveries, preparation of action plans) 【Reporting Session】 Presentation of action plans 【Social Gathering】 University of California San Diego
Nov. 17 (Fri)	Departure from San Diego International Airport
Nov. 18 (Sat)	Arrival at Narita International Airport

3. Program Photos

Outbound Program

	
November 11 【Observation】 Santa Monica Pier	November 12 【Observation】 Japanese American National Museum
	
November 12 【Observation】 Japan House	November 12 【Observation】 The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles



November 13 【Courtesy Call】Mr. SONE Kenko, Consul General, Consular Office of Japan in Los Angeles



November 13 【School Exchange】 Japanese language class at Grand Arts (Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts)



November 13 【Observation】 Los Angeles City Hall



November 14 【Observation】 Japanese Friendship Garden and Museum, San Diego



November 15 【 Observation 】 USS Midway Museum



November 15 【School Exchange】 University of California San Diego



November 15 【Class Experience】 “Japanese Governance”



November 16 【Workshop】

4. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Graduate Student

We exchanged opinions about the relationship between the U.S. and Japan and the efforts of the LA city government at public facilities such as the consulate, schools, and city hall. Entering public facilities for hearings and discussions was an extremely valuable experience that probably could only have been possible during this program. There were many moments when I realized that everything I absorbed from the program, from the atmosphere to the approaches toward initiatives, will greatly benefit my life in the future.

◆ Graduate Student

The exchange schools welcomed us very cheerfully, and we were able to observe what ordinary school life is like in the United States. We gained an understanding of how the Japanese language is being studied in high schools in the U.S.

It was meaningful to hold exchanges with students of different ages from me.

5. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Teacher at an Observation Destination

I really enjoyed seeing how my high school students and the Japanese graduate students interacted with each other in English and Japanese. The Japanese graduate students and the JICE coordinator were all very nice and patient with my students. They were all very flexible with and open to doing whatever we did inside and outside of the classroom.

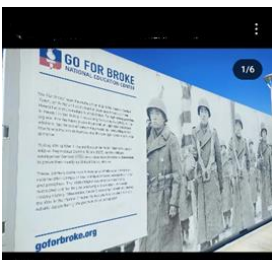
◆ Staff at an Observation Destination

The students were full of enthusiasm and came up with diverse ideas for The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles, which thoroughly impressed me. They even expressed their opinions regarding the standard for Japanese language textbooks. On a personal level, I was happy to see a participant from the city in Japan where I worked as an assistant language teacher (ALT). As it is not an especially popular place for people outside the prefecture, it was nice to know that someone from that city participated in the program.

◆ Staff at an Observation Destination

I enjoyed taking the students to the Japanese Friendship Garden and Museum in San Diego. I was highly impressed with their courteous manners and studious approach to learning.

6. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

 diary_cook_ph 先日のアメリカ滞りのことを投稿したいと思います。外務省の派遣事業であるカケハシプロジェクトで行ってました。美院生のみグループで、常に議論が絶えない空間でも楽しかったです。この写真はロサンゼルスで撮影したという様子の様子です。観光客から商業をする人、様々な人種の人達がたくさんいて、日本では見ることが出来ない空間でした。	 全米日系人博物館 渡航の中で一番印象に残っているのがロサンゼルスのリトルトーキョーにある全米日系人博物館 (Japanese American National Museum) です。ここでは、農耕民として戦前に移住した日本人移民者の歴史、太平洋戦争中の日本人移民者と日系人の歴史、そして戦後にかけて日系人が自身の権利のために戦った歴史について知ることができます。特に日本人移民者と日系人に対する差別をテーマに
November 11, 2023 (Instagram) There were many people of diverse races in Santa Monica, creating an environment not found in Japan.	November 12, 2023 (Instagram) At the Japanese American National Museum, we learned about the discrimination that Japanese migrants to the West Coast and American Japanese people faced.

7. Presentation of Action Plans at the Reporting Session (excerpt)

What can a community do?

1 Agenda

- Inspiration
- Background
- Term
- Action

2 Inspiration

What are the differences in community functions between Japan and the United States?

3 Terms

Community

A group of people who share a particular identity or value and form spontaneously.

Watts rising

The community of Watts has shared their problems with their residential environment and is working to improve public health, environmental issues, and walking space.

4 Action Plan

Where: In Yokohama National University
When: Three Month Later
Who: We at Kakehashi Project
To Whom: Powers in our school system

What / How

- Collection and sharing of awareness of problems within the country
- Determination of priorities based on severity (not on numbers)
- Discussion of possible solutions
- Make their voices heard (those that cannot be reached by individuals)

【What we Learned】

Through our visit, we found that in the U.S., the concept of “community” is widely embraced by local communities. We learned that communities voluntarily approach the government to improve their living environment and take action to realize the society they wish to create. On the other hand, in Japan, the community concept is not fully disseminated. We think this is partly due to the Japanese people’s low sense of identification with any group or organization.

【Action Plan】

Members of the KAKEHASHI Project at Yokohama National University will assume a central role in creating a student-centered community in reference to successful cases in America, such as the Watts^(Note) example. By collecting what individual students think is an on-campus problem and proposing solutions to the university through our community, we hope our students will gain greater awareness of themselves as members of the university.

1. Survey and classify problems that students face in school
2. Decide on a priority order for exploring solutions based on the degree of seriousness of the problem
3. Explore solutions
4. Propose solutions to the university

By taking the American approach to political engagement that we have learned through the recent outbound program and implementing it in Japan as an on-campus community, we hope to promote a greater understanding of the U.S. We also hope to promote an improved understanding of Japan by sharing our initiative with the U.S. and other countries.

(Note) Watts: A neighborhood council that is active in a community in southern Los Angeles, California.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)