



Invitation Program for High School Students the 2nd Slot (Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 This program was held for high school students studying Japanese at the Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy in Atlanta, Georgia. Through observations in Tokyo and homestays and school exchanges in Atlanta's sister city of Fukuoka City in Fukuoka Prefecture, the program primarily aimed to foster a greater understanding of Japanese culture, society, and history among the students, further deepen their affinity towards Japan, and contribute to strengthening the network of the participants.

【Participants】 Total: 9 high school students and 1 chaperone from Atlanta, Georgia

【Locations】 Tokyo, Fukuoka

【Program Schedule】

■ Pre-study Program (Online)

Oct. 5 (Thu) **【Pre-departure Orientation】** Program objectives and mission, schedule, briefing of the program schedule, travel warnings, COVID-19 precautions, etc.

Set Period Prior to Arrival **【Video Viewing】** Lecture "Japan and the United Nations," Lecture on Japan (selected from Web Japan)

■ Inbound Program

Oct. 10 (Tue) Arrival at Haneda Airport

Oct. 11 (Wed) **【 Observation 】** Tokyo Skytree Town® Campus, Chiba Institute of Technology

【Observation】 Asakusa

Oct. 12 (Thu) Travel from Tokyo to Fukuoka

【Courtesy Call】 Mr. ISHIBASHI Masanobu, Education Chief, Fukuoka City Education Committee

Oct. 13 (Fri) **【School Exchange】** Fukusho High School

【Meeting with the Host Families】

Oct. 14 (Sat) **【Homestay】** Four families (Fukuoka City)

Oct. 15 (Sun) **【Farewell Party with the Host Families】**

【Observation】 Fukuoka City Science Museum

【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program

findings and preparation of action plans)

Oct. 16 (Mon)

Travel back to Tokyo

【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku (observation of Japan's pop culture)

Oct. 17 (Tue)

【Reporting Session】 Presentation of Program Findings and Action Plans
Departure from Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos

Inbound Program

	
October 11 【Observation】 Tokyo Skytree Town® Campus, Chiba Institute of Technology	October 11 【Observation】 Asakusa
	
October 12 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. ISHIBASHI Masanobu, Education Chief, Fukuoka City Education Committee	October 13 【School Exchange】 Fukusho High School
	

October 14 【Homestay】 Four families in Fukuoka City	October 15 【 Farewell Party with the Host Families】
	
October 15 【Observation】 Fukuoka City Science Museum	October 16 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine, Harajuku
	
October 17 【Reporting Session】 Reporting of Findings	October 17 【Reporting Session】 Commemorative Photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student

The most impressive part of the program was the visit to Fukuoka City. It was a memorable experience making many friends and a new family during the homestay. The school exchange was very educational, as we were able to learn about the life of a Japanese high school student and the differences between our schools. I hope to visit again someday. The welcoming ceremony and the visit to a Japanese classroom also made for a wonderful day.

◆ High School Student

The school exchange and homestay left the strongest impact on me. The school exchange allowed me to experience first-hand the life of a student in Japan. I was able to create bonds and friendships by attending classes, learning about a new topic, laughing with new friends and teachers, and meeting new people. The homestay allowed me to personally experience a Japanese household. My host family showed me their traditional culture in relation to their food, home, and relationships with one another.

◆ **High School Student**

In the school exchange, I was able to meet many new friends. Everyone was kind and interested in what life is like in America. I became close with my host family, and we explored cities such as Saga and Nagasaki together. It was a wonderful experience.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **Host Family**

When we visited the Peace Park and museum in Nagasaki, I was impressed to see our two foreign students taking pictures and reading the reference materials very carefully. The homestay also proved to be a valuable experience to my high school daughter and her friends who interacted with the two students. By being exposed to live English, they seemed to realize the importance of language and felt motivated for the first time to study English.

I prepared for this program with hopes of providing the experience of a fun exchange that would encourage the young people who will hereafter carry the torch for a peaceful world to come together and create a brighter future.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

	
October 11, 2023 (Instagram) Guess who went to the Tokyo Skytree Tower today!!!	October 15, 2023 (Instagram) I had a great time at the Science Museum here in Fukuoka!

	October 15, 2023 (Instagram) • Highlights of my stay and landing in Tokyo: We went to the Skytree Tower, Chiba Institute of Technology, and Asakusa. • My stay in Fukuoka: I am currently with my host family. They are the sweetest people on this earth! We went to Yusentei Park and I wore a beautiful yukata. We also did lots of shopping. A special thank-you to my host sister, mother, and father for taking such great care of me. Before the homestay, we stayed in a beautiful hotel with wonderful lights and food. All in all, there are no words to express my gratitude for the people involved in my stay and those who made it happen. Thank you all.
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6. Presentation of program findings and action plans

Presentations by two groups

【What we Learned】 This trip has opened our eyes to Japanese culture through visits to shrines, temples, museums, and various other places in Japan. The homestay experience, in particular, is one I will never forget. It was special to me to eat meals and spend time together as part of the family. They taught me a lot of things about Japanese culture and about Japanese food, but most importantly, they made me realize anew the value of family. This experience wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the	【What we Learned】 Japanese culture places strong emphasis on respect and politeness. The act of bowing and punctuality commonly expresses consideration for others. The Japanese concept of “ganbaru” means working hard and persevering, which is deeply ingrained in their culture, contributing to productivity and success. Another notable characteristic is their preference for harmony and aversion to confrontation. This fosters a peaceful and cooperative society. Lastly, Japanese people have a profound appreciation

KAKEHASHI Project. 【Learnings about the Theme (Science and Technology)】 I learned many things about Japan's technologies and understood why Japan is known as a country possessing world-class technological capabilities. I was able to determine this by experiencing firsthand the technological advances of Japan, such as the conveyor belt sushi, toilets, the smoothie maker at Seven-Eleven, and the observation at Fukuoka City Science Museum. Through this program, I was able to gain a better understanding of Japan and its beauty from a personal perspective instead of from online. 【Action Plan】 We plan to do a presentation on Japan consisting of photos and our personal experiences such as the homestay, school exchange, food culture, and much more. It will take place after classes in the library or our Japanese language classroom sometime within December. We will post flyers around the school to gather students of Coretta Scott King who are interested in our activity.	for traditional arts and aesthetics. Activities such as the tea ceremony, calligraphy, and ikebana (flower arranging) demonstrate their reverence for traditional culture. 【Learnings about the Theme (Science and Technology)】 Japan's technology is much more advanced compared to America. For instance, Honda introduced a Japanese robot called ASIMO (Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility) in 2000 as the most advanced humanoid robot in the world. Another thing that was impressive in Japan is the technology in the bathrooms. Features such as the bidet, drying, built-in deodorizer, and hand-sensor flush were very interesting. The trash bin is also hand-sensor activated, which is good for preventing extra germs. 【Action Plan】 In November, we will host a meeting for students who are interested in the rich tapestry of Japan. We will create an engaging presentation covering the lessons we've learned in Japan and showcasing fun and famous places that can be discovered there. It will be an interactive presentation. We have also planned a fan painting event during late December. To ensure everyone knows about this event, we will put up flyers all around and look forward to sharing the beauty of Japan to a large audience.
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)