



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Invitation Program for Jewish Americans the 1st Slot (B'nai B'rith International)

Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 In this program, participants selected by B'nai B'rith International, a mutual aid organization of traditional Jewish communities, made visits to Tokyo and Hiroshima for the purpose of strengthening networks between the participants while enhancing U.S.-Japan relations, and promoting active exchange and cooperation between Japan and Jewish communities in the United States through experiences that trace the history of Jewish people and Japan.

【Participants】 1 B'nai B'rith International representative and 14 working youth selected by B'nai B'rith International (15 total)

【Locations】 Tokyo, Hiroshima

【Program Schedule】

■ Pre-study Program (Online)

Oct. 26 (Thu) **【Pre-departure Orientation】**
Project objective and mission, rundown of the schedule, overseas travel warning, 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. 31 (Tue) Arrival at Haneda Airport

Nov. 1 (Wed) **【Courtesy Call】** Israeli Embassy
Mr. Israel STRULOV, Minister, Deputy Chief of Mission (Chargé d'affaires ad interim)

【Observation】 Tokyo Tower

【Courtesy Call】 Mr. TSUJI Kiyoto, State Minister for Foreign Affairs

Nov. 2 (Thu) Travel from Tokyo to Hiroshima

【Observation】 Holocaust Education Center & Bible Garden

【Observation】 Fukuyama City Human Rights & Peace Museum

Nov. 3 (Fri)	【Observation】 Itsukushima Shrine (Miyajima) 【Cultural Experience】 Calligraphy experience Lecturer: Ms. Mimura Risa, President, My Japan
Nov. 4 (Sat)	【Observation, Experience】 sokoiko! Hiroshima Peace tour, mint Co., Ltd. 【Observation】 Peace Memorial Museum
Nov. 5 (Sun)	Travel back to Tokyo 【 Workshop 】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (Summarizing program findings and preparation of action plans)
Nov. 6 (Mon)	【Reporting Session】 Presentation of program findings and action plans 【Observation】 Asakusa (Sensoji Temple and Nakamise Shopping Street)
Nov. 7 (Tue)	Departure from Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos

Inbound Program

	
November 1 【 Courtesy Call 】 Mr. Israel STRULOV, Minister, Deputy Chief of Mission (Chargé d'affaires ad interim), Israeli Embassy	November 1 【Observation】 Tokyo Tower
	
November 1 【 Courtesy Call 】 Mr. TSUJI Kiyoto, State Minister for Foreign Affairs	November 2 【Observation】 Holocaust Education Center & Bible Garden



November 2 【 Observation 】 Fukuyama City Human Rights & Peace Museum



November 3 【 Observation 】 Itsukushima Shrine (Miyajima)



November 3 【 Cultural Experience 】 Calligraphy experience



November 3 【 Cultural Experience 】 Calligraphy experience



November 4 【 Observation, Experience 】 sokoiko! Hiroshima Peace tour (by bicycle)



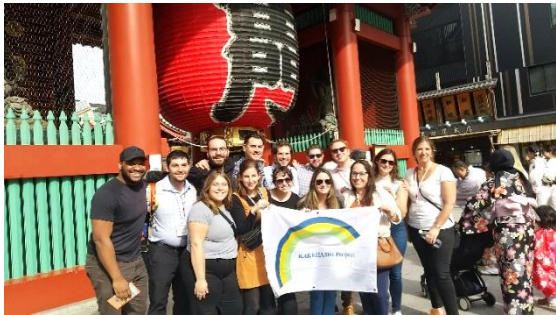
November 4 【 Observation, Experience 】 sokoiko! Hiroshima Peace tour (on foot)



November 5 【 Workshop 】 Preparations for the Reporting Session



November 6 【 Reporting Session 】 Reporting of Findings

	
November 6 【Reporting Session】 Commemorative Photo	November 6 【Observation】 Asakusa

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth

Hearing the perspectives and impressions of the locals we met along the way was eye-opening. Specifically, getting to learn about holocaust awareness through the eyes of Japanese, the perspective of Hiroshima locals on post-ww2 social restructuring, and historical backdrop of pre and post-war society was incredibly impactful.

◆ Working Youth

The experience that stood out to me the most was the Holocaust Education Center. I really liked getting to meet the director who started the center after meeting Otto Frank. The center was well done and very accurate - I liked that they had gone to the Anne Frank house and seen the room that Anne Frank stayed in so that they could perfectly replicate it.

I also really liked Miyajama island - it was a fun experience getting to take the ferry and explore the island.

◆ Working Youth

The most impressive/impactful thing was the bike tour of Hiroshima. Shin was an amazing tour guide, and seeing how the event both physically and spiritually affected the city and country as a whole was moving.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Holocaust Education Center

When we welcomed Jewish residents of the United States I strongly felt their desire to know everything about our activities, exhibition objectives, philosophy, and other ways our museum conveys the Holocaust in Japan. Although their stay was short, I was grateful that they thanked us and truly understood the significance of the museum's wish for children of future generations to think about peace after seeing what happened in the Holocaust. This visit has motivated us to further expand our horizons as we convey the message of peace.

◆ **Lecturer**

As a Japanese citizen, it made me very happy to learn that the participants found what they liked about Japan and the culture very attractive. Also, when I talked to them about my family business of brush making, they showed great interest in history and traditional crafts. It was very rewarding for me to see them experience the sensation of using a brush for the first time and the joy of calligraphy.

This exchange helped me to feel even stronger than ever about the joy of interacting with people from other countries. I was able to share this wonderful experience with students and other young people, whom I had invited to help out on the day of the event, thus expanding our circle of interaction. It was a learning experience for me too. I will put more effort into studying languages so that I can better communicate using my own words with a renewed desire to pass on Japanese culture to younger generations.

◆ **Hiroshima Peace Tour Guide**

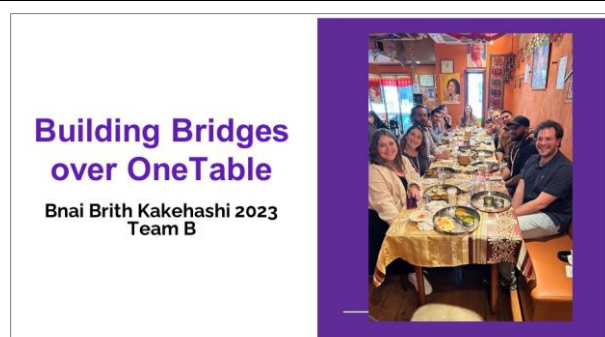
With the 2023 G7 Summit having been held here and the state of recent world affairs, interest in Hiroshima is growing. I understood that having a Jewish background contributes to a strong interest in war and peace, including conflicts in the Middle East and differences of opinion in their own country. To offer a deeper sense of the realities, I shared with them the history of Hiroshima, using my own family's experience of the atomic bombing. I was reminded once again that no matter what country, religion, or ethnic group we belong to, we all share the same "universal thoughts". Feeling supported by the participants' personalities, I enjoyed being the guide.

5. Disseminations by the Participants

 B'nai B'rith InternationalさんはJICE's International Exchange Programsさんと日本にいます。 5日 · 🌐 Just landed in Tokyo! Participants in the B'nai B'rith-JICE International Exchange Programs joint Kakehashi Project arrived in Japan for a mission to help build and strengthen ties between the U.S. and Japan – and give our leaders the opportunity to see Japan through a Jewish lens. 🇺🇸 🇯🇵 #BBInJapan2023 #BnaiBrithKakehashi2023	 we learned all about Japanese calligraphy and had the chance to do it ourselves! this symbol is a combination of two characters which mean hand and shaking hands. When combined it means friendship.
October 31, 2023 (Facebook) Just landed in Tokyo! Participants in the B'nai B'rith-JICE International Exchange Programs Joint KAKEHASHI Project arrived in Japan for a mission to help build and strengthen ties between the U.S. and Japan- and give our leaders the opportunity to see Japan through a Jewish lens.	November 3, 2023 (Instagram etc.) We learned all about Japanese calligraphy and had the chance to do it ourselves. This symbol is a combination of two characters which mean hand and shaking hands. When combined it means friendship.

Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plan at the Reporting Session

Places visited: Tokyo, Hiroshima

	
- Findings & discoveries: Japanese culture, Importance of peace. - Your perspective as to how to make use of your experience in the program for your future career: Building cross-cultural affinity ourselves and disseminate the reality of Atomic bomb to	- Findings & discoveries: Strong culture of peace & pacifism, nonviolence & nuclear non-proliferation - Your perspective as to how to make use of your experience in the program for your future career: Building and maintaining close relationships

the society. 3. Action Plan: ① Support the Holocaust Education Center in Japan by collecting donations by Jewish youth throughout the U.S. ② Coordinate with the Israeli Embassy in Japan to create a communication network between young Jews in both countries ③ Create a travelling exhibition in Synagogues (a Jewish place of gathering), Jewish Community Centers in USA on the Japanese experience of the atomic bomb. Our Action Plan will be implemented as soon as it is decided in discussion with the organizations concerned.	with people of different backgrounds in our workplace, etc. to promote peacefulness and mutual understanding. 3. Action Plan: We will organize a Japanese Shabbat dinner to share out our experiences with our local communities with support from “One Table”^(see note) in our cities by December 31, 2023. (Note) One Table is a non-profit organization that encourages young people in their 20s and 30s to gather for social dining and use the traditional Jewish Shabbat dinner as a platform for community building.
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)