



KAKEHASHI Project (Canada)

Invitation Program for Canadian Young Leaders Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 The main objectives of this program were to provide working youths from Canada with the opportunity to, 1) exchange views on the current situation of multicultural societies in both countries as well as the possibility of business collaboration with companies, observation sites, and government officials, 2) to broaden their knowledge of Japanese politics, economy, society, culture, history, foreign policy, etc., 3) to engage in exchanges with relative parties in Japan, and 4) to actively communicate the appeals of Japan that they encountered to the world.

【Participants】 Total: 10 undergraduate students and working youths with First Nations, Jewish, and Asian roots

【Locations】 Tokyo, Kanagawa, Hokkaido

【Program Schedule】

■ Pre-study Program (Online):

Nov. 13 (Mon) 【Pre-departure Orientation】 Project objectives and mission, rundown of the schedule, overseas 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:

Nov. 16 (Thu) Arrival at Haneda Airport

Nov. 17 (Fri) 【Observation】 Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum

 【Observation】 National Diet Building

Nov. 18 (Sat) 【Observation】 Tokyo Skytree®

Travel from Tokyo to Hokkaido

Nov. 19 (Sun) 【Observation/Opinion Exchange】 Upopoy National Ainu Museum and Park
Opinion exchange and interactions with staff with Ainu roots

Nov. 20 (Mon) 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. MITSUHASHI Tsuyoshi, Director General, Department
of Policy Planning and Coordination, Hokkaido Government

 【Cultural Experience】 Ikebana

 【School Visit】 Sapporo Odori High School

Travel from Hokkaido to Tokyo

Nov. 21 (Tue) 【Opinion Exchange】 Bureau of Citizens, Culture and Sports, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
 “Current and Future Prospects for Multicultural Coexistence in Tokyo”
 【Observation】 Shibuya, Meiji-jingu, Harajuku (Japanese pop-culture)

Nov. 22 (Wed) 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. HOSAKA Yasushi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
 Travel from Tokyo to Kanagawa
 【Company Visit】 An-Nahal Inc. (consultant firm aimed at realizing diversity and inclusion)
 Travel from Kanagawa to Tokyo
 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (Summarizing program findings and preparation of action plans)

Nov. 23 (Thu) 【Reporting Session】 Presentation of program findings and action plans
 Departure from Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos

Inbound Program

	
November 17 【Observation】 Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum	November 17 【 Observation 】 National Diet Building
	
November 19 【Observation/Opinion Exchange】 Upopoy	November 20 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. MITSUHASHI Tsuyoshi, Director General, Department of Policy Planning and Coordination, Hokkaido Government

	
November 20 【Cultural Experience】 Ikebana	November 21 【Opinion Exchange】 Bureau of Citizens, Culture and Sports, Tokyo Metropolitan Government
	
November 22 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. HOSAKA Yasushi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan	November 22 【Company Visit】 An-Nahal Inc.
	
November 23 【Reporting Session】 Program findings	November 23 【 Reporting Session 】 Commemorative photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth

Visiting Upopoy and learning about the Ainu culture was indescribably amazing. But actually, having the opportunity to sit down with the Ainu People and converse with them 1-1 was an unforgettable experience that very nearly brought me to tears. I would say that that experience should be replicated for every future participant of the program - it was the most impressive part.

◆ Working Youth

We had the opportunity to interact with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and share ideas on how to improve policy for diversity and inclusion with the city. I find great value being able to share knowledge and create a tangible impact.

◆ Working Youth

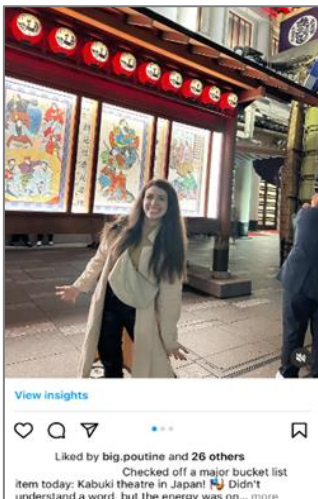
For me, having the opportunity to meet Japanese people from different walks of life and in a variety of contexts helped me really understand and appreciate the nuances of Japanese culture and society in ways that I didn't before. Our guides took our experience to a whole different level of understanding and appreciation. They were the foundation behind our incredible experience. I am eternally grateful.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Cooperating Organization

It was the first activity for our organization's volunteers (ikebana instructors) in a while since the covid pandemic broke out. The volunteers helped with the preparations for the event, and it was great that they were able to enjoy not only the day itself but also the process of preparing for the event. The participants seemed to enjoy the event as well, and I think it was a satisfying program for everyone there.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

	
November 17, 2023 (Instagram) Checked off a major bucket list item today (in my free time): Kabuki theatre in Japan! Didn't understand a word, but the energy was on the stage, and it engulfed me.	November 19, 2023 (Instagram) Our group had an incredible visit to the Upopoy Ainu Museum in Hokkaido. Ainu are the Indigenous people of Japan, and the word means "human" in their language. The most moving part of our visit was the hour we spent talking to the Ainu about things like

language revitalization and passing on culture to the next generation. It's an experience that will stay with me for a long time.

6. Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plan at the Reporting Session

Locations: Tokyo, Kanagawa, Kanagawa

Vancouver Kakehashi Project Action Plan (Team A - Ashley, Franco, Rachel, Casey, Sabryna)

Event Title
Building Bridges - Young Leaders Event

Event Description
A cross-cultural event for student leaders to cultivate Japanese-Canadian relations through engaged dialogue and Ikebana arrangements. The event will furthermore promote the Kakehashi program.

Event Details

- **Date:** Tentatively January 30th, 2024
- **Time:** 1:00pm - 4:00pm
- **Location:** 6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby BC V5E 4M7

Partnering Organizations
Daruma Convenience Store, Japan-Canada Chamber of Commerce, Japanese Consulate.



【What we Learned】

Through the image of the Japanese people embodied by the staff supporting the KAKEHASHI program, we came into contact with humble and extremely kind Japanese people, which changed our image and understanding of the Japanese people to more positive one.

【Learnings about Multicultural Coexistence】

Through interactions with the Ainu people, the indigenous people of Hokkaido, we learned that there are many similarities with the efforts and initiatives of Canada's indigenous people to maintain their identity in a multicultural society.

【Action Plans】

Since the program participants are from different cities in the large land area of Canada, the action plans will be implemented on an individual basis, except in one case.

Group A

- In cooperation with the consulate, plan to hold an event in Vancouver to introduce Japanese culture, centering on flower arrangement on Jan. 30, 2024
- Using community media, plan to teach the youth of own ethnic community about the indigenous people of Japan right after arriving within November, 2023
- Working in the area of elementary education in an ethnic community, plan to share insights from the trip to Japan with the children
- As a seasoned public information officer, a participant plans to facilitate the delegation's sharing of the KAKEHASHI experience with audiences through media, panel discussions, and will take the opportunities to speak on their own.

Group B

- Using my skills as a journalist, I plan to write a series of 300~500 word articles on LinkedIn with a particular focus on the Ainu over the next 3 months

- Plan to use my experience in Japan to promote Japanese-style interior design and menu items at my restaurants to appeal to my customers
- Using my connections, I plan to connect the Hokkaido government with geothermal energy development officials and nurses who wish to work overseas in Canada. Also, I will post videos on social networking sites to promote tourism to Japan 1 week after arrival.
- In collaboration with other cultural organizations, I will organize an Asian festival in Calgary (next summer in August) to introduce Japan and promote exchange and understanding of Japanese culture
- I plan to share my own experiences in Japan with law students in Ontario through panel discussions, and recommend Japan as a short-term study abroad destination. Also, will introduce An-Nahal as a contact in Japan

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)