



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)
Invitation Program for High School Students the 3rd Slot
(Basis Independent Brooklyn)

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 High school students from Basis Independent Brooklyn in New York, visited Japan to deepen their understanding of Japanese culture, society, and history through homestays, school exchanges, and observation visits. The students visited two Japanese high schools with which they had exchanged in the previous year as part of the KAKEHASHI Project's exchange program in the U.S. The main objective of the program was to deepen friendship between youths of Japan and the U.S. and to strengthen networks by continuing mutual exchanges.

【Participants】 Total: 10 high school students and chaperone(s) from New York

【Locations】 Tokyo, Nagasaki

【Program Schedule】

■ Pre-study Program (Online):

Nov. 1 (Wed) 【Pre-departure Orientation】 Project objective 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. 7 (Tue) Arrival at Haneda

 【Orientation】

Nov. 8 (Wed) 【Cultural Experience】 Indigo dyeing at Wanariya

 【Observation】 Asakusa

 【Observation】 TEPIA

Nov. 9 (Thu) Travel from Tokyo to Nagasaki

 【Observation】 Dejima

Nov. 10 (Fri) 【School Exchange】 Nagasaki Hokuyodai High School

 【Meeting with the Host Families】

Nov. 11 (Sat) 【Homestay】 Nagasaki City, Nagasaki

(Households of students at Escolapios Kaisei Catholic Senior High School)

Nov. 12 (Sun) 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】

【Observation】 Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum
【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (Summarizing program findings and preparation of action plans)
 Nov. 13 (Mon) Travel from Nagasaki to Tokyo
【Reporting Session】 Presentation of program findings and action plans
 Nov. 14 (Tue) Departure from Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos

Inbound Program

	
November 8 【Cultural Experience】 Indigo dyeing at Wanariya	November 8 【Observation】 Asakusa
	
November 8 【Observation】 TEPIA	November 9 【Observation】 Dejima
	
November 10 【School Exchange】 Nagasaki Hokuyodai High School	November 11 【Homestay】

	
November 12 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】	November 12 【Observation】 Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum
	
November 13 【Reporting Session】	November 13 【Reporting Session】 Commemorative photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student

I had a lot of fun exploring Tokyo with the group and seeing Japanese culture. It was nice to pray in the temple and try street food sold by street vendors near it. My favorite thing to eat was the strawberry mochi. I was super happy to see old friends during the school exchange and meet new ones, whilst participating in typical school activities. The host family was super nice and I felt comfortable with them and part of the family. We went to many historical sites, furthering my understanding of Japanese history. And during the entirety of the trip, the food was amazing and showcased Japanese culture.

◆ High School Student

The school exchange and home stay were the highlights of my trip. I enjoyed experiencing the differences between Japanese and American cultures firsthand. I thought it was interesting to compare the two school systems and recognize how these differences affect society as a whole. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to stay with an amazing host family. I learned a lot about Japanese lifestyle and was able to form deep connections with my host family. I made many new friends, and I hope to see them again sometime in the future.

◆ High School Student

I was amazed by the unity of students at the schools and how welcoming they all were to us as outsiders and strangers. Additionally, as we spent time in the homestay, I was fascinated by how different every day routines are in Japan and how much more convenient life is compared to America (such as with transportation, convenience stores, sorting trash, etc.).

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Observation Site

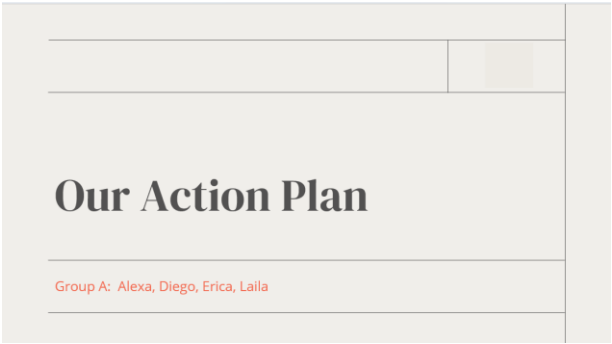
The participants listened to our explanations of the exhibits and programs with absolute focus and showed interest in many things throughout the hands-on experience. Their proactive attitude was quite admirable.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

	
November 12, 2023 (Instagram) Yesterday we got to spend time with our host family and explore Nagasaki together. We got to see penguins at the aquarium, make jewelry together, and go shopping for souvenirs. We got to connect with our host family and get to know them and their country better.	November 12, 2023 (Instagram) Students visited Hokuyodai High School where they enjoyed giving presentations, learning about the Japanese school system, and building friendships.

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

Presentations by both groups (excerpts)

	
【What we Learned】 We noticed many differences while at the school and during the classes. During the homestay, we were able to overcome the language barrier and become friends. We were also able to learn about Japanese culture and consideration towards others. 【 Learnings about Japanese Culture and Lifestyle】 Acts of Mottainai/Mottainai Culture Households reduce using resources and reuse delicate washi paper for gift wrapping to protect the environment. The Japanese use resources, objects, goods, etc. carefully and not wasting them. Households and school in Japan also try to reduce the amount of waste they produce. 【Action Plan】 • We will make a booth presenting the knowledge we gained during our visit and observations for the Worldfest event that takes place on our school campus to spread awareness of Japanese culture and traditions to fellows students as well as teachers and parents. • Mottainai Activities Inspired by Nagasaki Hokuyodai High School, we will share the concept of not wasting	【What we Learned】 We learned about the advanced technology at TEPIA and how advanced society has become. We also noticed how there was not a single piece of trash on the streets or roads. The talks about the atomic bombing of Nagasaki were very meaningful. 【 Learnings about Japanese Culture and Lifestyle】 Though trash cans are rare in Japan, there is much less garbage on the streets than there is in the U.S. Japanese students clean their schools. There is no garbage at the schools or in the streets, and you can tell how conscious the people are. 【Action Plan】 We will encourage students to organize and actively participate in activities to clean the classrooms, restrooms, cafeteria, and other areas in the school. On November 21, we will have a volunteer cleanup event in Red Hook (a port town in western Brooklyn) where the school is located. We will promote the event on the TV in our lunch/lounge area and other places to raise awareness of environmental issues. We will cover Japanese culture and environmental issues in the student newspaper "Grizzly" and encourage people to participate in

resources, and we hope to bring this practice to our entire school community, bringing in students, teachers, and staff. To do this, we will be partnering with Eco-Club.	the cleanup event on social media.
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)