



KAKEHASHI Project (U.S.) Invitation Program for University Students the 2nd Slot (University of Puerto Rico) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 The main objective of this program was to have university students from the University of Puerto Rico in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, USA, visit Japan to deepen their understanding of Japanese culture, society, and history through homestays, school exchanges, and observation visits, as well as to deepen friendship and strengthen networks between the youth of the two countries and have them actively disseminate the attractiveness of Japan to the world.

【Participants】 Total: 8 university students and their chaperone from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

【Locations】 Tokyo, Shizuoka

【Program Schedule】

■ Pre-study Program (Online):

Dec. 12 (Tue) 【Pre-arrival (pre-departure) Orientation】 Program objectives and mission, itinerary outline, travel precautions, COVID-19 preventative measures, etc.
Set Period Prior to Arrival 【Video Viewing】 Lecture: “Japan and the United Nations”, “Lecture on Japan” (selected from Web Japan)

■ Inbound Program:

Dec. 19 (Tue) Entry from Haneda Airport
Dec. 20 (Wed) 【Observation】 Koto City Fukagawa Edo Museum
 【Observation】 Shibuya (Shibuya Crossing)
 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine
 【Observation】 Harajuku Takeshita Street (Japanese pop culture)
 【Observation】 teamLab Planets TOKYO DMM
Dec. 21 (Thu) Travel from Tokyo to Shizuoka
 【Observation】 Tea Museum, Shizuoka
 【Cultural Experience】 Indigo-dyed handkerchief making
Dec. 22 (Fri) 【Observation】 Mt. FUJI WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE
 【School Exchange】 Tokai University
 【Meeting with the Host Families】

Dec. 23 (Sat)	【Homestay】 4 households in the City of Shizuoka, Shizuoka Pref.
Dec. 24 (Sun)	【Farewell Party with the Host Families】 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)
Dec. 25 (Mon)	Travel from Shizuoka to Tokyo 【Observation】 Honjo Life Safety Learning Center 【Observation】 TOKYO Solamachi®
Dec. 26 (Tue)	【Reporting Session】 Presentation of program findings and action plans Departure from Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos



December 20【Observation】Koto City Fukagawa
Edo Museum



December 20 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine



December 20 【Observation】 teamLab Planets
TOKYO DMM



December 21 【 Observation 】 Tea Museum,
Shizuoka



December 21 【Cultural Experience】 Indigo-dyed
handkerchief making



December 22 【Observation】 Mt. FUJI WORLD
HERITAGE CENTRE

	
December 22 【 School Exchange 】 Tokai University	December 23 【Homestay】
	
December 24 【 Farewell Party with the Host Families】	December 24 【Workshop】
	
December 25 【Observation】 Honjo Life Safety Learning Center	December 26 【Reporting Session】

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Undergraduate Student

The University exchange and homestay were the best part of the program. Being able to interact with people our age that live on the other side of the world and have different views and knowledge was a really refreshing and new experience to have. The students were really nice and helpful. The host family was very welcoming and having that experience with the locals firsthand was an honor. The family was really excited for the exchange as well. The places and

activities we did together were very rich culturally and socially.

◆ **Undergraduate Student**

The most impressive by far was the host family. I learned so much Japanese and used so much Japanese in only a few days. I felt truly immersed in Japanese culture and felt as if I was Japanese and a part of the family.

◆ **Undergraduate Student**

The most impressive parts were when we visited historic sites and museums, as I had the chance to learn more about the country's history and understand how and why Japan is the way it is today.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **Host Family**

It was only for three days, but having the opportunity to speak so much to foreigners was a first for me, and it was a great experience. My daughter is in high school and has yet to go abroad but is already saying she wants to learn more English in college, so I hope this experience will be able to help her.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

	
December 20, 2023 (Instagram) Went to the Edo period Museum here in Tokyo, Japan. Had a lot of fun. It's basically a recreation of an Edo period town. I learned about how Japanese people lived in the Edo Period. And also saw pretty nice art.	December 22, 2023 (Instagram) Day 2 in Japan! Mount Fuji was an amazing sight. Also, traveling by bullet train made the trip to Shizuoka really enjoyable.

6. Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans at the Reporting Session (excerpt)

Locations: Tokyo, Shizuoka Presentation by 1 group

Social Media: • Podcast Series: • Shared on the University Radio Channel. • Will be on Spotify and YouTube, etc. • One episode for each day in Japan. • Will be made and publish during the next 3 months. • Group Instagram: • Post pictures with detailed explanations about what we did and learned.  @gallitos.en.japon	Japanese Night • Create a social night during the month of March, for the student body to enjoy, where we will share our findings and knowledge of the: • Torii Gate model • Traditional tea ceremony demonstration • Prayer ritual demonstration • Japanese Calligraphy • Presentation about the Kakehashi Program Experiences. • Japanese Safety Demonstration 	 Student Exchange: • Plan with Kato Seisai From Tokai University, to do an online activity with both Japanese and Puerto Rico students. • To be placed and done between and during the next 6 months. • With the objective to form a friendship and continue working activities.
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【What we Learned】

In addition to learning a new culture and way of life, we walked more than ever before. In Puerto Rico or any other large city, there is no public transportation system like the one we saw in Japan.

【Action Plan】

- **Social Media**
As a group we will present one story a day, 30 minutes to an hour long, about what we experienced and learned in Japan on the University Radio Channel, Spotify, YouTube, etc. within 3 months. A few of us will also make art of our experiences and introduce them on Instagram.
- **Seminars and Interviews**
Within one month after returning to Japan, members of the Astrophysics Circle will introduce Japan and Japanese universities within their own circle. After this, we will hold seminars for the general population at the University of Puerto Rico to introduce Japan. We will then introduce Japan and KAKEHASHI through the media in Puerto Rico to university students, high school students and the general public outside of the University of Puerto Rico within 3 months.
- **Japanese Night**
There are many activities to introduce China on campus, but none to introduce Japan, so we will hold a "Japanese Night" (mini-festival) to introduce the Torii gate, Tea ceremony, Prayer ritual, Calligraphy, KAKEHASHI, as well as Japanese disaster prevention measures that can be introduced in Puerto Rico.
- **Student Exchange**
When interacting with Tokai University students, we noticed that Japanese university students are interested in and want to know more about Puerto Rico and its culture. We are planning to continue to conduct online exchanges between Tokai University and the University of Puerto Rico to ensure that these exchanges continue.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)