



KAKEHASHI Project (U.S.)

Invitation Program for African American Young Leaders

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 Through this program, young leaders in the African American community in Los Angeles, U.S.A., visited Japan to deepen their understanding of Japan's politics, economy, women's empowerment, and culture and strengthen their network through interpersonal exchanges and exchange of opinions at relevant institutions in Japan. The program also aimed to have the participants actively absorb and disseminate Japan's attractiveness and contribute to further strengthening U.S.-Japan relations as young African American leaders.

【Participants】 Total: 5 young African American leaders

【Locations】 Tokyo, Aichi, Kanagawa

【Program Schedule】

■ Pre-study Program (Online)

Feb. 1 (Thu) **【Pre-departure Orientation】** Program objective & mission, itinerary, travel precautions, COVID-19 countermeasures, etc.

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

■ Inbound Program

Feb. 6 (Tue) Arrival at Narita International Airport

Feb. 7 (Wed) **【Observation】** Meiji Jingu, Harajuku (Japan's pop culture), Shibuya

【Observation】 21_21 Design Sight (design museum)

Feb. 8 (Thu) **【Courtesy Call】** Mr. HOSAKA Yasushi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

【Observation】 Imperial Palace

【Observation】 Farm Haneda operated by Leaf Factory Tokyo Co., Ltd.

【Opinion Exchange】 Ridilover Inc. (social problem solving business)

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Travel from Tokyo to Aichi

Feb. 9 (Fri) **【Company Visit】** JETRO Nagoya

【Observation】 Nagoya Castle

【Courtesy Call】 Mr. KAWAMURA Takashi, Mayor of Nagoya City

Feb. 10 (Sat) **【Courtesy Call】** Mr. Matthew Cenzer, Principal Officer, U.S. Consulate Nagoya
【Observation】 Toyota Ecoful Town
【Observation】 Toyota Kaikan
【Observation】 Ghibli Park

Feb. 11 (Sun) Travel from Aichi to Kanagawa
【Observation】 Koganecho Area Management Center
【Observation】 Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse
Travel back to Tokyo

Feb. 12 (Mon) **【Japanese Cultural Experience】** Tea Ceremony
【Observation】 Asakusa (Sensoji temple, Nakamise Street)
【Observation】 teamLab Borderless (Azabudai Hills)
【Observation】 Azabudai Hills, teamLab Borderless

Feb. 13 (Tue) **【Opinion Exchange】** Borderless Japan Corporation (social issue solving business)
Departure from Narita International Airport

2. Program Photos

Inbound Program

	
February 7 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu	February 8 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. HOSAKA Yasushi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



February 8 【Observation】 Imperial Palace



February 8 【Observation】 Farm Haneda
operated by Leaf Factory Tokyo Co., Ltd.



February 8 【Opinion Exchange】 Mr. ABE
Toshiki, CEO, Ridilover Inc. (social issue solving
business)



February 9 【Observation】 JETRO Nagoya



February 9 【Observation】 Nagoya Castle



February 9 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. KAWAMURA
Takashi, Mayor of Nagoya City



February 9 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. Matthew Cenzer, Principal Officer, U.S. Consulate Nagoya



February 10 【Observation】 Toyota Ecoful Town



February 10 【Observation】 Toyota Kaikan



February 11 【Observation】 Koganecho Area Management Center



February 12 【Japanese Cultural Experience】 Tea Ceremony



【Opinion Exchange】 Borderless Japan Corporation (social issue solving business)

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth

My favorite site visit was Koganecho Area Management Center.

I enjoyed learning about the non-profit's art-centered neighborhood revitalization initiatives. It was a treat to meet artists and tour their studios.

I also enjoyed the discussion with the head of Ridilover. His work perfectly aligned with my interests.

I'm glad we got a glance at the social issues Japan is facing and not just the glorious aspects of the nation. I felt the program was well balanced.

◆ **Working Youth**

I loved learning about the strategies Japanese people employ to build trust in one another and become scientifically advanced.

◆ **Working Youth**

I really enjoyed visiting the company that was making plants. It was great to hear their story. I also enjoyed visiting the artist lounge. It was great to connect as well.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **Observation Destination**

The young creative leaders from Los Angeles were very friendly and willing to share their thoughts and feelings about what they listened and saw. Showing them around Koganecho gave me a sense of fulfillment.

◆ **Observation Destination**

Our line of business varies significantly in how it is regarded in each country or cultural region, so I felt it was extremely beneficial to exchange opinions with people from a foreign country.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

	February 15, 2024 (Instagram) Japan's friendship ties program #Kakehashi for African American young leaders is an effort to bridge cultures between Los Angeles and Japan. The Office of the Mayor of LA selected me and four other young business leaders to visit Japan and strengthen our connection as well as learn about Japan's culture, policy, and social climate. I got to see some parallels between our cultures but was also inspired by the tradition, politeness, technology, and public sanitation in Japan. We can learn a lot from each other and I will continue to bridge our communities. We visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also met with the Mayor of Nagoya City, the sister city of Los Angeles. A sister city is a broad-based, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries. Thanks to the four other participants for the amazing opportunity.
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)