



KAKEHASHI Project (Canada)

Invitation Program for University Students Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 This program was implemented with the main objective of inviting students from two universities in Canada, Waterloo University in Ontario and the University of Alberta in Alberta, to Japan to deepen their understanding of Japanese culture, society and history through a homestay, school exchanges and observation visits, as well as to deepen exchanges among participants, strengthen networks, and actively promote the attractions of Japan to the world.

【Participants】 Total: 16 students from Ontario State and Alberta State, Canada
(Breakdown) : 8 from Waterloo University, 8 from the University of Alberta

【Locations】 Tokyo, Aichi

【Program Schedule】

■ Pre-study Program (Online)

Feb 22 (Wed) 【Pre-departure Orientation】 Program objectives and mission, itinerary outline, overseas 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 :

Feb 18 (Sun) Arrival at Narita Airport
Feb 19 (Mon) 【Observation】 The University Museum, The University of Tokyo
【Observation】 team Lab planets TOKYO DMM TOYOSU
【Observation】 Asakusa
Feb 20 (Tue) 【Observation】 Zojo-ji Temple
【Observation】 Tokyo Tower
【Observation】 Harajuku (Japan’s pop culture)
Travel from Tokyo to Aichi
Feb 21 (Wed) 【Observation】 Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology
【School Exchange, Cultural Experience】 Chukyo University, Tea Ceremony
Feb 22 (Thu) 【Observation】 Nagoya Castle
【Meeting with the Host Families】
Feb 23 (Fri) 【Farewell Party with the Host Families】 Nagoya

Feb 24 (Sat) Travel from Aichi to Tokyo
【Observation】 Panasonic Center Tokyo
【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)

Feb 25 (Sun) **【Reporting Session】** Presentation of program findings and action plans
【Observation】 Odaiba
Departure from Narita Airport

2. Program Photos

Inbound Program



February 19 **【 Observation 】** The University Museum, The University of Tokyo



February 19, Lunch



February 19 **【 Observation 】** TOKYO DMM Toyosu



February 20 **【Observation】** Zojo-ji Temple



February 21 【Observation】
Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry
and Technology



February 21 【 School Exchange, Cultural
Experience】 Chukyo University



February 21 【 School Exchange, Cultural
Experience】 Tea Ceremony experience with
students at Chukyo University



February 22 【Observation】 Nagoya Castle



February 22 【Homestay】 Nagoya



February 23 【 Farewell Party with the Host
Families 】

	
February 24 【Observation】 Panasonic Center Tokyo	February 25 【 Reporting Session 】 Commemorative photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ University Student

The most impressive parts were the homestay and visiting Panasonic. The homestay allowed me to fully immerse myself in Japanese culture and experience what a day would be like living in Japan. I learned a lot from my host family and made memories that I will cherish for a lifetime. We did various activities like calligraphy, eating Japanese snacks, visiting a temple. I was surprised that they were so interested in my culture too. Visiting Panasonic was really interesting because they have been making products relating to meditation and well-being. I'm really interested in these topics, so it was fun to learn about how they're implementing this technology in homes and workplaces. I definitely will research more about this and try to learn more about Panasonic.

◆ University Student

The most impressive parts of the exchange program in my opinion were the technologies used in day-to-day life in Japan, as well as the rich culture and history. Things as simple as the toilets and restaurants are far more advanced and user-friendly in Japan, and you are able to go about day-to-day life much easier. I also thought the hydrogen powered fuel cell developed by Panasonic was quite impressive and was interested to learn about it more as electrochemistry and power electronics are an area of my research at university.

◆ University student

The most impressive part of this exchange was the Home Stay program. We got the chance to experience such a deep understanding of traditional and modern Japanese life in a way that wouldn't be possible without this experience, and all of our host families were incredibly kind and welcoming to us, as we exchanged cultural ideals between both our nations and cultures.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Host Family

We wanted the students to experience traditional Japanese culture first-hand! On the first day,

we went to the Konomiya Hadaka Festival, and on the second day, we visited the Seto Kura Museum and went on an o-hina tour of Hina dolls (in the ceramic town of Seto) . At the Hadaka Festival, the students were surprised at first to see naked men only in white loincloths but they spoke to the delegation in a friendly manner, so everyone was able to enjoy the festival in a relaxed atmosphere. I was born and raised in Japan and have a Japanese father and mother, but when I asked the visiting group about their roots, they told me they were born and raised in Canada and have a Belgian father and Ukrainian mother. Through this experience, I got to know people from different backgrounds and felt diversity.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

 lunch: our lunch menu was called "katsujuu" and it's basically in a katsudon in a special box, the box is called a juu hence the name: katsujuu not gonna lie, I didn't think I was gonna eat much of this because I ate a pretty sizeable breakfast, but this was literally sssaaaaurrrrr good. like the egg was really light and fluffy and just melted in your mouth, and the tonkatsu was crispy and flavourfull!! I wish I could eat again, finished the entire thing, no crumbs. But I didn't eat the salad because of the carrots lol. saw more hina dolls, which are the dolls on the left: people display hina dolls in order to celebrate the healthy growth of girls!!	 Words can't describe what a wonderful experience this home stay was. I am so grateful to the Kobayashi family for being so welcoming and helping us create memories I will never forget!!!
Feb 21, 2024 (Instagram) Lunch: our lunch menu was called "katsujuu" and it's basically katsudon in a special box, the box is called a juu hence the name: katsujuu not gonna lie. I didn't think I was gonna eat much of this because I ate a pretty sizeable breakfast, but this was so literally sssaaaaurrr good. like the egg was really light and fluffy and just melted in your mouth, and the tonkatsu was crispy and flavourfull!! I wish I could eat again, finished the entire thing, no crumbs. But I didn't eat the salad because of the carrots lol. I saw more hina dolls which people display hina dolls in order to celebrate the healthy growth of girls!!	Feb 22, 2024 (Instagram) Words can't describe what a wonderful experience this home stay was. I am so grateful to the Kobayashi family for being so welcoming and helping us create memories I will never forget!!!

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

Location: Tokyo, Aichi Presentations by all two groups

	
【What we Learned】 We learned about food, technology, transportation, history, society, work life, student life, fashion and pop culture, and more. In particular, we heard from the father at our homestay that in Japanese companies, work is busy, you can't go against your boss, and you have to work overtime. Because they approach their work in this way, they are particular about customer satisfaction and quality. This attitude is reflected in the hospitality of hotel staff and store clerks who treat guests with care. For example, plates and chopsticks are already prepared on the breakfast buffet tray, and if you shop, the items you buy will be brought to you right at the exit of the store. 【Future Prospects】 Find ways to work and study in Japan while making use of your respective specialized fields. 【Action plan】 During the three months after returning from Japan, we will keep in touch with the university students and host families they have interacted with, post about our experiences on social media, and help with University of Waterloo's exchange program (Academic Exchange Day on March 5th). Long-term plan: Study more Japanese. Plan to	【What we Learned】 A combination of new and traditional. After experiencing a tea ceremony, we realized how important the tea ceremony is in Japanese culture. 【Future Prospects】 From this experience, we have clear goals for the future, such as aiming for N1 in Japanese, working in Japan, becoming a Japanese interpreter, applying it to my specialty of art, and being open to things and cultures different from mine. 【Action Plan】 This experience will be introduced in the school newspaper and the Prince Takamado Japan Center. By conveying the understanding of Japan that we gained through this program, we believe that many people will become interested in studying, working, and sightseeing in Japan.

go to Japan. Study or work in Japan. Maintain connections between Japan and Canada.	
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)