



KAKEHASHI Project (U.S.)

Invitation Program for Congressional Leaders the 3rd Slot Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 Through this program, U.S. congressional leaders who are strong disseminators and who bear the future were invited to Japan to deepen their understanding of Japan's politics, economy, society, culture, history, diplomatic policies, and other such aspects of Japan through visits and exchanges at relevant places in Tokyo, Yamanashi, Kanagawa, and Kyoto. By providing this opportunity, the program aimed to strengthen networks for further deepening U.S.-Japan relations.

【Participants】 Total: 7 U.S. congressional aides

【Locations】 Tokyo, Yamanashi, Kanagawa, Kyoto

【Program Schedule】

Feb. 18 (Sun)	Arrival at Narita International Airport
Feb. 19 (Mon)	【Opinion Exchange】 Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) (Foreign Policy Bureau, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, North American Affairs Bureau, Economic Affairs Bureau)
Feb. 20 (Tue)	【Observation】 Toyosu Market 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. Rahm Emanuel, U.S. Ambassador to Japan, U.S. Embassy in Japan 【Opinion Exchange】 U.S. Embassy in Japan 【Observation】 Atago Jinja 【Opinion Exchange】 Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) (Commerce and Information Policy Bureau, Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau, Agency for Natural Resources and Energy)
Feb. 21 (Wed)	【Observation】 Senso-ji 【Japanese Cultural Experience】 Tea ceremony Travel from Tokyo to Yamanashi 【Observation, Experience】 Yamanashi Prefectural Maglev Exhibition Center 【Company Visit】 NEC Platforms, Ltd. Otsuki Plant Travel back to Tokyo
Feb. 22 (Thu)	【Company Visit】 Tokyo Electron Limited Travel from Tokyo to Kanagawa 【Observation】 Headquarters Yokosuka District of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) Yokosuka District Travel from Kanagawa to Kyoto

Feb. 23 (Fri) **【Japanese Cultural Experience】** Zazen meditation experience (Ryosokuin)
【Observation】 Fushimi Inari Taisha, Kiyomizu-dera Temple, Kinkaku-ji
Feb. 24 (Sat) **【Free Time】** Around Tokyo
Feb. 25 (Sun) Departure from Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos

	
February 19 【Opinion Exchange】 Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)	February 20 【Opinion Exchange】 Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)
	
February 21 【Japanese Cultural Experience】 Tea ceremony	February 21 【Observation, Experience】 Yamanashi Prefectural Maglev Exhibition Center
	
February 21 【Company Visit】 NEC Platforms, Ltd. Otsuki Plant	February 22 【Company Visit】 Tokyo Electron Limited

	
February 22 【Observation】 Headquarters Yokosuka District of JMSDF Yokosuka District (observation of an Izumo-class destroyer)	February 23 【Japanese Cultural Experience】 Zazen meditation experience (Ryosokuin)

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth

I absolutely loved riding in the Shinkansen cab because I work in transportation. It was an amazing experience! Riding the maglev train was also fantastic.

I was very glad a congressman could come as well, as we can now tell of his experience riding the 311mph train in talking points on transportation. It was also great to meet the JR executives and staff.

Kyoto was lovely, and it was great to see the temples and shrines and learn more about the traditional background of Japan.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)