



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Invitation Program for Inouye Program the 2nd Slot (Howard University) Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 This program was implemented with the main objectives of inviting Howard University students in Washington D.C., U.S.A. to Japan to deepen their understanding of Japanese politics, economics, society, culture, history and foreign policies through school exchanges and visits, as well as to deepen friendship among students of Japan and the U.S., strengthen networks, and actively promote the attractions of Japan to the world. This program was implemented in cooperation with the U.S.-Japan Council.

【Participants】 Total:15 undergraduate students and faculty from Washington D.C., U.S.A

【Locations】 Tokyo, Niigata

【Program Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program:

Feb 27 (Tue) 【Pre-departure Orientation】 Program objectives and mission, schedule, briefing of the program schedule, 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 :

Mar 3 (Sun)	Arrival in Tokyo International Airport 【Orientation】
Mar 4 (Mon)	【Observation】 Honjo Bousaikan (Life Safety Learning Center) 【Observation】 The National Diet of Japan 【Observation】 Zojo-ji Temple and Tokyo Tower
Mar 5 (Tue)	【Observation】 Fukagawa Edo Museum 【Observation】 Tokyo Skytree Town® Campus, Chiba Institute of Technology Travel from Tokyo to Niigata
Mar 6 (Wed)	【Observation】 Shibata Farm 【School Exchange】 Keiwa College 【Observation】 KIKUSUI SAKE CO., LTD. KIKUSUI Sake Culture Institute 【Exchange】 Niigata City with Keiwa College Students
Mar 7 (Thu)	【Observation】 Shibata City History Library, Shibata Castle and Shimizu-en

Mar 8 (Fri) **【Workshop】** Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)
【Observation】 Tokyo National Museum
【Courtesy Call】 Mr. HOSAKA Yasushi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mar 9 (Sat) **【Observation】** Meiji Jingu Shrine and Harajuku (Japanese pop culture)
【Observation】 Shibuya
【Reporting Session】 Presentation of program findings and action plans
【Exchange Session with US-Japan Council Members】

Mar 10 (Sun) **【Observation】** Imperial Palace
【Observation】 Odaiba
Departure from Tokyo International Airport

2. Program Photos

Inbound Program

	
March 4 【Observation】 Honjo Bousaikan (Life Safety Learning Center)	March 4 【Observation】 The National Diet of Japan
	
March 4 【Observation】 Zojo-ji Temple, Tokyo Tower	March 5 【Observation】 Fukagawa Edo Museum



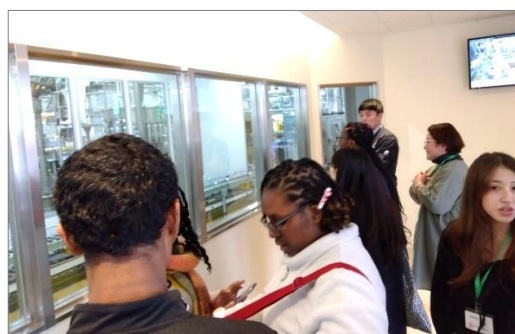
March 5 【Observation】 Tokyo Skytree Town® Campus, Chiba Institute of Technology



March 6 【Observation】 Shibata Farm



March 6 【School Exchange】 Keiwa College



March 6 【Observation】 KIKUSUI SAKE CO., LTD. KIKUSUI Sake Culture Institute



March 6 【Exchange】 Niigata City with Keiwa College Students



March 7 【Observation】 Shibata City History Library



March 7 【Observation, Exchange】 Shibata City History Library, Shibata Castle and Shimizu-en



March 8 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session

	
March 8 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. HOSAKA Yasushi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs	March 9 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu Shrine
	
March 9 【Observation】 Harajuku	March 9 【Reporting Session】
	
March 9 【Exchange Session with US-Japan Council Members】	March 10 【Observation】 Odaiba

3. Voices from Participants (excerpt)

◆ Undergraduate Student

I think the most impressive part of the program was the Fukagawa Edo Museum. I loved passing through time and experiencing the full-scale historically accurate structures. I loved learning about the life and culture of the Japanese during the Edo Period. Walking through the houses and stores was an eye-opening experience. For example, in the methods of printing expression on fabrics, there was a specific piece of cloth with different icons of cursive Japanese. Originally, they just looked like simple swirls, which so happened to create a beautiful pattern, however after the present explained the meaning of each symbol it was clear to me that most things in Japanese culture are done with precision and intentionality. To see how Japanese people lived and how

much it affected Japan that I saw this week is fascinating. Like the watch tower specifically for looking out for fires, and the precautions taken to prevent fire, especially during a period where most of the structures were made out of wood and paper, compared similarly to the extreme precautions taken with earthquakes and typhoons. Specifically highlighting the first activity we participated in on our first day, the Honjo Life and Safety Learning Center.

◆ **Undergraduate Student**

The most impressive sections of the KAKEHASHI Inouye Program during our time visiting Japan from the United States were the trips with the Keiwa College students and the cultural meals we had throughout the program. On the fourth day of the program, we did a cultural exchange with the Keiwa College students, including a tea ceremony, kanji workshop, and yukata dressing workshop. This experience at Keiwa College was engaging and allowed us to meet the students and staff meaningfully. I also enjoyed the planned meals which reflected a variety of Japanese culture.

◆ **Undergraduate Student**

The exchange program offered numerous memorable experiences, each contributing to my understanding and appreciation of Japanese culture and society. Visiting the Honjo Life Safety Learning Center was particularly impactful as it provided essential insights into disaster preparedness, equipping me with valuable knowledge applicable in Japan and the United States. The Fukagawa Edo Museum offered a fascinating glimpse into Japan's rich history and cultural heritage, showcasing the intricacies of daily life in ancient times. The Tokyo Skytree®, a marvel of modern engineering, left me in awe of its towering presence, a testament to Japan's innovation and ingenuity. At the Shibata Farm, I was impressed by its efficiency and accessibility, witnessing firsthand the dedication of its staff to maintain its operations seamlessly. Additionally, interacting with the Keiwa College students was a highlight, as their warm hospitality and genuine camaraderie created lasting memories. Their enthusiasm for sharing their cultural heritage and traditions enriched the experience, and I already miss the sense of belonging they fostered during our time together.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **Partner Organization**

The participants observed the facilities in a very courteous manner. They listened attentively to our explanations and asked many questions, which showed that they understood our explanations. After the tour of the facilities, they purchased many souvenirs at our agricultural products store, for which we are very grateful.

5. Disseminations by Participants, Press Coverage, etc. (excerpt)



March 5, 2024 (Instagram)

Almost double the height of Tokyo Tower, this is the Tokyo Skytree®, which was recognized as the tallest structure in the world! Who knew!

Thank you @jice_exchange for bringing me there!



March 7, 2024 (Instagram)

Kakehashi Trip

We spent yesterday with students from Keiwa College, all of this was soooo much funnnnnnnnnn!!!

We got kimonos, learned how to write our names in kanji, had a tea ceremony - I feel spoiled.



March 5, 2024 (Instagram of Shibata Farm)

As last year, 15 students from Howard University in the US visited our strawberry greenhouses again this year as part of the KAKEHASHI Project!

We explained about our cultivation, had a Q&A session and they enjoyed shopping at the adjacent market. Thank you very much!



March 6, 2024 (Instagram of Keiwa College's KAKEHASHI Team)

We experienced calligraphy, tea ceremony, yukata (Japanese summer kimono) and lunch-making. Afterwards, we went to visit the Kikusui Sake Brewery. At the end of the day, we enjoyed a fun day at Niigata Station, where we played freely. We wish we will have a wonderful day tomorrow.

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

Location: Tokyo, Niigata (presentation by all three groups)

Group 1		
		
【What we Learned】 Togetherness: the community is encouraged to look after one another. Hospitality: Japanese hospitality is a long-held tradition of being a good host to your guest. Innovation: Chiba Institute of Technology perfectly represents the forward-thinking attitude. Harmony: philosophies such as Wabi-Sabi promote a harmonious relationship with nature. 【Action Plan】 1. April 2024 through May 2024. To Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science, Howard Community Organizations, etc. Presentations and booths on the Howard University campus. To encourage students to consider Japan an excellent option for abroad interests and adventures! 2. April 2024 through May 2024. To the Howard University school body students and staff. With Media Article in the school newspaper. To encourage students to consider Japan an excellent option for abroad interests! 【Future Prospects】 1. continue studying Japanese to achieve fluency. 2. come back to Japan for study abroad. 3. pursue an internship program or job in Japan. 4. continue to learn about the culture. 5. collaborate with Japanese researchers in future research careers.		
Group 2		
		
【What we Learned】 Follow Buddhist and Shinto religions with cultural heritages of temples and shrines. They follow the specific manners for worship. In the Fukagawa Edo Museum, we learned the life style and other aspects of the Edo Period. During the exchange with Keiwa College students, they showed us Japanese hospitality. We pushed ourselves to try Japanese foods as a new cultural experience.		

Chiba Institute of Technology offered leading-edge technologies of Japan. We could see Tokyo's two symbolic towers, the Tokyo Tower and Skytree®. Japanese people regard etiquette and are ingrained with it in all the aspects including shopping, cleanliness, and greetings.

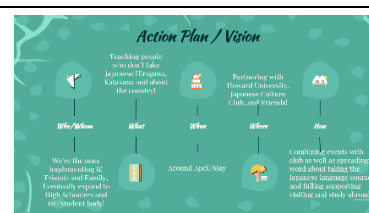
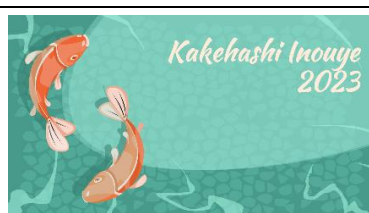
【Action Plan】

April 2024. At Takoma Academy & Ralph Bunche Center at Howard University. To high school students & college students. Show the students their opportunities to travel to Japan by sharing our findings, experiences and programs open for them through detailed presentation.

【Future Prospects】

1. becoming fluent in Japanese. 2. visit Japan with friends or family. 3. pursue professional opportunities in Japan. 4. study abroad in Japan. 5. intern in Japan. 6. continue to travel in Japan.

Group3



【What we Learned】

During the National Diet tour, we learned its history, structure and roles as a facility. During the cultural exchange at Keiwa College, we learned the manners and specific clothing used at a Japanese Tea Ceremony. During our life in Japanese society, we learned their Japanese food cultures, and Japanese people's sense of cleanliness and respect. We learned from Honjo Life Safety Learning Center and the fire tower of Fukagawa Edo Museum about Japanese people's strong awareness of disaster prevention.

【Action Plan】

Around April/May. Partnering with Howard University, Japanese Culture Club and friends. Combining events with club activities and spreading word about taking the Japanese language course and fully supporting visiting and studying abroad. Teaching people Japanese Hiragana, Katakana and about the country.

【Future Prospects】 – Individual implementation plans:

1. I will write about the places I visited in Japan and how it affected me and run the article on my travel blog.
2. I will help fundraise for the program and other programs so that more students (Howard or high schoolers) can have the opportunities to go to Japan for free.
3. I am a lead teacher for an extended day program and will continue immersing the students I oversee into the different perspectives of Japanese culture. I will introduce them to Japanese Calligraphy and famous Japanese snacks.
4. I will teach friends, family and the kids I tutor about Japanese culture and hiragana. If that is successful, I plan to implement it to expand it to HU.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)