



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Invitation Program for Okinawa Program the 2nd Slot (Cambridge School of Weston) Overview Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective】 This program brought high school students from the Cambridge School of Weston in Massachusetts, U.S.A., to Japan to deepen their understanding of Japanese politics, economy, society, culture, history, and foreign policy through homestays, a school exchange, and observation visits in Okinawa. The main objective of the program was to strengthen the network among the participants and to have them actively disseminate the attractions of Japan to the world from their perspectives as high school students.

The Okinawa Program is a mutual exchange program between high school students from Japan and the U.S. In October 2023, students from Naha Kokusai Senior High School visited Massachusetts, U.S.A.

【Participants】 Total: 15 high school students including their chaperones from the U.S.

13 students and 2 chaperones from the Cambridge School of Weston, Massachusetts

【Locations】 Tokyo, Okinawa

【Program Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program:

Mar. 6 (Wed) **【Pre-departure Orientation】** Program objective & mission, rundown of the schedule, 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:

Mar. 12 (Tue) Arrival at Narita International Airport

【Orientation】

Mar. 13 (Wed) **【Cultural Experience, Observation】** Hamarikyu Garden, Matcha tea experience

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

【Observation】 Mori Art Museum

Mar. 14 (Thu) Travel from Tokyo to Okinawa

【Cultural Experience】 Karate

Mar. 15 (Fri)	【School Exchange】 Naha Kokusai Senior High School 【Meeting with the Host Families】
Mar. 16 (Sat)	【Homestay】 8 households in Naha City, Okinawa
Mar. 17 (Sun)	【Farewell Party with the Host Families】 【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)
Mar. 18 (Mon)	Travel from Okinawa to Tokyo 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu, Harajuku (Japanese pop culture)
Mar. 19 (Tue)	【Reporting Session】 Presentation of program findings and action plans Departure from Narita International Airport

2. Program Photos

Inbound Program

	
March 13 【Cultural Experience, Observation】 Hamarikyu Garden, Matcha tea experience	March 13 【Observation】 Tokyo Skytree Town® Campus, Chiba Institute of Technology
	
March 13 【Observation】 Mori Art Museum	March 14 【Cultural Experience】 Karate
	
March 15 【School Exchange】 Naha Kokusai Senior High School	March 15 【School Exchange】 Naha Kokusai Senior High School

	
March 16 【Homestay】	March 17 【 Farewell Party with the Host Families】
	
March 18 【Observation】 Meiji Jingu	March 19 【Reporting Session】 Commemorative photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student

I was very impressed by Japanese natural resources and respect for nature. I enjoyed visiting the Sefa Uta and seeing how things have been maintained and respected. I was impressed by the reconstruction of Shuri Castle, and with the cleanliness of the water that we fished in. The green spaces and water are respected and kept very clean.

◆ High School Student

I most enjoyed the home stay, as it gave an opportunity to see how an average Japanese citizen is living and what their lives are like. Spending a day in the school was similarly interesting, as I enjoyed being able to talk to people from Japan who were not tour guides or involved in organizing the trip for us.

◆ High School Student

For me, the most interesting and impressive part of the program was the school exchange. I loved getting to meet people from Japan, especially the young people. They were all so kind, and I learned a lot about the system of schooling in Japan. I was impressed by how well the students listen and respect their teachers.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ School Faculty

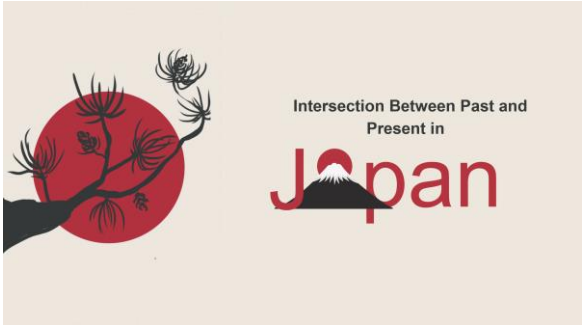
The KAKEHASHI Project made it possible for not only the students who were sent to the U.S. but also many other students to interact with the U.S. students and to exchange contact information. Students who were sent to the U.S. also had the opportunity to reconnect with their counterparts in Japan and further deepen their friendships. One of the students sent to the U.S. has decided to do an exchange program in the U.S. and will be leaving this summer. Seeing as this school visit was an opportunity to interact with students of the same generation, even those students who were not confident in their English did their best to communicate with the program participants using body language and hand gestures.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

 Liked by [names] and 87 others Our first day in Japan has been completed! Today, we visited the Hamarikyu Garden to learn about the tradition of drinking matcha tea for the first time. On your last sip, you are supposed to slurp loudly to show your appreciation and gratitude for the food and tea. We also visited the Mori Art Museum and the Chiba Institute of Technology to learn about how Japan is working on sustainability! Today was the perfect sunny day to visit! Thank you JICE 🇯🇵 #Japan #kakehashi #jice #jenna #ise #sato-san #matchateaceremony #thankyou #ryppee #camella #evereleven #meowmeowmeow #sustainability #sushi #garden #hooray #japanese #angato #youshish	 120 likes Day 2/3 in Okinawa! 🇯🇵 Lots of traveling for us, but definitely worth it. We learned Karate, explored Kosi-dori street, visited Naha High School, learned traditional Japanese calligraphy and origami, and made so many friends! Now we are staying with our host families for the next couple days to experience what it's like to live in Okinawa. Thank you Naha High School for welcoming us and giving us a wonderful time. #origami #naha #karate #emptyhand #streetcats #homestay #newfriends #kakehashi #jice #calligraphy #thankyou #exciting #sato #ise #jenna #grilledomokoro #nato #twentydollarsushi #japan
March 13, 2024 (Instagram) Today, we visited the Hamarikyu Garden to learn about the tradition of drinking matcha tea for the first time. On your last sip, you are supposed to slurp loudly to show your appreciation and gratitude for the food and tea. We also visited the Mori Art Museum and the Chiba Institute of Technology to learn about how Japan is working on sustainability! Today was the perfect sunny day to visit!	March 15, 2024 (Instagram) Lots of traveling for us, but definitely worth it. We learned Karate, visited Naha Kokusai High School, learned traditional Japanese calligraphy and origami, and made so many friends! Now we are staying with our host families for the next couple days to experience what it's like to live in Okinawa. Thank you Naha Kokusai High School for welcoming us and giving us a wonderful time.

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

Locations: Tokyo, Okinawa (Presentations by a total of two groups)

	
【What we Learned】 We learned that in Japan, people respect and take good care of nature, historical heritages, and water resources. We also noticed that green spaces are left in cities, and parks and vegetation are part of the urban landscape. In Japan, the custom of respecting others is deeply rooted in all aspects of daily life, such as bowing and using polite titles, and I felt that this is what creates a sense of unity in Japan. 【Action Plan】 ● "School Presentation - Culture of Respect" Group A will meet with the Dean of students in Spring 2024 to discuss when the presentation will take place. The presentation will be given at the weekly all-school assembly to the entire school community including all 300 school students and the faculty to teach and educate students about respect for nature and respect for others in Japan. We will also advise them on how to put this into practice in their daily lives. ● News Article An editor of the School Chronicle and another member will write an article for the "CSW Chronicle" from their different perspectives on their participation in the program in Japan and the respect for nature and others that the participants learned. The target audience will be the school community, including alumni and	【What we Learned】 In Japan, the old and new coexist, with historic buildings remaining in modern urban spaces and traditional food being able to be ordered using a touch panel. In Okinawa, visitors learned about the meaning of Shisa and how Shuri Castle, which was burnt down by a fire in 2019, is being rebuilt using traditional construction methods, but with the latest technology to prepare for another fire. 【Action Plan】 "Community Food Celebration". Members will hold an event at the school to introduce traditional Japanese culture such as food and games that they learned about during their stay in Japan. This will be connected to the members' theme of "the intersection of the old and the new". The event will be held within 6 weeks of our return home, with dates and details to be provided via email. Presentations will be made at the Wednesday meeting and the event will take place during lunch. We will introduce the following. ・ Takoyaki (octopus dumplings) provided by host family. ・ Making Mochi with a host family using rice powder and Anko (sweet bean paste) with creative toppings will be used.

parents, and will be printed in spring 2024. ● Workshop On April 24, 2024, "Earth Day," members of Group A will give a presentation on the respect for nature they learned in Japan to spread awareness of sustainability in an all-day workshop. The target audience is small groups of the school.	▪ Card games learned in Japan, such as Babanuki.
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)