



KAKEHASHI Project (Canada)

Invitation Program for Canadian Young Leaders Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】 Five working youths from Canada were invited to Japan from December 16 to December 22. The objectives of the program were to have the participants learn how multiculturalism is being promoted in Japan through various observation visits, exchange opinions on the possibility of business collaboration between Canada and Japan, and to promote partnerships between the two countries. Participants broadened their knowledge of Japanese politics, economy, society, culture, history, and foreign policy, and also deepened their understanding of Japan's traditional culture and how it has been passed down through the generations. The participants also participated in exchanges with relevant organizations and actively disseminated the many attractions of Japan.

【Participants】 Total: 5 working youths from Canada

【Locations】 Tokyo, Hokkaido

【Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program:

Dec. 12 (Thu) 【Pre-departure Orientation】 Project objective and mission, rundown of the schedule, overseas travel warnings, precautions of infectious disease, etc.

Set Period Prior to Arrival 【Video Viewing】 “Lecture on Japan” (Choose on Web Japan)

■ Invitation Program:

Dec. 16 (Mon) Arrival at Narita International Airport and Haneda Airport

 【Post-arrival Orientation】

Dec. 17 (Tue) Travel from Tokyo to Hokkaido

 【Observation】 Upopoy National Ainu Museum and Park

Dec. 18 (Wed) 【 Courtesy Call 】 Mr. Yasuyuki Kobayashi, Senior Director, Bureau of International Affairs, Department of Policy Planning and Coordination, Hokkaido Government

 【 Opinion Exchange 】 Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies, Hokkaido University

 【Observation】 Sapporo City (stroll with students from Fuji Women's University)

Dec. 19 (Thu) Travel from Hokkaido to Tokyo

 【Observation】 Azabudai Hills

 【Opinion Exchange】 Business Council of Canada

Dec. 20 (Fri) **【Courtesy Call】** Ms. Eri Arfiya, Parliamentary Vice Minister
【Courtesy Call】 Ms. Sirine Hijal, Counsellor, Public Affairs Department, Canadian Embassy in Japan
【Observation】 Fukagawa Edo Museum
【Observation】 Imperial Palace
【Opinion Exchange】 Keidanren (Japan Business Federation)
Dec. 21 (Sat) **【Observation】** Panasonic Center Tokyo
【Observation】 Asakusa
【Cultural Experience】 Matcha
Dec. 22 (Sun) **【Reporting Session】** Presentation of program findings and action plans
Departure from Narita International Airport

2. Program Photos

Invitation Program

	
December 17, 2024 【Observation】 Upopoy National Ainu Museum and Park	December 18, 2024 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. Yasuyuki Kobayashi, Senior Director, Bureau of International Affairs, Department of Policy Planning and Coordination, Hokkaido Government
	
December 18, 2024 【Opinion Exchange】 Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies, Hokkaido University	December 18, 2024 【Observation】 Sapporo City (stroll with students from Fuji Women's University)

	
December 19, 2024 【Opinion Exchange】 Business Council of Canada	December 19, 2024 【Courtesy Call】 Ms. Eri Arfiya, Parliamentary Vice Minister
	
December 21, 2024 【Cultural Experience】 Matcha	December 22, 2024 【Reporting Session】 Group photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth

What impressed me most about our visit to Upopoy was the immersive experience of learning about the rich culture and history of the Ainu people. Our guide was incredibly informative and shared detailed insights about Ainu traditions, language, and way of life, while also introducing us to members of the Ainu community who spoke openly about their feelings regarding their historic treatment and ongoing efforts to preserve their heritage. Their willingness to share their personal stories and perspectives made the visit deeply meaningful and gave me a profound appreciation for the resilience of their culture.

◆ Working Youth

It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with the Hokkaido government and deepen those relationships. Hearing about their plans to attract startups and drive innovation is incredibly inspiring, especially as someone working in this space. The information of their semiconductor factory and data center projects is particularly exciting! I'm looking forward to returning and witnessing the remarkable growth of Hokkaido's tech ecosystem firsthand.

◆ Working Youth

It was nice talking with the professors about Ainu struggles and how they are starting to be recognized in a Japanese context. Canada went through very similar strife in our past and the similarities are apparent. Learning different techniques in how Ainu are coming out of a repressive state will be

insightful for future engagements in my industry.

◆ Working Youth

I enjoyed exploring Sapporo's shrine with the university students, providing both a cultural experience as well as an opportunity to engage with locals. The students were welcoming and nice and explained how to pray at the shrine.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Courtesy Call Representative

It's good to hear that everyone was able to enjoy themselves. We hope that this visit to Hokkaido will be a good opportunity for all of the participants to share their knowledge of Hokkaido with the people around them.

◆ Observation Destination Representative

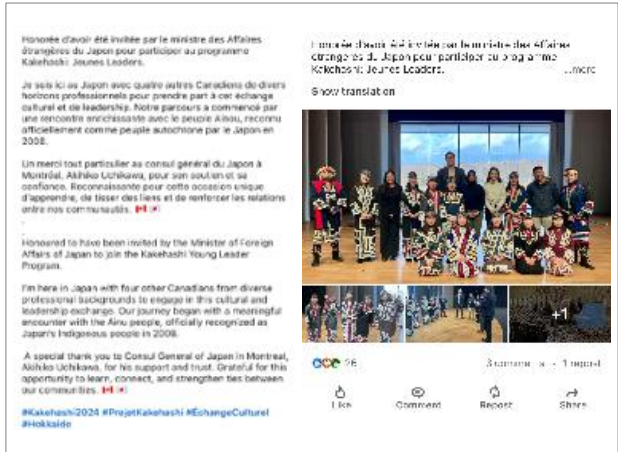
We could feel the passion and enthusiasm of the participants. The lively exchange of opinions made the session an even better one.

◆ Exchange Session Participant

At first, it was difficult to communicate in English, and I was worried that I might not be able to communicate at all, but I was very moved by the way the people I met tried to understand my poor English, and at the same time, my desire to communicate with people from different countries in English became stronger, and I am now more motivated to learn English. I was also glad that they seemed to enjoy Japanese food and culture.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

Ce fut un privilège de rencontrer M. Yasuyuki Kobayashi, directeur principal du Bureau des affaires internes du gouvernement de Hokkaido. Notre échange fut inspirant, alors qu'il partageait le travail de Hokkaido pour attirer des investissements en énergie propre et leurs stratégies novatrices pour relever les défis liés au déclin démographique. J'ai été particulièrement impressionnée par l'intégration harmonieuse de la technologie dans les services publics, garantissant efficacité et accessibilité. Tout aussi remarquable est l'équilibre entre l'urbanisme et les espaces verts, reflétant les réalités et les besoins de la population locale. Des échanges comme celui-ci mettent en lumière l'importance de construire des ponts et de créer des relations pour partager les meilleures pratiques. Ensemble, nous pouvons apprendre les uns des autres et bâtir des communautés plus durables et inclusives à l'échelle mondiale. 🌱💚 It was a privilege to meet Mr. Yasuyuki Kobayashi, Senior Director of the Hokkaido Government's Bureau of Internal Affairs. Our conversation was inspiring as he shared Hokkaido's work in attracting clean energy investments and their innovative strategies to address the challenges of a declining population. I was particularly impressed by how technology is seamlessly integrated into the delivery of public services, ensuring efficiency and accessibility. Equally remarkable is the way urban planning and green spaces are harmonized, reflecting the realities and needs of the local population.	 I had the pleasure of reconnecting with an old friend, Takamasa Ito-san, formerly the Vice-Consul at the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary and now Senior Staff at the International Affairs Division, Hokkaido Government. With the privilege of meeting Yasuyuki Kobayashi, Senior Director of the Bureau of International Affairs. 🇯🇵🇺🇸 One of the most inspiring takeaways was learning about Hokkaido's focus on fostering startups—especially in Cleantech, Agtech, and Aerospace! Later in the evening, I connected with Miho Tanaka-san, Head of Internationalization for SANKUUP HOKKAIDO and Head of Innovation Week for Hokkaido. We had the opportunity to discuss our ecosystems and celebrate with the completion of Calgary's Innovation week as they ramp up their preparation for Hokkaido Innovation Week! 🌟 I also had the fantastic opportunity to visit the Deep Tech Core Sapporo and see firsthand how they support founders, particularly in the AR/VR space. Hearing about exciting developments like semiconductor factories and data centers within Hokkaido's innovation ecosystem was truly exciting and a
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Affairs. Our conversation was inspiring as he shared Hokkaido's work in attracting clean energy investments and their innovative strategies to address the challenges of a declining population. ...	Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary and now is a Senior Staff at the International Affairs Division, Hokkaido Government. With the privilege of meeting the Senior Director of the Bureau of International Affairs. ...
 Government Relations at The Canadian Real Estate Association... As part of the Kakehashi (Bridge) Project, I had the honour of meeting Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Ms.Arifiya Eri to discuss the partnership between Canada and Japan. We also met with the Business Council of Canada, Trevor Kennedy where we learned about their advocacy on behalf of Canadian companies operating in Asia and their recent expansion with a new office in Japan. These discussions highlight the importance of fostering economic partnerships (such as 15	
December 19, 2024 (Facebook) As part of the Kakehashi (Bridge) Project, I had the honor of meeting Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs in Japan, Ms. Arfiya Eri, to discuss the partnership between Canada and Japan. We also met with a representative from the Business Council of Canada where we learned about their advocacy on behalf of Canadian companies operating in Asia and their recent expansion with a new office in Japan. These discussions highlight the importance of fostering economic partnerships. ...	December 19, 2024 (LinkedIn) Honoured to have been invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan to join the Kakashi Young Leader Program. I'm here in Japan with four other Canadians from diverse professional backgrounds to engage in this cultural and leadership exchange. Our journey began with a meaningful encounter with the Ainu people, officially recognized as Japan's Indigenous people in 2008. Grateful for this opportunity to learn, connect, and strengthen ties between our communities.

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

Locations: Tokyo, Hokkaido – Presentation by 1 group



【Results of the Program】

◆ Learnings about Japan:

- Differences in policy between Canada and Japan (especially related to youth, minorities, and women's issues)
- Trends of Japanese companies expanding into Canada
- The high level of Japanese technology and innovation (Harumi Flag^(Note), airport security checks, start-up companies, etc.)

(Note) HARUMI FLAG: : A redevelopment project in Harumi 5-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo. It was used as the athletes' village for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games and renovated as a residential area after the Games. It is a public-private partnership urban development project.

◆ New learnings:

- There are many similarities between the Ainu culture and the culture of the indigenous people in Canada, and the food is similar.
- Through the Matcha experience, we learned about the process and the temperature of the water necessary to fully enjoy the aroma.
- We learned about the beauty of Japanese culture. I was especially impressed by the convenience and safety of the train, and I was impressed by the fact that children were traveling by train alone.

【Action Plan】

Apart from the dissemination of information, each participant implemented his/her own action plan.

(1) Strengthen existing relationships

Montreal and Hiroshima have a sister city relationship, and we would like to revitalize that activity and build a stronger relationship. We will be talking with relevant parties in conjunction with the 95th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and Japan, and will begin making contact within 3 months, along with a report on this program, and work on a multi-year basis.

(2) Mining Investment

Through this program, we were able to connect with the Business Council of Canada's Indo-Pacific Secretariat, Keidanren, and others, and we would like to use the connections we made to deepen our relationship with Japanese refineries and companies in the future.

(3) Sharing experiences and lessons learned

I have made many discoveries through this program, and I will share them with many people. First of all,

many people around me, including myself, like matcha, but through the matcha experience, I found out that I was drinking it the wrong way, so I will share the correct way. I will also share with them the correct way to drink matcha. And since the concept of Harumi Flag, a community development project using green energy, etc., is not yet available in Canada (Ottawa), I would like to contact Panasonic and others after returning home to ask them about the project further and explore whether it can be realized in Canada as well.

(4) Building bridges between Jewish congregations in Canada and the Japanese community

I would like to organize an event where I can not only share my Jewish activities (dissemination, Holocaust education, anti-hate activities, etc.) with the Japanese community, but also share Japanese culture (Ainu, religion, matcha tea, etc.).

5) Calgary Japanese Community Center

The construction of the community center has already been decided and its design is environmentally friendly, but we would like to enrich the activities that will take place in the center. We would like to make the center a place where people can experience ikebana and tea ceremonies, share information about the Ainu culture they have learned through this program, and encourage interaction among students, making it a true “Kakehashi” in the true sense of the word. I would also like to discuss the possibility of naming the main hall where these activities are held “KAKEHASHI HALL” at the board meeting, of which I am a member.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)