



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Invitation Program for Congressional Leaders the 2nd Slot Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

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 locations in Tokyo, Kanagawa, and Kyoto from March 16 to March 23. By providing this opportunity, the program aimed to strengthen networks for further deepening U.S.-Japan relations.

【Participants】 Total: 6 U.S. congressional aides

【Locations】 Tokyo, Kanagawa, Kyoto

【Schedule】

■ Invitation Program:

Mar. 16 (Sun)	Arrival at Haneda Airport
Mar. 17 (Mon)	【Opinion Exchange】 Ministry of Foreign Affairs (North America Affairs Bureau, Foreign Policy Bureau) 【Courtesy Call】 U.S. Embassy in Japan 【Observation】 U.S. Forces Japan Headquarters (Yokota Air Base)
Mar. 18 (Tue)	【Observation】 Toyosu Market Travel from Tokyo to Kanagawa 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. KAMIJI Katsuaki, Mayor of Yokosuka City 【Observation】 Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Headquarters YOKOSUKA District 【Observation】 United States Fleet Activities Yokosuka Travel from Kanagawa to Tokyo
Mar. 19 (Wed)	【Observation】 Asakusa 【Opinion Exchange】 Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Travel from Tokyo to Kyoto
Mar. 20 (Thu)	【Observation】 Shinkansen Driver's Cab 【Observation】 Fushimi Inari Taisha 【Cultural Experience】 Zazen (Zen meditation) experience (Shorinji) 【Observation】 Kizakura Sake Brewery 【Observation】 Kiyomizu-dera Temple

Travel from Kyoto to Tokyo

Mar. 21 (Fri) **【Company Visit】** Mitsubishi Corporation
 【Observation】 National Diet Building (House of Representatives)
 【Observation】 Tokyo Tower
 【Company Visit】 NEC Corporation
 【Japanese Cultural Experience】 Professional baseball game

Mar. 22 (Sat) **【Observation】** Sights in Tokyo

Mar. 23 (Sun) Departure from Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos

Invitation Program

	
March 18, 2025 【Observation】 Toyosu Market	March 18, 2025 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. KAMIJI Katsuaki, Mayor of Yokosuka City
	
March 18, 2025 【Observation】 Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Headquarters YOKOSUKA District	March 19, 2025 【Opinion Exchange】 Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

	
March 20, 2025 【Cultural Experience】 Zazen (Zen meditation) experience (Shorinji)	March 20, 2025 【Observation】 Kizakura Sake Brewery
	
March 20, 2025 【Observation】 Kiyomizu-dera Temple	March 21, 2025 【Observation】 National Diet Building (House of Representatives)

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth

The best points were visiting Yokota and Yokosuka bases and seeing the interoperability of JSDF and the US military.

The cultural aspects of visiting temples and being a part of Japanese society were extremely insightful.

◆ Working Youth

The visits with Japanese private tech and defense companies + JMSDF/US Navy were most impressive. The defense visits helped me understand the threats in the Indo-Pacific, joint US-Japan efforts to deter such threats, as well as the challenges at the Japanese societal level. As for the tech company visits, it was great to see Japanese private sector innovation, partnership with the Japanese and US governments, and the challenges.

4. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

	
March 18, 2025 (Instagram) U.S. Naval Base Yokosuka, Japan Yokosuka is the only place in the world where we have an aircraft carrier deployed outside of the U.S. homeport.	March 23, 2025 (LinkedIn) Wheels touched down in DC less than 24 hours ago after participating in my first STAFFDEL where a bi-partisan and bi-cameral delegation went to Japan to visit our embassy and engage with local officials in Tokyo, Yokohama, and Yokosuka to discuss the US / Japan relationship. It was an honor to experience such a rich history and beautiful country. I enjoyed meeting and talking with the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs who hosted our meetings and gave the lay of the land. We shared riveting conversations with the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry on export controls and the critical mineral supply chain as well as with Mitsubishi Corporation on the status quo of Foreign Military Sales. ... The timing could not have been more perfect as the cherry blossoms were nearly in peak bloom, and the local hospitality was like no other. If only there was a way to bring Japanese convenience stores to the States... Sayonara Japan!

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)