



## **KAKEHASHI Project (United States)**

### **Invitation Program for Congressional Leaders the 1st Slot Report**

#### **1. Program Overview**

【Objective 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 June 30 (Sat) to July 7 (Sun). By providing this opportunity, the program aimed to strengthen networks for further deepening U.S.-Japan relations.

【Participants】 Total: 8 U.S. congressional aides

【Locations】 Tokyo, Kanagawa, Kyoto

#### **【Schedule】**

##### **■ Inbound Program:**

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| Jun. 30 (Sun) | Arrival at Haneda Airport                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Jul. 1 (Mon)  | 【Opinion Exchange】 Ministry of Foreign Affairs (North America Affairs Bureau, Intelligence and Analysis Service, Foreign Policy Bureau)<br>【Opinion Exchange】 Ministry of Defense (Bureau of Defense Policy, Joint Staff, Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency)                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Jul. 2 (Tue)  | 【Courtesy Call】 U.S. Embassy<br>【Courtesy Call】 U.S. Forces Japan Headquarters<br>【Company Visit】 NEC Corporation<br>【Observation】 Shibuya                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Jul. 3 (Wed)  | Travel from Tokyo to Kanagawa<br>【Observation】 Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Headquarters YOKOSUKA District<br>【Courtesy Call】 Mr. KAMIJI Katsuaki, Mayor of Yokosuka City<br>【Observation】 United States Fleet Activities Yokosuka<br>【Observation】 Dobuita Street<br>Travel from Kanagawa to Tokyo<br>【Observation】 Japan Traditional Crafts Aoyama Square<br>【Opinion Exchange】 Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Foreign Policy Bureau) |
| Jul. 4 (Thu)  | Travel from Tokyo to Kyoto<br>【Cultural Experience】 Zazen (Zen meditation) experience (Shorinji)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

【Observation】 Kizakura Sake Brewery  
 【Cultural Experience】 Tea ceremony experience (Jotokuji)  
 【Observation】 Kiyomizu Temple  
 Jul. 5 (Fri) Travel from Kyoto to Tokyo  
 【Observation】 Japanese Diet (House of Representatives)  
 【Company Visit】 Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.  
 【Observation】 Ginza  
 Jul. 6 (Sat) 【Observation】 Sites in Tokyo  
 Jul. 7 (Sun) 【Observation】 Asakusa  
 Departure from Haneda Airport

## 2. Program Photos

### Inbound Program

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| <p>July 2, 2024 【Courtesy Call】 U.S. Embassy</p>                                                   | <p>July 2, 2024 【Company Visit】 NEC Corporation</p>                                  |
|                 |  |
| <p>July 3, 2024 【Observation】 Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Headquarters YOKOSUKA District</p> | <p>July 3, 2024【Courtesy Call】Mr. KAMIJI Katsuaki, Mayor of Yokosuka City</p>        |

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| <p>July 4, 2024 【Cultural Experience】 Zazen (Zen meditation) experience (Shorinji)</p> | <p>July 4, 2024 【 Observation 】 Kizakura Sake Brewery</p>                           |
|      |  |
| <p>July 4, 2024 【Cultural Experience】 Tea ceremony experience (Jotokuji)</p>           | <p>July 4, 2024 【 Observation 】 Group photo at Kiyomizu Temple</p>                  |

### 3. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

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| <p>Last week, I was honored to join a bipartisan, bicameral Congressional staff delegation to Japan as part of the Kakehashi Friendship Ties Program. We learned about Japan's rich culture and history and engaged Japanese officials and industry leaders on how to strengthen the alliance, bilateral economic ties, and cooperation to bolster peace and security in the Indo-Pacific.</p> <p>In addition to several in-depth discussions with Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we met with Japan's Ministry of Defense, Mayor of Yokosuka Katsuaki Kamiji, and Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force. We were also glad to meet with the US Embassy in Tokyo, US Forces Japan, and the US Navy in Yokosuka.</p> <p>Japan was a generous host to us, as it has been for the many US servicemen and women and their families based in Japan. I will always remember this trip, especially the tea ceremony and our visit to Kiyomizu temple in Kyoto. It was a privilege seeing Japan with my congressional colleagues, and I am grateful to <b>Takeru Terao</b> for organizing and leading the trip.</p>  | <p>From one side of the globe to the other, I will end my summer work trips in <b>#Japan</b>. Our strong ally in the East was a wonderful host and another country with rich history. From trade meetings, national security discussions (with Japan and our US Forces), ship yard repairs (and depot maintenance), private defense industry, and global concerns, Japan was a trip that I was able to tie a great deal of my official travel to the importance of US <b>#foreign policy</b> and the importance of helping our allies. Getting to witness first hand and be briefed on the our military footprint by the US <b>#Army</b> and US <b>#Navy</b> set a significant number of national security issues into focus.</p> <p>What I love about these trips is that there is always a cultural aspect – touring historical sites, government buildings and participating in the local traditions (like a tea ceremony). These activities highlight the countries' histories and traditions while building an educational foundation and insight for staff to understand that countries' identity and how they see the world and solutions. We visited Tokyo and Kyoto – two very different cities but both key in Japan's DNA.</p> <p>Japan is another <b>#phenomenal</b> country to visit and hope to return one day – the people we met and interacted with (even on the streets) could have not been nicer and accommodating. Proud to stand with our Japanese allies in several significant aspects, security and foreign trade specifically. Their continued relations with the US are valued and appreciated. Thank you <b>Takeru Terao</b> for the invitation, educational itinerary and tours while we visit Japan. Lastly, it was great meeting other professional and getting to see other colleagues again! W/ <b>Katherine Sears</b>, <b>Christopher Bien</b>, <b>Anubhav Gupta</b>, <b>Hannah Schwartz</b>, <b>Sonali Desai</b>, <b>Zachary Hosford</b> and Kate Hunter.</p>  |
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| <p>July 12, 2024 (LinkedIn)</p> <p>Last week, I was honored to join a bipartisan, bicameral Congressional staff delegation to Japan as part of the KAKEHASHI Friendship Ties Program. We learned about Japan's rich culture and history and engaged Japanese officials and industry leaders on how to strengthen the alliance, bilateral economic ties, and cooperation to bolster peace and security in the Indo-Pacific.</p> <p>In addition to several in-depth discussions with Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we met with Japan's Ministry of Defense, Mayor of Yokosuka Katsuaki Kamiji, and Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force. We were also glad to meet with the US Embassy in Tokyo, US Forces Japan, and the US Navy in Yokosuka.</p> <p>Japan was a generous host to us, as it has been for the many US servicemen and women and their families based in Japan. I will always remember this trip, especially the tea ceremony and our visit to Kiyomizu Temple in Kyoto. It was a privilege seeing Japan with my congressional colleagues.</p> | <p>July 26, 2024 (LinkedIn)</p> <p>From one side of the globe to the other, I will end my summer work trips in Japan. Our strong ally in the East was a wonderful host and another country with rich history. From trade meetings, national security discussions (with Japan and our US Forces), shipyard repairs (and depo maintenance), private defense industry, and global concerns, Japan was a trip that I was able to tie a great deal of my official travel to the importance of US foreign policy and the importance of helping our allies.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Japan is another phenomenal country to visit and I hope to return one day – the people we met and interacted with (even on the streets) could have not been nicer and accommodating. Proud to stand with our Japanese allies in several significant aspects, security and foreign trade specifically. Their continued relations with the US are valued and appreciated.</p> |
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)