



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Invitation Program for Armenian American Young Leaders Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective and Overview】

Six Armenian American young leaders visited Japan from October 23 to October 29 with the aim of gaining a deeper understanding of Japanese politics, economy, and society so that they can play an even more active role in strengthening Japan-U.S. relations in the future as Armenian American young leaders.

The participants visited Tokyo, Kanagawa, Kyoto, and Nara prefectures to experience the traditions rooted in Japanese regional culture and learn about Japan's cutting-edge technology, thereby deepening their understanding of Japan. Each participant also shared the appeal and diplomatic stance of Japan on their different social media platforms.

【Participants】 Total: 6 participants (5 Armenian American young leaders and 1 chaperone)

【Locations】 Tokyo, Kanagawa, Kyoto, Nara

【Schedule】

■ Online Pre-study Program:

Oct. 21 (Mon) **【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:

Oct. 23 (Wed) Arrival at Haneda Airport

【Post arrival orientation】

Oct. 24 (Thu) **【Observation】** Shibusawa Memorial Museum

【Cultural Experience】 Kimono wearing (Central Tokyo for Tourism)

【Observation】 Holy Resurrection Cathedral (Nikorai-do)

【Observation】 Akihabara

Oct. 25 (Fri) **【Observation】** Tokyo Hydrogen Museum

【Observation】 Yokohama Chinatown

【Observation】 Yokohama Foreign General Cemetery

(Visit to the graves of Ms. Diana Abgar, former Honorary Consul of Armenia in Japan, and Mr. Ivan Sagoyan, who is said to be the inventor of melon bread)

Travel from Kanagawa to Kyoto

Oct. 26 (Sat) **【Observation】** Kiyomizu Temple

【Observation】 Gion & Higashiyama area

【Observation】 Kinkaku-ji

【Observation】 Arashiyama

Oct. 27 (Sun) 【Exchange】 Exchange with Japanese and foreign residents in Nara
 “NaFu! International Exchange Camp One day Camp 2024”
 Nara Fureai Association of International Communication
 【Cultural Experience】 Matcha Experience (Jikoin zen temple)
 Travel from Nara to Tokyo

Oct. 28 (Mon) 【Opinion Exchange】 Central Asia and Caucasus Division, Ministry of Foreign
 Affairs
 【Courtesy Call】 H.E. Mr. Aleq Hovhannisyan, Ambassador of Armenia to
 Japan
 【Observation】 Shibuya, Harajuku, Meiji Jingu
 【Wrap-up session】 Reflections of program findings

Oct. 29 (Tue) 【Observation】 Panasonic Center TOKYO
 【Observation】 Odaiba
 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. HOSAKA Yasushi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign
 Affairs
 Departure from Haneda Airport

2. Program Photos

Invitation Program

	
October 24, 2024 【 Observation 】 Shibusawa Memorial Museum	October 24, 2024 Cultural Experience】 Kimono wearing
	
October 25, 2024 【Observation】 Tokyo Hydrogen Museum	October 25, 2024 【 Observation 】 Yokohama Foreign General Cemetery

	
October 26, 2024 【Observation】 Kiyomizu Temple	October 27, 2024 【Exchange】 “NaFu! International Exchange Camp One day Camp 2024”
	
October 27, 2024 【Cultural Experience】 Matcha Experience (Jikoin zen temple)	October 28, 2024 【Courtesy Call】 H.E. Mr. Aleq Hovhannisyan, Ambassador of Armenia to Japan
	
October 29, 2024 【Observation】 Panasonic Center TOKYO	October 29, 2024 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. HOSAKA Yasushi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth

I, truly, was impressed by this program. I grew up immersed in the Japanese Pop-Culture, whether it be by the anime to the J-POP. Visiting Japan left such a powerful impression that I am, now, focused on returning this time with more of my friends and young Armenian students.

Out of the entire visit, I truly appreciated the visit to the NaFu! International One Day Camp in Nara. Throughout the day, I was able to exchange conversations with such humble and educated members of the Japanese community, it made me so happy to learn more of the culture and language. I encourage, strongly, that opportunities as such be kept in the schedule for future Kakehashi delegations.

I, especially, loved visiting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and was impressed by the research done prior to our visit.

To end, the visit we made to Shibusawa Memorial Museum was my favorite. I was inspired by this humanitarian/philanthropist and looking to learn more about him here in the United States. His memory is precious, and it is only appropriate to have his portrait marked on the 10,000 yen bill. His story empowered me and gave me a great perspective as to how I, as a member of the Armenian community, can contribute and make a difference for the future generations.

◆ Graduate Student

My favorite visits were the Shibusawa Memorial Museum, Panasonic center, and the Kyoto temples. I loved learning about the nature of the Japanese people to seek advancement and excellence in every facet of life. I left feeling inspired and enlightened.

◆ Working Youth

The most valuable experience of this program was meeting, interacting, and directly talking with the locals. I wouldn't have been able to have had that experience without joining this program.

4. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt), Articles, etc.

 On October 28, 2024, the Armenian-American young leaders from LA participating in the KAKEHASHI Project met with Deputy Director of the Central Asia and Caucasus division at Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They discussed key developments in Armenia-Japan relations, including Armenia's growing high-tech sector. She emphasized Armenia's role in regional	 It was an honor to have been invited to Japan under the Kakehashi Project. Forever grateful for the incredible memories I made with my delegation! Japan you are too cool!! 日本は最高!! 日本は最高!! Thank you to Parliamentary Vice-Minister Iwoka and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan! @mofa_jp_en #kakehashiproject still next time!
October 29, 2024 (Instagram) Working Youth On October 28, 2024, the Armenian-American young leaders from LA participating in the KAKEHASHI Project met with Deputy Director of the Central Asia and Caucasus division at Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We discussed key developments in Armenia-Japan relations, including Armenia's growing high-tech sector. She emphasized Armenia's role in regional	October 29, 2024 (Instagram) Graduate Student It was an honor to have been invited to Japan under the Kakehashi Project. Forever grateful for the incredible memories I made with my delegation! Japan you are too cool!

logistics, mentioning efforts to include Armenia in the Trans-Caspian Transport Route. She also highlighted Japan's commitment to strengthening disaster management cooperation.



October 31, 2024 (Facebook)

Working Youth

Growing up, I knew Panasonic as a top brand in audio-video electronics and household appliances. But during our official visit to Tokyo's Panasonic Center, my delegation and I were blown away by the company's shift toward electric cars, solar systems, mobility tech, robotics, and cutting-edge AI integration.

Mind blowing to see how they are shaping the future.



November 10, 2024 (Facebook)

Working Youth

Unforgettable day in NaFu International Day Camp in Nara, Japan.



2024.10.27 NaFu!国際交流 OnedayCamp

事業名：NaFu! 国際交流One Day Camp 2024
開催期間：令和6年10月27日（日）
会場：臨壇寺、奈良公園周辺
奈良市中郡公民館 5F ホール
所在地：奈良県奈良市上三条町23-4
参加人数等：35人
事業の概要：「対日理解促進交流プログラム『2024年度カ
ケハシ・プロジェクト』（米国）アルメニア系若手リーダー
招へい」事業の参加者7名を含む、外国人参加者12人と、
日本人参加者23名、合計35人が、奈良公園周辺と奈良市中
郡公民館にて、Excitingな国際交流キャンプを体験した。
参加者は4グループに分かれて活動し、交流を深めた。今年
は奈良県ガールスカウト連盟の5人がリーダーとなりイベ
ントを企画し、進行了。



October 27, 2024 (Website of NaFu! Japan Web (Nara Fureai Association of International Communication))

Project Summary: A total of 35 people (12 foreign participants and 23 Japanese participants), including 7 participants from the Japan's Friendship Ties Programs “2024 KAKEHASHI Project (United States) Invitation Program for Armenian American Young Leaders”, experienced an exciting international exchange camp around Nara Park and at the Chubu Community Center in Nara City. The participants were divided into four groups to work together and deepen their exchange.

This year, five members of the Girl Scouts of Nara (federation) took leading roles in organizing and facilitating the event.

October 28, 2024 (Embassy of Armenia's Facebook page)

On October 28, 2024, Ambassador Hovhannisian received the young leaders from Los Angeles representing the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, who arrived in Japan within the framework of the "Kakehashi" program implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Welcoming the group of Armenian American young professionals, Ambassador Hovhannisian gave them a detailed presentation of the Armenian Japanese relations and the activities of the Embassy in Japan and other countries of accreditation.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)