



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

### **Invitation Program for Okinawa Program the 2nd slot (Cambridge School of Weston) Report**

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

##### **【Objectives and Overview】**

The Okinawa Program is a mutual exchange program between high school students from Japan and the United States. With the goal of promoting mutual understanding between the two countries, nine high school students from the Cambridge School of Weston in Boston, Massachusetts, were invited to Tokyo and Okinawa. During their stay in Tokyo, the students visited Asakusa and learned about advanced technology at the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan). In Okinawa, they experienced Japanese culture through homestays and interacted with Okinawa Prefectural Miyako High School to deepen mutual understanding and friendship. The participants disseminated what they learned and gained through these experiences of coming into contact with Japanese culture and society.

**【Participants】** Total: 11 participants (9 high school students and 2 chaperones from the U.S.)

**【Locations】** Tokyo, Okinawa

##### **【Schedule】**

##### **■ Online Pre-study Program:**

Mar. 4 (Tue) **【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:**

Mar. 12 (Wed) Arrival at Narita International Airport

**【Post-arrival Orientation】**

Mar. 13 (Thu) Travel from Tokyo to Okinawa

**【Cultural Experience】** Sugarcane Squeezing Experience (Kibi-Chaya)

Mar. 14 (Fri) **【Courtesy Call】** Mr. KAKAZU Noboru, Mayor of Miyakojima City

**【Observation】** Irabu Bridge

**【School Exchange】** Okinawa Prefectural Miyako High School

**【Meeting with the Host Families】**

Mar. 15 (Sat) **【Homestay】** Okinawa Prefectural Miyako High School

Mar. 16 (Sun) **【Farewell Party with the Host Families】**

Travel from Okinawa to Tokyo

Mar. 17 (Mon) **【Observation】** Miraikan - The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation

【Observation】 Asakusa

【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)

Mar. 18 (Tue)

【Reporting Session】Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans  
Departure from Narita International Airport

## 2. Program Photos

### Invitation Program

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| <p>March 13, 2025 【Cultural Experience】<br/>Sugarcane Squeezing Experience (Kibi-Chaya)</p> | <p>March 14, 2025 【Courtesy Call】<br/>Mr. KAKAZU Noboru, Mayor of Miyakojima City</p>               |
|          |                 |
| <p>March 14, 2025 【School Exchange】<br/>Okinawa Prefectural Miyako High School</p>          | <p>March 15, 2025 【Homestay】</p>                                                                    |
|          |                 |
| <p>March 17, 2025 【Observation】 Asakusa</p>                                                 | <p>March 17, 2025【Observation】Miraikan - The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation</p> |



March 18, 2025 【Reporting Session】



March 18, 2025 【Reporting Session】 Group photo

### 3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

#### ◆ High School Student

We really enjoyed the homestay program on Miyakojima! It was very informative to see a more rural part of Japan, and to be immersed in Japanese culture. We learned more Japanese words and customs, and made new friends that will last a lifetime. I'm planning to continue learning Japanese, and introducing parts of Japanese culture to my friends and family, specifically the tradition of saying "itadakimasu" and "gochisosama deshita".

#### ◆ High School Student

We had the most wonderful time meeting students around my age and experiencing school! We also loved learning about Miyako culture and seeing all parts of the island. We had an amazing host stay and bonded with my family so much, learning and eating Miyako specific food and learning the Japanese language. I think a longer host stay program would benefit me and others and seeing daily life a bit clearer.

#### ◆ High School Student

The most impressive part during the exchange program was attending the classes at Miyako High School. I got to learn about the Japanese language and how to do calligraphy. I learned the different tactics used to learn English in Japan schools.

### 4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

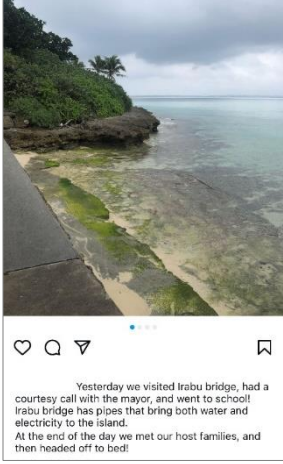
#### ◆ Exchange School Faculty

Everyone at our school, from the students to the faculty had a truly valuable and meaningful time, and we were deeply moved by the warm demeanor and kind personalities of all the members of the delegation.

#### ◆ Host Family

There seemed to be no issues with the meals, and the participants of the delegation were able to enjoy a variety of dishes. We talked about Okinawan culture and history, and during the farewell party one of the participants mentioned, "My host family taught us about Okinawan culture and history, and we learned so much." The fact that they mentioned this meant a lot to me. I want to work on my English and better understand my own culture so that I can properly communicate the attractions of Miyakojima and Japan to others.

## 5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

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| <p>March 12, 2025 (Instagram)<br/>High School Student</p> <p>CSW's KAKEHASHI Project is back! Our 2025 participants are heading to Japan for a week! In Japanese, KAKEHASHI means building bridges. The KAKEHASHI Project is a government-funded grassroots exchange program that brings groups of Americans to Japan for engaging, focused and customized experiences.</p> | <p>March 15, 2025 (Instagram)<br/>High School Student</p> <p>Yesterday we visited Irabu bridge, had a courtesy call with the mayor, and went to school! Irabu bridge has pipes that bring both water and electricity to the island. At the end of the day we met our host families, and then headed off to bed!</p> |

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

Locations: Tokyo, Okinawa (Presentation by 1 group)

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>Visual Culture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since a open-minded welcome is the great spirit of our school, we will hold events. This is called 'the town and city' by the school of 'wisdom'.</li> <li>• Since the school is open to a sign for the school, we will hold events. This is called 'the town and city' by the school of 'wisdom'.</li> <li>• Since the school is open to a sign for the school, we will hold events. This is called 'the town and city' by the school of 'wisdom'.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Workshop</b></p> <p>When: All Kakehashi 2025 (CSW) participants, to the greater school community</p> <p>What: A workshop (a connection to CSW → School, school, primary, secondary)</p> <p>When: TBD → During lunch, weekend activity, or as an after school activity</p> <p>Media: → April/May</p> <p>Where: In a school classroom</p> <p>How: Various activities/relations that each address a different aspect of Japanese culture</p> |
| <p><b>【Results of the Program】</b></p> <p>◆ Findings:</p> <p>There were a lot of findings and differences in industry, family dynamic, health &amp; wellness, house architecture (washitsu), visual culture, dining culture, culture of respect, and music.</p> <p>◆ Prospects:</p> <p>As a multinational population resides in the hometown, we would like to use this experience to strengthen communication beyond language barriers, and build stronger communities.</p> <p><b>【Action Plan】</b></p> <p>We would like to hold workshops on Japanese culture during lunch time or after school activities in the school from April to May. We also would like to make a presentation on this KAKEHASHI experience during a student assembly. Because Miyakojima has a very unique culture and history, and cross-cultural understanding results in better ideas for everyone.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)