



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Online Visiting Japan Program in Osaka and Kansai Region

Follow-up Project Report

1. Program Overview

【Objective and Overview】

This online program aimed to further promote understanding of Japan, activities to broaden interest in Japan, and networking activities among past KAKEHASHI Project participants (alumni) by providing them with an online program to pique their interest in studying in Japan through learning about the history and culture of various regions. The program also aimed to strengthen networking among alumni by having them interact and exchange views with one another.

【Participants】

Total: 18 participants from the U.S., Canada, and Japan (FY2015-FY2024 KAKEHASHI Project alumni)
(Breakdown)

13 participants from the U.S. (1 high school student, 5 undergraduate/graduate students, 7 working youths)

3 participants from Canada (1 high school student, 1 undergraduate student, 1 working youth)

2 participants from Japan (1 high school student, 1 undergraduate student)

【Location】 Osaka

【Schedule】

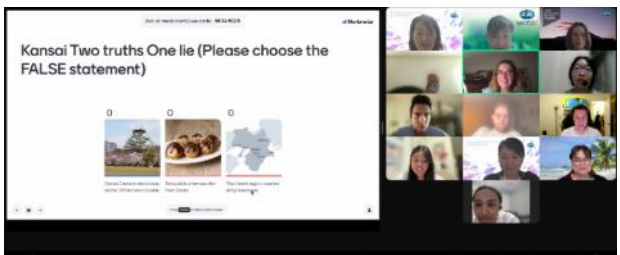
■ Online Visiting Japan Program:

July 29, 2024 (Mon)

1. Opening Remarks
2. Greetings
3. **【Icebreaker】** Icebreaker led by KAKEHASHI Project alumni
4. **【Lecture, Observation】** “Discover Kansai: A Journey into Japan’s Cultural Heart”
Lecturer: Ms. HIDAKA Chihiro, Osaka Global Student Support Association Head Office, Osaka
Convention and Tourism Bureau
5. Q&A Session
6. Commemorative Photo
7. **【Exchange】** Networking with KAKEHASHI alumni (breakout rooms)
8. Information for participants, Closing remarks

2. Program Photos

Online Visiting Japan Program

	
【Icebreaker】Icebreaker led by KAKEHASHI Project alumni	【Lecture, Observation】“Discover Kansai: A Journey into Japan's Cultural Heart”
	
【Lecture, Observation】Quiz	【Lecture, Observation】Q&A session
	
【Commemorative Photo】	【Exchange】Networking with KAKEHASHI alumni

3. Participants' Inquiries and Interests(excerpt)

◆ Working Youth (U.S.)

Do you have any favorite foods from Kansai or Osaka?

◆ Undergraduate Student (U.S.)

For a first timer visiting Osaka, which places do you recommend/believe that are a “MUST SEE”?

◆ High School Student (Canada)

How does Osaka compare to Tokyo in terms of lifestyle?

4. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ High School Student (Canada)

This was my first ever alumni program. Everyone was super friendly, and it just overall made me want to visit the Kansai region.

◆ Working Youth (U.S.)

I really enjoyed this program! It was so great to learn about Osaka and Kansai region, especially because I lived in Otsu in the past. I have many new places to visit next time I visit Kansai! It was also really fun talking to the other alumni afterward for a little bit, and hearing about their experiences in Japan before.

◆ Undergraduate Student (U.S.)

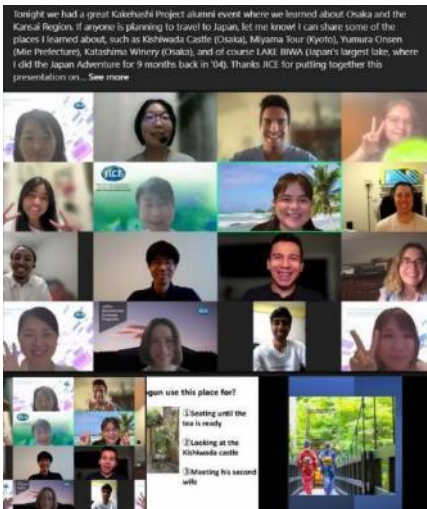
My favorite part of the program was the embedded videos explaining various cultural aspects of the Kansai region; I now have a list of things to check out next time I go there!

5. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Lecturer

It was a truly great opportunity to share about Kansai and Osaka with the participants. I was delighted to get so many questions during the Q&A session from a variety of perspectives about food, places to visit, and so on.

6. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

	July 29, 2024 (Facebook) Working Youth (U.S.) Tonight we had a great KAKEHASHI Project alumni event where we learned about Osaka and the Kansai region. If anyone is planning to travel to Japan, let me know! I can share some of the places I learned about, such as Kishiwada Castle (Osaka), Miyama Tour (Kyoto), Yumura Onsen (Hyogo), Katashimo Winery (Osaka), and of course LAKE BIWA (Japan's largest lake, where I did the Japan Adventure for 9 months back in '04).
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Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)