



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)
Online Alumni Meeting
(The Beauty of Iriomote Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site)
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 the opportunity to learn about the nature and lifestyle of Iriomote Island. The program also aimed to strengthen networking among alumni by having them interact and exchange views with one another.

【Participants】

Total: 22 participants from the U.S. and Canada (FY2015-FY2023 KAKEHASHI Project alumni)
(Breakdown)

16 participants from the U.S. (7 undergraduate/graduate students, 9 working youths)

6 participants from Canada (4 undergraduate/graduate students, 2 working youths)

【Location】 Taketomi Town, Yaeyama-gun, Okinawa

【Schedule】

■ Online Alumni Meeting:

September 30, 2024 (Mon)

1. Opening remarks
2. Greetings
3. **【Lecture】** “Attractions of Iriomote Island, World Natural Heritage Site”
【Observation】 Iriomote Wildlife Conservation Center
Lecturer: Ms. Tokuoka Harumi, Secretary General, Iriomote Foundation
4. **【Observation】** “Living with Nature” virtual tour
Lecturer: Mr. Imamura Hiroaki, Natures Delight Iriomote CEO
5. **【Home Visit】**
Lecturers: Mr. Ishihara Kazuyoshi, Ms. Ishihara Takako, Lodgings MANA
6. Q&A session
7. Commemorative photo
8. **【Exchange】** Networking with KAKEHASHI alumni (breakout rooms)
9. Information for participants, Closing remarks

2. Program Photos

 Cultural resources	
【Lecture】“Attractions of Iriomote Island, World Natural Heritage Site”	【Observation】 Iriomote Wildlife Conservation Center
	
【Observation】“Living with Nature” virtual tour	【Observation】“Living with Nature” virtual tour
	
【Home Visit】	【Commemorative Photo】

3. Participants' Inquiries and Interests(excerpt)

- Are there any local lores passed down on the island?
- What hunting methods do you use (to hunt wild boar)?
- How do goods such as daily supplies and food reach the island?

4. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth (U.S.)

It was very enriching to engage in the daily life of a Japanese family. I personally learned a lot about Japanese culture and language.

◆ **Working Youth (U.S.)**

Today's program was fantastic. I was very impressed by the coordination, with three sets of people showing the different aspects of the island, including the Iriomote Wildlife Conservation Center, the mangroves and farm, and the guest house and store. The coordination was great, including walking around outside, playing a video, and having fun quiz questions (they even walked in the rain!). They were very knowledgeable as well, including about the island's history, the economy, and natural environment. It was also nice of them to share a little about their personal stories. I appreciate the hard work they did to share information about Iriomote Island.

◆ **Working Youth (U.S.)**

I greatly appreciate the dedication of the island residents in showing us around their home and workplace. What an amazing privilege to be welcomed into homes and ecosystems continents away.

5. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **Lecturer**

What we could share online may have been limited, but we are glad that the participants enjoyed Iriomote Island, which is different from what most would imagine of Japan.

We hope to continue actively introducing the island's attractions and conservation efforts to people from abroad in the future.

◆ **Lecturer**

I get excited when I share with people overseas because I want them to know how wonderful Japan is, starting with Iriomote Island, which is like a treasure chest in the Far East. Actions like this are like planting small seeds toward world peace.

I believe that directly going to a country and experiencing the smells, sounds, atmosphere, and coming into contact with its nature, people, their passions and culture, and respecting and understanding each other there are the first steps toward world peace.

Although an online tour certainly cannot convey the five senses, I did my best to convey my passion from through the screen. I was relieved that we were able to hold this event in the midst of an approaching typhoon, and the weather just barely held out.

6. Articles, etc. (excerpt)

 natures_delight_iriomote natures_delight_iriomote 台風が接近中の西表島。ツアーキャンセルなども相次ぎ長いお休みとなりそうです🙏 昨日は一昨年より定期開催している外務省からの案件であるカケハシプロジェクト。 西表財団さん、野生生物保護センター、農家民宿マナさん、ネイチャーズデライトヒロによる世界遺産西表島を世界へ紹介するオンラインツアーでした。 題して「Living with nature」 まず野生生物保護センターより中継で島の概要や生態系、農、祭事、暮らし、アイヌ語やアイヌの歴史などが紹介されました。 10月1日 コメントを追加...	 yugafurumuty yugafurumuty 「対日理解促進交流プログラム」で海外に西表島の魅力を紹介しました！🇺🇸🇨🇦 ご紹介をより一昨年からの、このオンライン交流プログラムの実施に協力しています。 今日はアメリカ、カナダの各地を対象に、9月30日に西表野生生物保護センターをめぐり、前半は西表島の自然や文化の魅力、それらを維持していくための取り組みをスライドで紹介し、後半は保護センターの展示を紹介するライブツアーを行いました。基本的には全米同時開催でのライブ配信なので、毎回観覧します。 財団の配信パートの後は、ガイド@natures_delight_iriomoteさんによるオンラインツアー、@mana_iriomoteさんによる農家の紹介と続き、最後はみなさんで参加者からの質問にお答えしました。 オンラインで伝えられることはごくわずかしれませんが、参加者のみなさんは、日本の典型的なイメージとは異なる西表島の紹介をとても楽しまれ、「西表島の自然や暮らしは素晴らしい」「ぜひ訪れてみたい」といった感想をいただきました。 国内に向けた発信はまだですが、今後、海外にも積極的に島の魅力を伝える活動を行っていきます。 10月4日 コメントを追加...
October 1, 2024 (Natures Delight's Instagram page) Yesterday, the KAKEHASHI Project of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan held a program in Iriomote Island which has continued for the last two years. It was an online tour titled “Living with nature,” introducing the World Heritage Iriomote Island to the world with the support of the Iriomote Foundation, the Iriomote Wildlife Conservation Center, Lodgings MANA, and Hiro from Natures Delight. ...	October 4, 2024 (Iriomote Foundation's Instagram page) We had the opportunity to introduce the attractions of Iriomote Island to the world as part of the “Japan's Friendship Ties Programs.” We had the fortune to work with the program two years ago, and we were able to help conduct the online program this year as well. From the Iriomote Wildlife Conservation Center, we first introduced the attractions of the nature and culture of Iriomote Island, then gave a live tour of the center's exhibits to participants from the U.S. and Canada on September 30th. ...

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)