



KAKEHASHI Project

KAKEHASHI Alumni Study Program

Follow-up Project Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】

As part of this program, past KAKEHASHI Project participants (from the U.S., Canada, and Japan) staying in Japan spent two days learning about corporate initiatives to realize a sustainable society and sustainable energy development, and through workshop discussions, they deepened their mutual understanding and awareness as KAKEHASHI alumni.

【Participants】 Total: 13 participants (FY2015-FY2023 KAKEHASHI Project participants)
(Breakdown) Undergraduate students, graduate students, and working youths from the U.S. (6), Canada (3), and Japan (4)

【Location】 Tokyo

【Schedule】

Nov. 30 (Sat)	【Orientation】
	【Icebreaker】
	【Lecture】 “ENERGY SECTOR IN JAPAN -Strategies for Achieving Carbon Neutrality and Challenges-” Lecturer: Mr. WATAHIKI Fumitoshi, Former Visiting Scholar in Energy Security at Johns Hopkins University SAIS
	【Q&A Session】
	【Opinion Exchange】
	【Observation】 LEAF FACTORY TOKYO CO.,Ltd.
Dec. 1 (Sun)	【Workshop】
	【Observation】 Tokyo Suisomiru (Tokyo hydrogen museum)
	【Workshop】 Preparations for the Reporting Session (summarizing program findings, preparation of action plans)
	【Reporting Session】 Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plans
	【Social Gathering】

2. Program Photos



November 30, 2024 【Orientation】



November 30, 2024 【Icebreaker】



November 30, 2024 【Lecture】“ENERGY SECTOR IN JAPAN -Strategies for Achieving Carbon Neutrality and Challenges-”



November 30, 2024 【Lecture】
Group photo



November 30, 2024 【Observation】
LEAF FACTORY TOKYO CO., Ltd.



November 30, 2024 【Observation】
LEAF FACTORY TOKYO CO., Ltd.
Participants tasting grown lettuce



December 1, 2024 【Observation】 Tokyo Suisomiru
(Tokyo hydrogen museum)



December 1, 2024 【Observation】 Tokyo Suisomiru
(Tokyo hydrogen museum) Group photo

	
December 1, 2024 【Reporting Session】	December 1, 2024 【Reporting Session】 Group photo

3. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ Working Youth (U.S.)

The different programs were interesting and complemented each other well under the same theme. Everyone was kind and the effort that went into making the program was much appreciated.

◆ Working Youth (U.S.)

I really enjoyed learning about how Japan is becoming more energy efficient and less dependent on other countries. I hope that the United States can take similar steps to complete the SDG's and prepare for a healthier planet and future.

◆ Working Youth (U.S.)

Thank you so much for your hard work and fascinating lectures and tours! Because of the program, I felt more immersed in the Japanese energy sector, which made me feel equipped to incorporate what I've learned into my future research projects and job opportunities.

4. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ Lecturer

Through the lectures, I realized that the participants were not only highly interested in energy, but also that what they felt through the lectures could provide insightful ideas for solving energy problems in Japan and around the world. With energy being a topic directly related to international relations, I felt that these young participants from different countries have the potential to change the future.

◆ Observation Destination Representative

The participants showed a lot of interest in the presentation and asked many questions during the Q&A session, which led to a lively discussion. They also seemed to enjoy sampling our lettuce, which made for a productive time for our staff as well.

5. Disseminations by the Participants (excerpt)

	
November 30, 2024 (Instagram) Working Youth (U.S.) Talking sustainability, agritourism and green cities with the Kakehashi Project	December 1, 2024 (Instagram) Working Youth (U.S.) Heading to a Hydrogen Power Museum in Tokyo! (Tokyo Suisomil)

6. Presentations of Program Findings and Action Plan at the Reporting Session

Location: Tokyo – Presentations by a total of 3 groups

Group A		
Group A Kakehashi Study Program Nov 30 - Dec 1	What we learned. - Lecturer: Mr. Fumitoshi Watahiki - Japan's current energy mix -> Mostly imported fossil fuels - Pros and cons of different energy sources - How to achieve the goal of the Paris agreement? - What to do with excess electricity? - Leaf Factory Tokyo - Stable price - High yield - No need to clean - High cost of energy - Tokyo Hydrogen Museum "Green" hydrogen generation as use for excess energy generated from renewables - Using residential fuel cells like "Enllem" results in less energy loss than when transmitted via the grid	How to achieve a sustainable society in Japan - Japan's problematic energy mix: - Diversity energy sources - Education on nuclear energy - Subsidies - Development of "green" hydrogen infrastructure/FCEVs - Home batteries/BEVs - Japan's shortage of farmers: - Encourage the youth: Education, support, and farm succession - Smart Technology: Robotics, smart farming & vertical farming (i.e. Leaf Factory Tokyo) - Sustainability: Organic and precision farming - Boost local food: Strengthen local production - Japan's excess renewable energy: - Hydrogen generation - Transmission to residential fuel cells - Use in transportation: Buses, Cars
【Results of the Program】 Learnings about the theme (Sustainable Society): Through the lectures, we learned about Japan's energy situation, particularly its reliance on imported energy, and the limitations and potential of renewable energy. During the Leaf Factory tour, we learned about the advantages and challenges of agriculture using artificial light, and at the Tokyo Hydrogen Museum (Suisomil), we learned about "green" hydrogen that does not produce harmful emissions. 【Action Plan】 Each group member will implement their own action plan. If I'm living in an urban area in the future, I will use public transportation and contribute to reducing electricity used from the grid. If living in a rural area, I will consider installing solar panels and generating my own electricity and explore the possibility of living with electric vehicles and hydrogen energy.		

- Utilizing my experience in agritourism abroad, I will promote agritourism while contributing to environmental conservation in rural areas. This will help revitalize the region and contribute to achieving the SDGs.
- I will hold a "Farmer for a Day" event for students at the elementary school where I work, selling agricultural products with farmers, stimulating students' curiosity, and contributing to the community.
- I will improve my own lifestyle by reducing food waste, voting for politicians who make policies including energy, and using sustainable goods like bamboo chopsticks.
- I will participate in activities that encourage youths to take an interest in agriculture, promoting the combination of solar power and agriculture using the latest technology.

Group B



【Results of the Program】

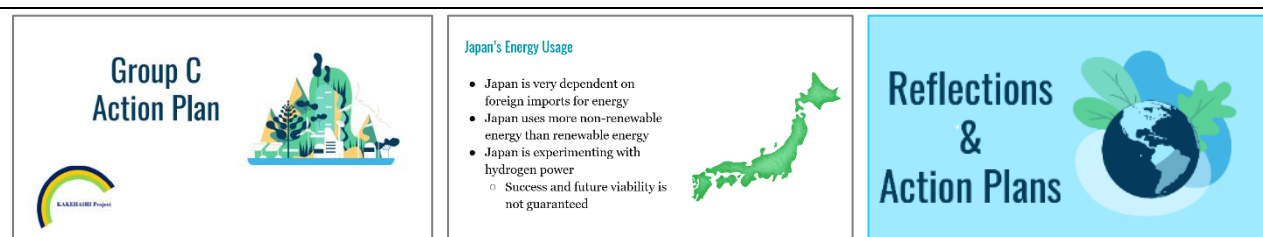
Learnings about the theme (Sustainable Society):

Achieving a sustainable society faces different energy issues and various costs become necessary. Cheap energy threatens the environment, while safe energy has an unstable supply. Agriculture also requires consideration of many factors. We learned that it is necessary to move forward steadily and surely while maintaining a balance (to create a sustainable society).

【Action Plan】

Each member will share what they learned from this program with friends and colleagues through word of mouth and social media, and contribute to local businesses and 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) campaigns.

Group C



【Results of the Program】

Learnings about the theme (Sustainable Society):

We learned that Japan relies heavily on foreign imports for its electricity and has a low usage rate of renewable energy. While promoting hydrogen energy, the path ahead seems long. However, we also saw that projects such as technological advancements and agricultural efficiency are progressing, highlighting the importance of cooperation among experts in various fields.

【Action Plan】

As an immediate action plan, we will share our experiences on social media and participate in the upcoming Hydrogen Festival to deepen our knowledge. In the mid-to-long term, we will apply what we learned to our studies and work.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)