



KAKEHASHI Project (United States)

Online Visiting Japan Program (Explore the Beauty of Ishikawa)

Follow-up Project Report

1. Program Overview

【Objectives and Overview】 This program was conducted online for past KAKEHASHI Project participants (alumni) to explore the "Beauty of Ishikawa" and had a virtual tour of Kanazawa Castle and presentations by KAKEHASHI Project alumni who had lived in Ishikawa. As a follow-up project, this program aimed to maintain and increase participants' interest in Japan and to strengthen the alumni network through exchanges and Q&A sessions among alumni.

【Participants】

Total: 10 participants from the U.S. and Canada (FY2015-FY2024 KAKEHASHI Project alumni)
(Breakdown) 9 participants from the U.S. (2 undergraduate/graduate students, 7 working youths)
1 participant from Canada (high school student)

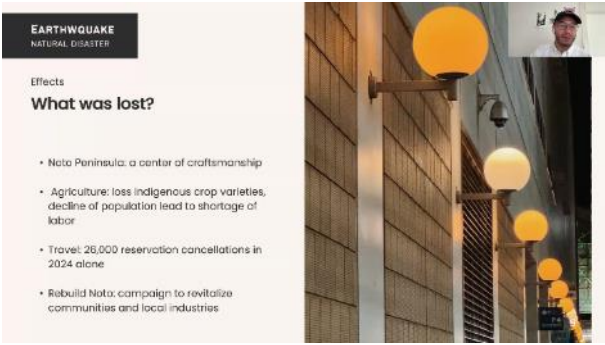
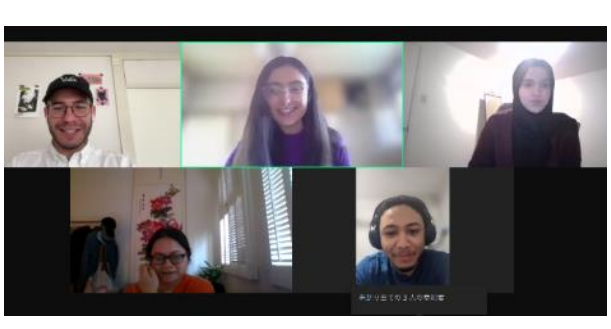
【Locations】 Ishikawa

【Schedule】

- Online Visiting Japan Program: March 30 (Sun), 2025
- 1. Opening Remarks
- 2. Address
Ms. SATOMI Emma, Researcher, North America Exchange Division,
North American Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- 3. 【Presentation】
Introduction to life in Japan and Ishikawa Prefecture by two KAKEHASHI Project alumni
KAKEHASHI Project alumni (FY2023 participants)
Ms. Michaela White
Mr. Adam Christopher Bittner
- 4. Q&A Session
- 5. 【Lecture】 “Lecture on Japanese Castles and Virtual Tour of Kanazawa Castle”
Lecturer: Mr. FUKUDA Kenta, National Government Licensed Guide Interpreter
Cooperation: TOPPAN Inc.
- 6. Q&A Session
- 7. Commemorative Photo
- 8. 【Exchange】 Networking with KAKEHASHI alumni
- 9. Information for Participants, Closing Remarks

2. Program Photos

Online Visiting Japan Program

 <i>About Me</i> - I was a participant of the Princeton in Ishikawa (PII) Japanese language and immersion program in summer of 2023 2 month homestay and intense Japanese language classes!	 EARTHQUAKE NATURAL DISASTER Effects What was lost? - Noto Peninsula: a center of craftsmanship - Agriculture: loss indigenous crop varieties, decline of population lead to shortage of labor - Travel: 26,000 reservation cancellations in 2024 alone - Rebuild Noto: campaign to revitalize communities and local industries
【Presentation】 Introduction to life in Japan and Ishikawa Prefecture by two KAKEHASHI Project alumni	【Presentation】 Introduction to life in Japan and Ishikawa Prefecture by two KAKEHASHI Project alumni
 Kanazawa Castle and the Maeda Family - Home of the Maeda Family, Japan's most powerful family after the Shogun - A castle worthy of the Great No.2 in wealth and influence	QUESTION 2. Are the castles only became beautifully decorated during the Edo period? During the Sengoku Period, the castles were built more to function for war, right??
【Lecture】 “Lecture on Japanese Castles and Virtual Tour of Kanazawa Castle”	【Q&A Session】
	
【Exchange】 Networking with KAKEHASHI alumni	【Commemorative Photo】

3. Participants' Inquiries and Interests(excerpt)

- ◆ **Regarding: 【Presentation】 Introduction to life in Japan and Ishikawa Prefecture by two KAKEHASHI Project alumni**
 - What do you think makes Ishikawa prefecture different or rather unique from other prefectures in Japan, or rather, generally different from other parts of the country you've been to?
 - What has your experience been like working and living in Japan recently? Do you feel like you would be able to work in Japan long term?

◆ **Regarding: [Lecture] “Lecture on Japanese Castles and Virtual Tour of Kanazawa Castle”**

- Did castles in Japan only became beautifully decorated from the Edo period? During the Sengoku Period, castles were built primarily to function for war, right?
- What is your favorite castle in Japan?

4. Voices from the Participants (excerpt)

◆ **High School Student (Canada)**

We truly enjoyed getting an insight into the 2 KAKEHASHI alumni's perspectives on their life in Ishikawa prefecture. It intrigued and fascinated me by its distinct and unique culture, making us interested in visiting there in the future.

◆ **Working Youth (U.S.)**

I always learn so much about Edo-era castles from your lectures. This is the second time I got to attend your presentation, and I learned so much about Kanazawa Castle, especially its unique art and design done for the Maeda family.

◆ **Working Youth (U.S.)**

Very much enjoyed the virtual tour. Our castle guide was very informative, and our American alumni were very helpful regarding recommendations for both touring and reading to understand more. I can't wait to independently study this on my own.

5. Voices from the Receiving Parties (excerpt)

◆ **Cooperating Organization**

We were deeply impressed with the program, and how two KAKEHASHI alumni with experience living in Ishikawa served as moderators and presenters. Allowing such alumni to take the lead and foster a strong sense of unity perfectly aligned with the objective of the project. We also felt their strong desire to contribute to the revitalization of tourism in Noto, an area that was affected by a strong earthquake. As for our company, we have been commissioned by Ishikawa Prefecture to digitize cultural assets, specifically by producing a VR reconstruction of Kanazawa Castle. We are pleased that what we created could be utilized in such a meaningful exchange program between Japan and North America.

Implementation Agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)