

## 2,300 American Students Visit Japan to Experience Japanese Culture and Regional Attractiveness Starting from May 12 as KAKEHASHI Project –the Bridge for Tomorrow-

The Japan Foundation implements a youth exchange project between Japan and the U.S., as part of the Youth Exchange Program with North America promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and a total of 4,600 students will participate in this project (dispatch of Japanese students to the U.S./ invitation of American students to Japan), beginning from Japanese fiscal year 2013.

In the invitation part, 2,300 American students in total, ranging from junior high school to graduate school, are invited to a 10-day study tour to Japan. During their stay, they are scheduled to travel to Tokyo and local areas, and visit Japanese host schools. They will experience at first hand various aspects of Japanese culture, visit historical heritage and local industries unique to the regions, and participate in the school exchange and homestay programs.

The project aims to deepen U.S. citizens' understanding of Japan and strengthen outbound announcements. It also intends to cultivate future leaders who will take the initiatives in Japan-U.S. exchange.

### ■ Invitation in May 2013: 4 groups/ 387 students

#### 1. University Group1 (50 participants)

Institutions: Murray State Univ.(KY) and Kent State Univ.(OH) Period: May 12 - 21

Visit to: Hyogo Prefecture (May 14 - 18)

#### 2. University Group2 (50 participants)

Institutions: Univ. of Wisconsin-Oshkosh(WI) and Rice Univ.(TX) Period: May 15 - 24

Visit to: Chiba Prefecture (May 17 - 21)

#### 3. University Group 3 (100 participants)

Institutions: George Mason State Univ.(VA), Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison(WI) and City Univ. of New York (CUNY, NY) Period: May 21 - 30

Visit to: Kanagawa and Kyoto Prefectures (May 23 - 27)

#### 4. High School & University Group 1 (187 participants)

Institutions: Foreign Language Immersion and Cultural Studies School (FLICS, MI), Adrian Schools(MI), Calloway County High School(KY), Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts(AR), Miami Palmetto Senior High School(FL), A. J. Dimond High School(AK), Colorado Japanese Language Education Association(CO) and Riverside Community College District(CA) Period: May 27 - June 5

Visit to: Hokkaido Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Aichi, Fukuoka and Kagoshima Prefectures (May 30 - June 2)

In May, the students will visit eleven prefectures (Hokkaido, Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi, Chiba, Kanagawa, Aichi, Hyogo, Kyoto, Fukuoka, and Kagoshima).

### KAKEHASHI Project –The Bridge for Tomorrow-

“KAKEHASHI Project –The Bridge for Tomorrow-”, promoted by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA), aims to revitalize and boost Japan’s economy, heighten potential interest in Japan, and increase the number of overseas visitors to Japan, as well as enhance international understanding of the Japan brand, including Japan’s strengths and attractiveness, e.g., “Cool Japan“, and Japanese-style “values”. As part of this program, the Japan-U.S. Educational Commission (Fulbright Japan), which was contributed the funds by MOFA, commissioned the implementation of the Japan-U.S. youth exchange project to the Japan Foundation in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Center and the Laurasian Institution.

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