Final Report
The U.S. portion of Youth Exchange Project with North America
"KAKEHASHI Project -The Bridge for Tomorrow-"
About “KAKEHASHI Project – The Bridge for Tomorrow”
(Youth Exchange Project with North America (U.S. portion))

“KAKEHASHI Project – The Bridge for Tomorrow” is a youth exchange program promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA), which aims to heighten potential interest in Japan and increase the number of overseas visitors to the country, as well as enhance international understanding of the “Japan brand,” or the nation’s strengths and attractiveness, such as Japanese-style values and “Cool Japan”.

The Japan Foundation implemented the U.S. portion of the KAKEHASHI Project, winning the planning competition and entrusted from the Japan-U.S. Educational Commission (Fulbright Japan) to which the government of Japan has provided funding.

In the 2 years of project term from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2015, 2,323 of the youths including junior high and high school students, undergraduate and graduate students, and young professionals of Japan were dispatched to the U.S., and 2,251 of the youths of the U.S. were invited to Japan, in total 4,574 of the youth exchange.

About the Japan Foundation

The Japan Foundation was established in October 1972 as a government-affiliated special corporation with the objective of promoting international cultural exchange through the implementation of comprehensive programs. In October 2003, the Foundation was re-launched as an independent administrative organization under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

With a global network consisting of its Tokyo headquarters, Kyoto office, two domestic Japanese language institutes the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa; and the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai and 22 overseas offices in 21 countries, the Foundation operates a number of programs, often in partnership with other organizations, in various fields including youth exchanges, arts and cultural exchanges, Japanese language education overseas, and Japanese studies and intellectual exchanges.

Message from the President

Since the youth are our future, they are an important player for the further development of international relations and cultural exchanges.

As part of the Japanese government initiative to promote youth exchanges between Japan and North America, the Japan Foundation organized the “KAKEHASHI Project—the bridge for tomorrow,” for the 2013–2014 Japanese fiscal year, aimed at expanding the opportunities for the younger generation in Japan and the United States to promote mutual understanding and friendship.

Under the project, approximately 4,600 young people from high schools, universities, and other institutions in Japan and the U.S. visited each other’s countries during the two-year period to communicate with people in the host country. Young people, so full of enthusiasm to learn and to appreciate and enjoy different cultures, have formed many new friendships through this project.

In planning and implementing the project, we placed particular focus on introducing the attractiveness of Japanese culture and local communities. The total of 2251 U.S. participants visited as many as 137 cities in 36 prefectures in Japan. We are pleased to have received feedback from many of the participants that they found the Japanese local communities truly wonderful.

We are also happy and grateful that the KAKEHASHI Project was able to develop cooperative partnerships with various individuals and organizations committed to Japan–U.S. exchanges, receiving broad support on many levels from the federal government to local communities in the United States. We are confident that the youth exchange has been successful in deepening and expanding the ties between both countries.

I sincerely hope that the participants in the KAKEHASHI project will continue to play an important role as promoters of international exchanges that will foster mutual understanding, trust, and friendship between the people of Japan and the United States in the future.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the generosity and warm support of everyone involved in this project, and for the dedication and cooperation of organizations, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fulbright Japan, the Laurasian Institution, and the Japan International Cooperation Center.

May 2015
Hiroyasu Ando
President
The Japan Foundation
Overview of KAKEHASHI Project

Promoting the beauty of Japan’s various regions throughout the U.S. Realizing nationwide exchanges between Japan and the U.S.

Invitation Program

In the Invitation Program, 2,251 young people (112 groups) from the U.S. visited 37 prefectures across Japan during stays that were generally scheduled for 10 days and 9 nights. In addition to activities such as experiencing traditional regional cultures and touring local industries, the participants deepened their interaction with young people of the same generation through school exchanges and homestays. They also gained a broader and more profound understanding of the attractiveness and strengths of Japan by observing cutting edge technology at companies and other organizations as well as visiting historical sites. The many positive comments from participants included “I became interested in studying more about Japanese people and their culture,” “I reaffirmed the importance of the U.S.-Japan relations,” “I would like to contribute to the development of relations between Japan and the U.S. in the future,” and “I will recommend visiting Japan to my family and friends.”

Dispatch Program

In the Dispatch Program, 2,323 young people (100 groups) from Japan visited 36 states, the District, and one territory (76 cities in total) across the U.S. during stays that were generally scheduled for 10 days and 9 nights. Participants engaged enthusiastically in exchange activities, each in his or her own way, offering the unique perspective of youth through presentations delivered in English using power point and other materials they had prepared for each school and group, and exhibitions of traditional performing arts passed down in their local areas, among other activities. These young people were able to promote understanding of the attractiveness and strengths of Japan to a wide range of U.S. citizens, from members of Congress and state government officials, to high school and university students of their own age, and the local community. The many positive comments from young adult participants included “I believe this experience will lead to future long-term relationships,” and “I felt strong response for an international exchange in the future.”

1. Having participated in the KAKEHASHI project, please rate your overall comprehension of Japan’s strengths and attractiveness.

- Somewhat high 53.2%
- Very high 49.7%
- Somewhat improved 33.4%
- Very improved 63.8%

96.9% of participants answered “Very high” or “Somewhat high.”

2. How was your impression of Japan changed after visiting Japan?

- Not so much improved 2.6%
- Not improved 0.2%
- Not at all 0.1%
- Somewhat improved 10.0%
- Very improved 1.3%
- Not so much 2.1%
- Not at all 0.1%

99.1% of participants answered “Satisfied” or “Somewhat satisfied.”

3. Are you interested in returning to Japan in the future?

1. Having participated in the KAKEHASHI project, were you able to introduce Japan’s strengths and attractiveness to people in the United States effectively?

- Limited 3.0%
- Not at all 0.1%
- Somewhat improved 10.0%
- Very improved 83.5%
- Not so much improved 1.3%
- Not at all 0.1%
- Somewhat effectively 41.7%
- Very effectively 32.6%
- Not so much effectively 1.8%
- Not at all 0.1%

99.1% of participants answered “Satisfied” or “Somewhat satisfied.”

4. Are you satisfied with your participation in the KAKEHASHI project?

- Limited 0.9%
- No 8.1%
- Somewhat high 16.0%
- High 66.5%
- Very high 81.4%
- Not so much 1.5%
- Not at all 0.2%

98.3% of participants answered “Very satisfied” or “Satisfied.”
Introduction to the Programs

Providing a broad range of exchange opportunities for the next generation of Japan-U.S. exchanges, from junior and senior high school students and university students, to young researchers and innovators.

Basic Programs

High School Exchange Program

The High School Exchange Program invited 906 junior and senior high school students from across the U.S., most of whom were studying Japanese, to Japan for 10 days, during which they deepened their understanding of the country’s attractions through activities including regional visits, school exchanges, and homestays. In addition, 1,273 junior and senior high school students selected from across Japan were dispatched to the U.S. for 10 days, where they promoted the attractions of Japan with a focus on aspects such as hometown culture and nature.

Schools:

<Invitation> Foreign Language Immersion and Cultural Studies (FLICUS) (Michigan), Adrian Schools (Michigan), Calhoun County High School (Kentucky), Arkansas School for Mathematics, Science and the Arts High School (Arkansas), Palm Beach Senior High School (Florida), A.J. Otis Elementary School (Alabama), Colorado-Japanese Teachers Association (Colorado), Hanshin Christian Academy (Guam), Westside High School (Texas), Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School (Texas), Oakdale High School (South Carolina), Brantford Public High School (Ontario), Richmond Independent School District (Michigan), Highland High School (South Carolina), Monarch High School (Colorado), and many others from across the U.S, most of whom were studying Japanese, to Japan for 10 days, during which they deepened their understanding of the country’s attractions through activities including regional visits, school exchanges, and homestays. In addition, 1,273 junior and senior high school students selected from across Japan were dispatched to the U.S. for 10 days, where they promoted the attractions of Japan with a focus on aspects such as hometown culture and nature.

University Exchange Program

The University Exchange Program invited 500 university students from across the U.S., most of whom were studying Japanese, to Japan for 10 days, during which they deepened their understanding of the country’s attractions through activities including regional visits, school exchanges, and homestays. In addition, 474 university students selected from across Japan were dispatched to the U.S. for 10 days, where they promoted the attractions of Japan with a focus on aspects such as hometown culture and nature.

Institutions:

<Invitation>University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, George Mason University (Virginia), City University of New York (New York), Riverside Community College District (California), University of California Irvine (California), The University of Kansas (Kansas), University of Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania), United States Military Academy (New York), Five College Consortium Group (Massachusetts), University of North Carolina at Charlotte (North Carolina), Clemson University (South Carolina), University of Hawaii at Manoa (Hawaii), University of South Florida (Florida), Arizona State University (Arizona), The University of Alabama (Alabina), and many others from across the U.S, most of whom were studying Japanese, to Japan for 10 days, during which they deepened their understanding of the country’s attractions through activities including regional visits, school exchanges, and homestays. In addition, 1,273 junior and senior high school students selected from across Japan were dispatched to the U.S. for 10 days, where they promoted the attractions of Japan with a focus on aspects such as hometown culture and nature.

Thematic Programs

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Schools:

<Invitation>Murray State University (Kentucky), Kent State University (Ohio), University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh (Wisconsin), Rice University (Texas), University of Wisconsin-Madison (Wisconsin), George Mason University (Virginia), City University of New York (New York), Riverside Community College District (California), University of California Irvine (California), The University of Kansas (Kansas), University of Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania), United States Military Academy (New York), Five College Consortium Group (Massachusetts), University of North Carolina at Charlotte (North Carolina), Clemson University (South Carolina), University of Hawaii at Manoa (Hawaii), University of South Florida (Florida), Arizona State University (Arizona), The University of Alabama (Alabina), and many others from across the U.S, most of whom were studying Japanese, to Japan for 10 days, during which they deepened their understanding of the country’s attractions through activities including regional visits, school exchanges, and homestays. In addition, 1,273 junior and senior high school students selected from across Japan were dispatched to the U.S. for 10 days, where they promoted the attractions of Japan with a focus on aspects such as hometown culture and nature.

Institutions:

<Invitation>The Center for a New American Security (CNAS): Asia Society, United States Institute of Peace, Pacific Forum CSIS, Heritage Foundation, Armitage International, Council on Foreign Relations, Henry L. Stimson Center, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI); Foreign Policy Initiative, Georgetown University / Professor Alexander, Georgetown University / Professor Cha, The Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, The George Washington University / Professor Mochizuki, The George Washington University / Professor Williams; The Brookings Institution, American University, National Economies for Development, Truman National Security Project, West Coast Center; The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF); Congressional Research Service; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Korea Economic Institute of America (KEIA), and many others from across the U.S, most of whom were studying Japanese, to Japan for 10 days, during which they deepened their understanding of the country’s attractions through activities including regional visits, school exchanges, and homestays. In addition, 1,273 junior and senior high school students selected from across Japan were dispatched to the U.S. for 10 days, where they promoted the attractions of Japan with a focus on aspects such as hometown culture and nature.

Young Researchers Exchange Program

The program invited 251 young American researchers (from 26 institutions) from policy think tanks mainly in Washington, D.C., to Japan for 10 days, and organized exchanges with related institutions and personnel on the American side. The program included visits to Japan’s leading policy think tanks, universities, and research institutions, providing insights into Japan’s domestic politics, economy, and education. Similarly, 31 young researchers (from 5 institutions) from Japan’s leading policy think tanks were dispatched to the U.S. for 7-10 days, and held exchanges with related institutions and personnel on the American side.

Institutions:

<Invitation>The Institute of Peace, Center for a New American Security (CNAS): Asia Society, United States Institute of Peace, Pacific Forum CSIS, Heritage Foundation, Armitage International, Council on Foreign Relations, Henry L. Stimson Center, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI); Foreign Policy Initiative, Georgetown University / Professor Alexander, Georgetown University / Professor Cha, The Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, The George Washington University / Professor Mochizuki, The George Washington University / Professor Williams; The Brookings Institution, American University, National Economies for Development, Truman National Security Project, West Coast Center; The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF); Congressional Research Service; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Korea Economic Institute of America (KEIA), and many others from across the U.S, most of whom were studying Japanese, to Japan for 10 days, during which they deepened their understanding of the country’s attractions through activities including regional visits, school exchanges, and homestays. In addition, 1,273 junior and senior high school students selected from across Japan were dispatched to the U.S. for 10 days, where they promoted the attractions of Japan with a focus on aspects such as hometown culture and nature.
**Thematic Programs**

**Young Creators Exchange Program**

The Young Creators Exchange Program invited 19 promising young American creators in the 4 areas of design, fashion, art, and animation, which are the main fields of the Cool Japan policy, for 7 days during which they deepened their understanding of Japan’s attractions through exchanges with related institutions and personnel in each field. In addition, 20 young creators were dispatched to the U.S. for 7 days, where they promoted Japan’s attractions through exchanges with related institutions and personnel in each field.

**Participants:**

**Dispatch >**
- Takakazu Kawasaki, Tadakiko Sakurai, Etsuko Tachikawa, Ayana Takahara, Yuri Nakaue (Design), Akiko Inoue, Yasushichi Kurosawa, Mayuko Ban, Takuyo Morokawa, Shinsuke Morishita (Fashion), Marko Tominaga, Gaiden Kudo, Shinya Kagawa, Yosuke Goto, Yuka Nakamura (Art), Ryo Oikawa, Yutaka Tachikawa, Sanori Shinoki, Aya Suzuki, Saki Muramoto (Animation)

**Invitation Program**

**Schools:**
- Catawba College (North Carolina), LIM College (New York), Massachusetts College of Art and Design (Massachusetts), Montclair State University (New Jersey), Rhode Island School of Design (Rhode Island), University of Cincinnati (Ohio)

**Dispatch**
- Tokyo University of the Arts (Tokyo), Tama Art University (Tokyo), Bunka Fashion Graduate University (Tokyo), Musashino Art University (Tokyo)

**Okinawa Program**

With the aim of communicating the charms of Okinawa and furthering understanding of Okinawa in America, the Okinawa Program dispatched 250 high school students from Okinawa to the U.S. for 10 days, and invited 250 American high school students to Okinawa for 10 days.

**Schools:**
- DePaul University (Illinois), Loyola Marymount University (California), University of Hawaii at Manoa (Hawaii), University of Massachusetts, Boston (Massachusetts)

**Dispatch >**
- Okinama Senior High School, Ieza High School, Furukuma Senior High School, Tomari High School, Kaha Senior High School, Okinawa Shogaku High School, Nahe High School, Naha Kokusai Senior High School, Ieza Senior High School, Yawama High School

**Student Creators Exchange Program**

The Student Creators Exchange Program invited 78 university and graduate students from across the U.S. majoring in creative fields such as design, fashion, art, and video (including animation), to Japan for 10 days, during which they deepened their understanding of Japan’s attractions through regional visits, school exchanges, and so on. Similarly, 111 Japanese university and graduate students majoring in creative fields were dispatched to the U.S. for 10 days, where they promoted the culture and attractions of Japan mainly through works they had created.

**Participants:**
- Invitations > Reckart, Minkyu Lee, Natasha Allegri (Animation)
- Young Creators Exchange Program invited 250 high school students from Okinawa to the U.S. for 10 days.

**Participants:**
- Invitations > Ayana Takahara, Yuri Nakaue (Design), Akiko Inoue, Yasushichi Kurosawa, Mayuko Ban, Takuyo Morokawa, Shinsuke Morishita (Fashion), Marko Tominaga, Gaiden Kudo, Shinya Kagawa, Yosuke Goto, Yuka Nakamura (Art), Ryo Oikawa, Yutaka Tachikawa, Sanori Shinoki, Aya Suzuki, Saki Muramoto (Animation)

**Invitation Program**

**Schools:**
- Catawba College (North Carolina), LIM College (New York), Massachusetts College of Art and Design (Massachusetts), Montclair State University (New Jersey), Rhode Island School of Design (Rhode Island), University of Cincinnati (Ohio)

**Dispatch >**
- Tokyo University of the Arts (Tokyo), Tama Art University (Tokyo), Bunka Fashion Graduate University (Tokyo), Musashino Art University (Tokyo)

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**Schools:**
- DePaul University (Illinois), Loyola Marymount University (California), University of Hawaii at Manoa (Hawaii), University of Massachusetts, Boston (Massachusetts)

**Dispatch >**
- Okinama Senior High School, Ieza High School, Furukuma Senior High School, Tomari High School, Kaha Senior High School, Okinawa Shogaku High School, Nahe High School, Naha Kokusai Senior High School, Ieza Senior High School, Yawama High School

**Japanese American Young Adults Invitation Program**

The program invited 90 Japanese American university and graduate students to Japan for 10 days, with the aim of creating a network with the Japanese American community among the new generation by promoting understanding of the roots of Americans of Japanese descent. This was a collaborative project with the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL).

**Participants:**
- Invitations > Shoji Akimoto, Akira Okabe, Kousuke Saito, Koyuki Saito, Kazunori Nakamura, Nishihara, Yasutaka Isayama, Hideaki Kuronuma, Takashi Shibuya, Shoji Akimoto, Akira Okabe, Kosuke Saito, Koyuru Saito, Kazunori Inouye's legacy. This is a collaborative project with the U.S.-Japan Council.

**Participant >**
- DePaul University (Illinois), Loyola Marymount University (California), University of Hawaii at Manoa (Hawaii), University of Massachusetts, Boston (Massachusetts)

**Dispatch >**
- Sophia University (Tokyo), Showa Women’s University (Tokyo), Maizama University (Ehime), Ritsumeikan University (Kyoto)

**Student Scientist Dispatch Program**

This program dispatched 49 winners and top award recipients of the Science Intercollegiate Contest awards and the Robot Contest of “Colleges of Technology” ("Robo-con") to the U.S. for 10 days, where they promoted the strengths and attractions of Japan’s science and technology with a focus on the research themes of the participants. This is a collaborative program with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

**Participants/ Schools:**
- The Science Intercollegiate Contest Winners, Akita National College of Technology (Hokkaido), Okinawa National College of Technology (Okinawa)

**The National Cherry Blossom Festival Goodwill Ambassadors Invitation Program**

The program invited 7 university students appointed as Goodwill Ambassadors by the National Cherry Blossom Festival to Japan for 10 days, where they deepened their understanding of Japan’s attractions through regional visits, school exchanges, and so on.
Program Activities

Organizing a wide variety of exchange programs that allow participants to deepen their understanding of Japan's attractiveness

Participants conducted exchanges through various programs that focused on Japan’s attractiveness, including Japanese cultural experiences, school exchanges, presentations, student dialogues, and introductions to cutting-edge technologies.

[University Invitation Group] Experience of Japanese Calligraphy at University of Tsukuba

[Student Scientist Dispatch Group] School exchange at University of Delaware

[Young Researchers Dispatch Group] Discussion with U.S. policymakers

[University Dispatch Group] School exchange at City University of New York

[Young Professional Community Advocates Group] Visit to local brewing company

[Student Scientists Dispatch Group] Observation of Wadaiko at The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai

[Student Creators Invitation Group] Experience of Nihon Buyo

[Japan Bowl High Achievers Invitation Group] Courtesy call on Honorary Patron of Japan Bowl Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado

[High School Dispatch Group] Presentation at Abraham Lincoln High School

[Young Creators Dispatch Group] Observation of Japanese design exhibition

[Japan Bowl High Achievers Invitation Group] Courtesy call on Honorary Patron of Japan Bowl Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado

[High School Dispatch Group] School exchange at Washington Latin Public Charter School

[Student Scientists Dispatch Group] Visit to City University of New York

[University Dispatch Group] School exchange at Arizona State University

[University Dispatch Group] Visit to Meiji Jingu Shrine

[Japanese American Young Adults Invitation Group] Experience of Wadaiko at The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai

[University Dispatch Group] Presentation at Abraham Lincoln High School

[Young Professional Community Advocates Group] Visit to local brewing company

[University Dispatch Group] School exchange at Arizona State University
Voices from Participants

Basic Programs

"I was able to discover many good qualities of the United States and Japan as well as the differences between the two countries. I developed a bond with the many people I met. I am inspired to travel to many other countries. It would make me happy if my participation in this project helped to build a bridge between the two countries." - The participant of High School Exchange Program (Dispatch)

"I was very happy to learn about the many aspects of daily teenage culture through my homestay and visiting two high schools. I feel I have made many friends and gained a lot more knowledge about a culture that has interested me for years. This whole experience has changed my life for the better." - The participant of High School Exchange Program (Dispatch)

"I think Japan’s collective social nature (i.e. everyone worrying together and putting the community before one’s self) is very admirable and makes for a strong bond with Japanese people, including appreciation of courtesy, law and respect for human rights." - The participant of Young Creators Exchange Program (Dispatch)

"The KAKEHASHI Project gave me an opportunity to think seriously and study about the appeals and traditions of Okinawa for the first time. Okinawa has a tradition that is richer than I ever imagined. I thought the traditions that are hidden in the local communities of Okinawa were particularly appealing. I am very proud to have had this opportunity to talk people about the rich and wonderful culture of Okinawa." - The participant of Okinawa Program (Dispatch)

"Going to Hiroshima was especially a moving experience to me as I studied about the war, and worked to improve Japan-U.S. relations in the postwar period." - The participant of TOMODACHI INOUYE SCHOLARS Program (Dispatch)

"I definitely want to continue studying the language. Becoming fluent in Japanese has always been a goal but now it is truly important to me to return. I would also like to learn more about the corporate or business aspect of things." - The participant of University Exchange Program (Dispatch)

"I would like to tell people about the history and contributions of Japanese Americans, and about mutual respect for other cultures in the context of international exchange. Daniel Inouye’s history in particular deserves to be passed on, for his legacy as a Japanese American who endured repeated hardships, fought for the U.S. during the war, and worked to improve Japan-U.S. relations in the postwar period." - The participant of TOMODACHI INOUYE SCHOLARS Program (Dispatch)

"The KAKEHASHI Project gave me an opportunity to think seriously and study about the appeals and traditions of Okinawa for the first time. Okinawa has a tradition that is richer than I ever imagined. I thought the traditions that are hidden in the local communities of Okinawa were particularly appealing. I am very proud to have had this opportunity to talk people about the rich and wonderful culture of Okinawa." - The participant of Okinawa Program (Dispatch)

"I will actually be looking to Japan-based designers and artists for both inspiration and partnerships in the future. There are quite a few projects I am working on currently that I can apply what I have observed, and most importantly, the connections I have made. This is certainly the beginning of something and not the end." - The participant of Young Creators Exchange Program (Dispatch)

"Throughout my experience during this project, in the Okinawan Memorial Park / Museum emphasized how Okinawans still kept improving, and that the dangers that were presented were just a nightmare that they fought through." - The participant of Okinawa Program (Dispatch)

"I am very honored and extremely happy that I was able to participate in this KAKEHASHI PROJECT! I was able to explore all sorts of places in Japan that regular tours do not, and much more in depth. I am very thankful for the wonderful homestay!" - The participant of Japanese American Young Adults Invitation Program (Dispatch)

"From the food, shrines, museums and art made me truly open my eyes to the beauty and culture that lies within Japan. The traditions practiced here make Japan’s strength and attractiveness truly stand out from other countries." - The participant of The National Cherry Blossom Festival Goodwill Ambassadors Invitation Program

Themeic Programs

"In each session, not only did we listen to the other party’s talks, but we were able to communicate information based on our areas of expertise, resulting in an interactive exchange of opinions. When meeting and talking with young researchers at sessions such as the roundtable talks, we had a great chance to introduce Japanese researchers of the next generation to them, which I believe will lead to future long-term friendships." - The participant of Young Researchers Exchange Program (Dispatch)

"The opportunity to engage one-on-one with Japanese government officials, academics, researchers and others has left me with a very strong impression of how close the U.S. and Japan are. Both countries benefit from our relationship, and both countries share the same values of democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights." - The participant of Young Researchers Exchange Program (Invitation)

"I did not know to what extent the things we were doing would be understood overseas, but we were able to give presentations in various places during this program, and I could see the reaction of the people in the U.S., and feel strong response. I want to use the connections made on this visit to work overseas in the future." - The participant of Young Creators Exchange Program (Dispatch)

"I am very honored and extremely happy that I was able to participate in this KAKEHASHI PROJECT! I was able to explore all sorts of places in Japan that regular tours do not, and much more in depth. I am very thankful for the wonderful homestay!" - The participant of Japan Bowl High Achievers Invitation Program

"I believe the KAKEHASHI project showed me a different aspect of Japan that I would not have explored on my own. From the food, shrines, museums and art made me truly open my eyes to the beauty and culture that lies within Japan. The traditions practiced here make Japan’s strength and attractiveness truly stand out from other countries." - The participant of The National Cherry Blossom Festival Goodwill Ambassadors Invitation Program

"I felt that members of the younger generation like ourselves have to develop Japan’s culture and technology in the future, and create a foundation that will deliver a firm impression overseas that “when it comes to this area, Japan is No. 1.” - The participant of Student Scientist Dispatch Program

"KAKEHASHI Card" was created as a communication tool to deliver Japan’s charms and deeper intersections. It is designed by Eisuke Tachikawa (NOSIGNER), one of the KAKEHASHI Project participants. It can be used as name card during exchange trip and also as greeting card after returning to Japan. Moreover, it is turned into a KAKEHASHI-shaped origami, by folding along the lines. Origami is a Japanese art familiar to people all over the world, and therefore, by making a bridge-shaped paper object as a symbol of international exchanges, we express our aim which is youth exchanges between Japan and the U.S. to be more enhanced and last long.
Communication and Follow-up Activities upon Returning Home

Sharing and continuing the results of the program through follow-up activities upon returning home

After returning to their home countries, both Japanese and U.S. participants communicated and shared the results of the KAKEHASHI project through a variety of follow-up activities. They delivered presentations throughout schools and communities, published activity reports on public websites and in school magazines, posted videos on YouTube and Facebook, and prepared written reports on their activities.

Examples of Promotion and Follow-Up Activities After Returning to Japan/U.S.

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<tr>
<td>Miyagigakuin Women's University</td>
<td>&quot;Partir&quot; &quot;KAKEHASHI Project Activity Report&quot;</td>
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Media Coverage

The KAKEHASHI project drew attention from various Japanese and U.S. media.

The number of media reports on the project in Japan and the U.S. amounted to 439, primarily from the Japanese media. The Japan Foundation also promoted communications by actively releasing information related to the youths’ participation in program activities. This information was shared through a Facebook page established for the KAKEHASHI project and the YouTube video site "JFTV." Notable Japanese Media Coverage:

- "University students from the U.S. learn about the status of reconstruction – Delegation visits Fukushima Prefecture, scheduled to visit various locations during their stay until the 30th"
- "12 students from the University of Fukui to present information about Japan in the U.S., rehearse before the U.S. visit"
- "The strength needed in modern society – Caring for others"
- "Experiencing culture, learning about history and nature in Japan – High school students from Utah"
- "A cup of tea for friendship – High school students from the U.S. visit Shingu High School"
- "U.S. high school students quiet their minds through Zen meditation as part of international exchange program – Chounji Temple in Maizuru"
- "21 high school students from the U.S. visit the Kure National College of Technology for student exchange"
- "U.S. high school students paint horse picture tablets, write their wishes in Japanese on the reverse side"
- "High school students from the U.S. enjoy Star Festival celebrations – Student exchange at Ogaki Kita Senior High School"
- "Introducing traditional culture to high school students from the U.S. – Ogaki Kita Senior High School"
- "Making Kiritanpo is fun! American high school students experience culture in Odate"