

KAKEHASHI Project Update

Osaka University (OU) has received very positive feedback about their involvement with the KAKEHASHI Project last December.

On December 19, 2017, approximately 50 young Asian American visited OU as part of this project. The OU visit is part of the one week long KAKEHASHI Project tour of Japan sponsored by Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The logistics are coordinated by the Japanese International Cooperation Center (JICE). Over the last five years, the project has sponsored hundreds of young Americans to Japan. The goal is to introduce the next generation of American leaders to Japan.

The participants were 18 to 25 years old. Their experiences included morning and afternoon academic, business and cultural activities. The group that visited OU spent the part of their time in Tokyo and then visited Kansai.

Approximately 40 OU volunteers and the participants broke up into small groups and toured Toyonaka campus. Their experiences included visits to robotics laboratories and small group discussions about academic and cultural life in Japan.



A group of OU volunteers and Americans visit to the OU UC/UCEAP Osaka Office

The OU student volunteers were led by Yuki Shirakawa and Jiro Shimaya. Their efforts were coordinated by Emeritus Professor Ryoichi Kuboi and the University of California Education Abroad Program Office.

Most importantly, JICE conducted a survey of various activities during the visit. We are happy to state that all participants found the OU visit very valuable. Bonds between OU students and Americans were formed. They also stated that they would stay in contact through social media.

Our congratulations go out to all student volunteers, especially Ms. Shirakawa and Mr. Shimaya.