



U.S.-Japan Youth Exchange



CUNY-HOSEI KAKEHASHI

Friday, November 7, 2014 / 9:15am-4:00pm @ Little State Theater



As part of the Kakehashi (Bridge to Tomorrow) Project, LaGuardia Community College is hosting a group of students from Hosei University in Tokyo, Japan. The Kakehashi Project is an initiative by the Japanese government to promote the intercollegiate exchange between the U.S. and Japan. LaGuardia Community College participated in this project and sent 50 CUNY students to a fully-funded 10-day trip to Japan in 2013.

The Hosei students will be visiting New York on the Kakehashi project in November and are visiting LaGuardia on Friday, November 7. This is a rare opportunity to interact with students from Japan and discuss international, cross-cultural issues between Japan and the U.S. with Japanese students. Students in Japan-related courses are highly encouraged to participate.

During the Hosei University's visit, we will also welcome Dr. Gregory Pflugfelder, Associate Professor of Japanese History at Columbia University, who will give us a talk on Godzilla's Global History.

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We are currently looking for student participants who can join this event on Friday, November 7, 2014. The event will begin at 10:00am and finishes at 4:00pm. Lunch will be provided. All CUNY students are welcome to join, but you should register for the event at <http://bit.ly/lagccEventReg>.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2014

- Community Presentation Event (10:00am-4:00 noon @ LaGuardia CC)
A group of students from Hosei University in Tokyo will make presentations on four different themes about Japan.



Program

Participants

- Hosei Students (23 students)
- CUNY Students (25 students or more)
- Profs. Katsuro Nakano and Mako Yoshimura (Hosei)
- Prof. Greg Pflugfelder (Columbia University)
- Dean Ann Feibel and Dr. Bernard A. Polnariiev (LaGCC)
- Profs. Sigmund Shen (English), Robin Kietlinski (Social Science), Kyoko Toyama (Counseling), Rieko Ishibashi (ELA), and Tomonori Nagano (ELA)

Agenda

- 9:10am Arrive in Little Theater
- 9:15am Welcome Remarks by Dean Ann Feibel and Dr. Bernard A. Polnariiev
- 9:30am Gift exchange (chaperons only)
- 10:00am Group Presentations by Hosei students

- 11:30am Move to M-building Cafeteria and lunch
- 12:30pm Come back to Little Theater
- 12:40pm Dr. Greg Pflugfelder's lecture "The Many Faces of Godzilla"
- 1:40pm Break into four small groups and move to classrooms
 - Group A: Room M-151 (Prof. Tomonori Nagano)
 - Group B: Room M-152 (Prof. Rieko Ishibashi)
 - Group C: Room M-158 (Prof. Kyoko Toyama)
 - Group D: Room M-161 (Prof. Robin Kietlinski)
- 1:50pm Small group discussions
- 3:00pm Come back to Little Theater and each group make short presentations about their discussions
Students' gift exchange
- 3:55pm Closing remarks
- 4:00pm Leave for sightseeing? Alternatively, Hosei students can observe classes at LaGuardia (most classes meet from 4:25pm to 5:25pm).

Note

- Group A needs a changing room (Mainstage Dressing Room) from 9:30am-12:00pm.
- All Hosei groups need speakers, microphones, and a projector.
- Both LaGuardia and Hosei need to arrange gift(s) for Gift Exchange.

- **Group A: Public Education System and Formation of Middle Class Virtue in Japan**
Presenters: Ms. Yuki Ohno, Ms. Ruka Kohara, Ms. Misa Matsue, Ms. Saki Tominaga, & Ms. Megumi Shimbo
- **Group B: Local Diversity in Japan**
Presenters: Ms. Haruko Kawabe, Ms. Risa Takahashi, Ms. Aya Nakasone, Ms. Eri Aihara, Ms. Sara Mizutani, & Ms. Manami Kitano
- **Group C: Post-3.11 and Students/Young People in Japan**
Presenters: Mr. Shuhei Yamamoto, Ms. Chiaki Doi, Ms. Mika Matsumoto, Ms. Yuma Taira, Ms. Tomoka Uozumi, & Mr. Ryunosuke Kuwabara
- **Group D: Cool Japan as Post-3.11 Potential Power**
Presenters: Mr. Tomohiko Ichikawa, Mr. Morihiro Kurita, Ms. Chihiro Matsumoto, Ms. Miho Nakashima, Mr. Hiroto Yamazaki, & Ms. Hitomi Shiono

Presentation Abstracts

1. Group A: The Public Education System and the Formation of Middle Class Virtue in Japan

• **Presenters**

Ms. Yuki Ohno, Ms. Ruka Kohara, Ms. Misa Matsue, Ms. Saki Tominaga, & Ms. Megumi Shimbo

• **Presentation Abstract**

We focus on Japan's education system and its relation with the formation of middle class virtues. One of the most distinctive features of Japanese education is that schooling is spreading among the people, and occupies the most important place in children's lives. They spend a greater amount of time at school. In compulsory education, schools are in operation for as many as 240 days a year including Saturdays. In their school lives, children not only acquire knowledge of many subjects, but also learn and nurture values and virtues of the middle class. They learn early on to maintain cooperative relationships with their peers, to follow the school routines, and to value punctuality. Classroom management emphasizes student responsibility and stewardship through emphasis on daily chores such as cleaning of desks and scrubbing of classroom floors. Students are encouraged to develop strong loyalties to their social groups (e.g. to their class, their after-school circles). Furthermore, students are taught proper manners, how to speak politely, and how to address adults as well as how to relate to their peers in the appropriate manner. We introduce the daily school life by using movies and photos, and feature the function of Japan's education system as the institution of fostering middle class virtues.

2. Group B: Local Diversity in Japan

• **Presenters**

Ms. Haruko Kawabe, Ms. Risa Takahashi, Ms. Aya Nakasone, Ms. Eri Aihara, Ms. Sara Mizutani, & Ms. Manami Kitano

• **Presentation Abstract**

We introduce "yuru-kyara" and "The B-1 Grand Prix," and consider what these emerging local movements mean for cultural diversity in Japan. Yuru-kyaras are anime-style mascot characters that represent various prefectures or cities of Japan. Each yuru-kyara can be seen on posters, brochures, and websites that treat visitors to a fun and inviting symbol of the area. There are 1,288 kinds of it. The B-1 Grand Prix is the Japan's biggest food festival. At this event, foodies can enjoy cheap everyday dishes and noodles with their own identity, usually a regional one. In Japan, after the economic bubble popped, local governments and companies had to start thinking harder about how to survive without the money that used to come their way, and so they began actively pushing their traditional specialties and creating new ones to differentiate themselves from their neighbors, to create jobs and garner more tourist money. For these purposes, local governments make good use of their own yuru-kyara and food. Now there are TV programs focusing on discussing the differences between prefectures, like foods, dialects, local traditions, and even stereotypical tendencies of people who were born and grew up there. Cultural movements of yuru-kyara and the B-1 Grand Prix contribute to revitalizing local culture and fostering local identity. We sketch out some features of local diversity burgeoning in Japan that is called the most homogeneous society.

3. Group C: Post-3.11 and Students/Young People in Japan

• **Presenters**

Mr. Shuhei Yamamoto, Ms. Chiaki Doi, Ms. Mika Matsumoto, Ms. Miho Nakashima, Ms. Tomoka Uozumi, & Mr. Ryunosuke Kuwabara

• **Presentation Abstract**

The 3.11 Great East Earthquake severely damaged the Japanese society physically and mentally in 2011. However, we, Japanese have been working very hard to overcome the damages. It was the cooperation by which Japanese people could keep on working in these three years. The cooperativeness of Japanese people includes two abilities. One is the ability to understand the others. Another is the ability to adjust and to coordinate with the others. The former could be seen in the volunteer activities in the post-3.11 society. And the latter could be seen in the national-wide

cooperation such as the electricity saving, as well as in the local-level cooperation such as supporting at temporally housings in the post-3.11 society. The presentation will focus on the potentialities and powers of communities and young people in the post-3.11 Japan, with a key word of "和" = "WA" ("Harmony," "Cooperativeness" and/or "Peace").

4. Group D: Cool Japan as Post-3.11 Potential Power

- **Presenters**

Mr. Tomohiko Ichikawa, Mr. Morihiro Kurita, Ms. Chihiro Matsumoto, Ms. Yuma Taira, Mr. Hiroto Yamazaki, & Ms. Hitomi Shiono

- **Presentation Abstract**

While the impact of the Great East Earthquake was enormous in March 11, 2011, we, Japanese have been working very hard to recover. One of the major strategies for Rebirth of Japan is "Cool Japan." We focus on "the soft power" of Cool Japan with three key words: "美 (Bi)"=Beauty, "技 (Waza)" =Technology/Skill, and "心 (Kokoro) " =Mind/Spirit. "美 (Bi or Beauty)" is seen with Kawaii (cute) such as Purikura or photo booths to make photo stickers with friends, or Cleanness (especially in the public places such as public toilettes). "技 (Waza or Technology/Skill)" is with manufacturing such as small factories, or entertainment such as "projection mapping." "心 (Kokoro or Mind/Sprit)" is with Bushi-do (the codes of Samurai), or Omotenashi (hospitality). We will present the Cool Japan as the new Japan potential power for the Rebirth of Japan after 3.11 in Japan.

5. Dr. Gregory Pflugfelder: *The Many Faces of Godzilla*

Dr. Gregory Pflugfelder, Associate Professor of Japanese History at Columbia University, will give a talk on Godzilla's Global History.

- **Presentation Abstract**

Marking the 60th anniversary of the first Godzilla movie, this lecture will explore the international circulation of monster movies from Japan from the 1950s to the 1970s. It reveals the multiplicity of Godzilla's guises as he circled the world cinemas during the politically volatile early-Cold War era. Pflugfelder will also introduce an educational website that he has recently developed as a tool for tracking Godzilla's international travels over the decades.

