KAKEHASHI Project – The Bridge for Tomorrow – Reception
March 20, 2015

On the evening of March 20, 2015, the Consulate General of Japan hosted a reception at Seattle Buddhist Church to welcome 328 KAKEHASHI Project participants (19 high schools, 2 municipal Boards of Education, and one NPO) from Japan.

Greetings from Consul General Omura

Greetings from State Senator Karen Fraser

The event began with Consul General Masahiro Omura's welcome remarks wherein he expressed his high hopes for the KAKEHASHI Project participants to have a good experience and become the bridge between Japan and the United States. State Senator Karen Fraser then spoke of the importance of strong historical, economic and cultural ties between Japan and the state of Washington.

Students representing Minami Uonuma City Board of Education present on Japanese Compassion and Courtesy

Following the speakers, the reception program featured a presentation by students from Minami Uonuma City Board of Education in Niigata Prefecture, Japan. The students performed skits to illustrate examples of Japanese "Compassion and Courtesy."

The 328 students from Japan had the opportunity to meet many community members over a light meal. The evening program concluded with a short address from The Laurasian Institution Vice President, Mari Maruyama, on the importance of youth exchange experiences.

Students and community members meet and mingle
at Seattle Buddhist Church

Greeting from The Laurasian Institution
Vice President Mari Maruyama

The KAKEHASHI Project –The Bridge for Tomorrow –is a Japanese Government project which aims to promote potential interest in Japan through a two-way exchange between Japan and the U.S.. It is expected that participants will gain experience that will help them grow to become a new generation of internationally-minded citizens, and that it will contribute towards the advancement of Japan-U.S. relations. For more details, please visit
http://www.jpf.go.jp/e/intel/youth/index.html