



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

*2015 Annual Report*



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*Dear Friends,*

On behalf of the U.S.-Japan Council (USJC), we want to thank our generous benefactors, dedicated Board members, engaged Council Members, Associate Members and Friends, and hard-working staff for your support in 2015. USJC reached new heights in 2015 in its mission to strengthen U.S.-Japan relations and foster people-to-people connections.

### 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

Our Annual Conference was held in Japan for the first time. Over 850 people attended, including Prime Minister Abe and Ambassador Kennedy, who both spoke at the Conference. We attracted more Japanese attendees than ever before, and appreciate the support of our U.S. members, more than 180 of whom came to Tokyo.

We also continued to strengthen our Japanese corporate network through the Business Advisory Board, and invited as guest speakers prominent individuals like a Nobel Laureate and an astronaut. The Asian American Leadership Delegation met with top Japanese leaders again this year, further strengthening Asian Americans state legislators' ties with Japan.

The TOMODACHI Initiative, which invests in the next generation of leaders, saw further success as well. We supported 49 programs in the United States and Japan, enabling nearly 1,200 young people to participate in cross-cultural exchanges and programs in 2015.

The 70th anniversary of the end of World War II was central to our efforts to strengthen U.S.-Japan relations. For the Japanese American Leadership Delegation program, which celebrated its 15th anniversary, the Delegation visited Hiroshima and learned about its efforts to spread a worldwide message of peace. On many occasions, ranging from speeches to media interviews, we spoke about Japanese Americans' post-war history and success in connecting our two countries.

### LOOKING AHEAD

In 2016, we will focus on entrepreneurship and innovation. Our Annual Conference will be held in Silicon Valley on November 14 and 15. Our newly launched Silicon Valley Japan Platform, which connects Japanese businesses and technologies with Silicon Valley institutions and influencers, will be a central part of the Conference. We also look forward to increasing our educational and networking programs throughout the United States and Japan, and continuing to advance issues important to our bilateral relations.

USJC is increasing its prominence and value because of your active engagement. We thank all of you for your strong support in the past year, and look forward to another dynamic year working together to strengthen U.S.-Japan relations.

*Sincerely,*

**Irene Hirano Inouye**  
President

**Dennis Teranishi**  
Chairman of the Board

# ABOUT THE U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL



## OUR MISSION

THE U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL is a Japanese American-led organization fully dedicated to strengthening ties between the United States and Japan in a global context. By promoting people-to-people relationships through its innovative programs in networking and leadership, the Council serves as a catalyst to inspire and engage Japanese and Americans of all generations. It develops the next generation of leaders committed to a vibrant and dynamic relationship.

## OUR VISION

WE ENVISION A VIBRANT and dynamic U.S.-Japan relationship, strengthened by the increased diversity of leaders committed to the relationship, and increasing positive and productive cooperation that benefits both countries and the Asia-Pacific region.

The U.S.-Japan Council, a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization, was founded in 2008 and is headquartered in Washington, DC with staff in California and Tokyo. In 2012, the U.S.-Japan Council (Japan) was created to support the administration of the TOMODACHI Initiative, and in 2013, it became a Public Interest Corporation (*Koeki Zaidan Hojin*). The U.S.-Japan Council (Japan) maintains an office in Tokyo, Japan.

*“As strong as our alliance has been, there’s never been a time when our leaders have been more committed to building a brighter future together. And so I encourage this incredible Council to ... seize this moment where there’s so much possibility to work collaboratively, and to move our countries forward together.”*

—HON. ANTHONY FOXX,  
U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

*“Under its Japanese American leadership, the U.S.-Japan Council is promoting bilateral human exchange across all generations and fostering the leaders of the next generation.”*

—HIS EXCELLENCY SHINZO ABE,  
PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN



# SIGNATURE PROGRAMS:

2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JAPANESE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DELEGATION PROGRAM

ASIAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DELEGATION PROGRAM

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP





# 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



THE 2015 U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL Annual Conference, themed *Beyond 2020 Vision: Going Global with the U.S.-Japan Partnership*, was held from November 9 to 10 in Tokyo, Japan. It brought together regional, national and international leaders from government, business, academia and non-profit sectors to discuss the future of U.S.-Japan collaboration leading up to and after 2020, a key year for Japan.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

The Conference featured six Keynote Speakers:

- His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan
- Hon. Anthony Foxx, U.S. Secretary of Transportation
- Mr. Nobuyuki Hirano, President & Group CEO, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc.
- Ms. Sandra E. Peterson, Group Worldwide Chairman, Johnson & Johnson
- Dr. Koji Murofushi, Sports Director, The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Dr. Gill Pratt, Executive Technical Adviser, Toyota Motor Corporation and CEO, Toyota Research Institute, Inc.

Other prominent speakers included: His Excellency Yasuo Fukuda, Former Prime Minister of Japan; Amb. John V. Roos, Former U.S. Ambassador to Japan; Mr. So Taguchi, Baseball Commentator; Mr. Tadashi Yanai, Chairman, President, CEO of Fast Retailing Co., Ltd.; and four governors from both countries.



Left: Speakers of the panel "Successful Models for Political Leadership in U.S.-Japan Relations." Top: Keynote Speakers (L-R) Mr. Hirano, Secretary Foxx, Ms. Peterson.



His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.



*"Thanks to the U.S.-Japan Council and generous sponsors, many young people have visited the United States and seen how wonderful it is. And through that visit, they've understood that they have a bright future and a lot of hope."*

—MR. FUTOSHI TOBA, MAYOR, CITY OF RIKUZENTAKATA

## THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

The session "The Japanese American Experience: From Internment to Leadership, a Seventy-Year Journey" examined the decades of Japanese American leadership after the war. USJC paid tribute to three pioneers: Mr. George Aratani, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, and Mr. Wally Yonamine. Secretary Norman Mineta (pictured right, with Board Member Jan Yanehiro) shared his internment experience and his fight in the redress campaign. Contemporary Japanese American leaders then discussed how they are contributing to U.S.-Japan relations in their respective fields.





*"I am grateful to the many corporate and institutional partners who support the TOMODACHI Initiative. Through innovative exchange programs, TOMODACHI is creating the leaders of tomorrow who will ensure the U.S.-Japan relationship remains strong."*

—HON. CAROLINE B. KENNEDY, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN



## PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMING:

The many dimensions of the U.S.-Japan relationship were reflected in the Conference's dozen panel discussions, programs, and networking & information sessions. These included:

- Global Leadership through Business Innovation and Integration
- Philanthropy in the 21st Century
- Immersion into Japan's Start-Up Culture
- *Kyogen* performance



Top: Ms. Kathy Matsui joined Mr. Paul Yonamine and Mr. Takeshi Niinami in discussing global leadership.  
Left: Mr. Fred Katayama and Associate Members.

## KEY FACTS

- **THIS WAS USJC'S LARGEST** Annual Conference to date, with **850 attendees (more than 50% increase from 2014)**, including 220 USJC members.
- **OVER 120 GENEROUS SPONSORS** contributed nearly **\$2 million**.
- **71 JOURNALISTS FROM 104 MEDIA OUTLETS**—including NHK, Nikkei Shimbun and Bloomberg—covered the Conference, which resulted in **135 pieces of exposure**.



*Kyogen* performance.



Hollywood Actor Masi Oka (right) joins Board Members Donna Cole and Ernest Higa for the "Japanese American Experience" panel.



Council Members enjoy catching up at the Conference.



# JAPANESE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DELEGATION PROGRAM



**THE JAPANESE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DELEGATION** (JALD) program provides the opportunity for a select group of Japanese American leaders to travel to Japan to engage with Japanese leaders in the business, government, academic, non-profit and cultural sectors.

The 2015 Japanese American Leadership Delegation traveled to Japan from March 6 to 14. They visited Hiroshima, where they met with Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki (a Friend of the Council), and spoke in a seminar about aging and dementia that was co-sponsored with the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership. They then traveled to Tokyo to meet with senior leaders in the business and government sectors, including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

JALD is generously sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

*"All of the personal interactions during the trip were a constant reminder that all relations, no matter at what level, in government, business or non-profit, begin people-to-people—for it is through our understanding of one another that stronger relations are built."*

—MR. TYLER TOKIOKA, 2015 DELEGATE

## JALD 15TH ANNIVERSARY:

JALD, which has so far sent a total of 176 delegates to Japan, celebrated its 15th anniversary at a special session during the 2015 Annual Conference. Ambassador Hiroyasu Ando, President, Japan Foundation; Ambassador Masaharu Kohno, Former Consul General of Los Angeles; and Minister Taro Kono, Chairperson of the National Public Safety Commission, shared their stories as supporters of the program. Mr. Terry Hara '05, Dr. Emily Murase '13 and Dr. William Tsutsui '11 spoke as alumni. A video created by Ms. Dianne Fukami '09 further showcased voices of alumni everywhere.



(L-R) Moderator Ms. Aiko Doden (NHK) with Mr. Hara, Dr. Murase and Dr. Tsutsui.

*"I had the opportunity to learn more about and reflect on the many bonds that link Japanese Americans with the Japanese—things like grit and perseverance, and the tendency to not dwell on the past but to look to the future."*

—MS. LYNN HASHIMOTO,  
2015 DELEGATE



# ASIAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DELEGATION PROGRAM



THROUGH THE ASIAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DELEGATION (AALD) program, USJC works with elected officials to broaden the understanding of U.S.-Japan relations at the state legislative level.

The 2015 program selected six elected state officials from diverse backgrounds and regions of the country. From September 25 to October 3, the delegates traveled to Tokyo and Kyoto to meet with Japanese political and government leaders, business executives and non-profit leaders to exchange ideas as well as create networks that can mutually benefit the U.S.-Japan relationship. The delegates also spoke about their varied personal

and professional journeys at a panel discussion in Kyoto titled “Diversity in Leadership: The Journey of Asian American State Legislators.”

AALD is funded by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and implemented by USJC, in collaboration with the National Asian Pacific American Caucus of State Legislators and the National Conference of State Legislatures.

## THE 2015 AALD DELEGATES:

- Have roots in China, India, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea and Taiwan.
- Are state representatives from Alaska, Hawaii, Maryland, Michigan, Oklahoma and Vermont.



*“I appreciated the [Japanese] people’s passion for what they do, the chance to talk and learn more about various perspectives (including those of younger individuals), shared interests, challenges and concerns, the candor, depth and variety of the exchange opportunities, the caliber of individuals that we were able to meet, and the interest that they had in our stories.”*

—SENATOR HOON-YUNG HOPGOOD, 2015 DELEGATE

*“I am simply grateful to have begun a relationship with Japanese leaders as I embark on what will hopefully be a long political career that includes attention to cross-cultural relationship building, foreign affairs, and international trade.”*

— REPRESENTATIVE KESHA RAM,  
2015 DELEGATE



# WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP



A Regional Women in Leadership Networking event in Washington, DC.



(L-R) Hon. Kelly R. Welsh; Ms. Margot Carrington; Mr. Yukihiro Otsuka; Ms. Merle Aiko Okawara; Mr. Takayuki Kawashima; Ms. Susan Morita and Mr. Yuta Hasumi from the Women's Leadership panel at the Annual Conference.



Mrs. Abe converses with TMWLP participants.

*"Dealing with issues of diversity, equity and inclusion requires paying attention to power dynamics, and finding ways to empower groups that may feel disenfranchised or invisible."*

—MS. SUSAN MORITA, PANELIST,  
NEXT STEPS FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP



TMWLP participants with Mr. Sachin Shah, President & CEO of MetLife Japan.

USJC CONTINUES TO FOCUS on women's leadership. In 2015, several events and programs led to active discourse and stronger networks, inspiring women and men of all generations.

## REGIONAL WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP NETWORKING

From June through December 2015, USJC held 25 networking events in Boston, Chicago, Honolulu, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco, Seattle, Silicon Valley and Washington, DC. A total of 277 community leaders discussed Japan's Womenomics agenda, as well as ways that Americans can support it. This resulted in a number of concrete suggestions for changes in government and workplace policy, as well as mindset.

## NEXT STEPS FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

During the 2015 Annual Conference, Government and corporate experts took stock of the progress made in Womenomics, and offered suggestions. Recommendations were based on the speakers' research and personal experience, and included training, mentoring, benchmarking, challenging stereotypes and unconscious biases, and ensuring men and bosses' support to achieve better work-life balance.

## TOMODACHI METLIFE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The TOMODACHI MetLife Women's Leadership Program (TMWLP) is a 10-month mentorship program that encourages networking among Japanese university students and mid-career professional women. In the 2014-2015 year, the women met in Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka and Naha. The students traveled to Washington, DC and New York City in March 2015, and met with several leaders, including Members of Congress, heads of NPOs and USJC members. In May, TMWLP held its Annual Conference in Tokyo, where speakers included First Lady of Japan, Akie Abe.

*"Through this trip I have found so many role models . . . they're confident, but they practice a lot to be confident, they love what they do, and they're really attractive as people. And meeting these people has made [me realize] that my dream is a lot closer than I think, because they are actually qualities I can work on everyday."*

—MS. MEGAN UCHIDA, TMWLP PARTICIPANT



# EDUCATIONAL & NETWORKING PROGRAMS:

PRIME MINISTER ABE'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

BUSINESS AND LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

CULINARY DIPLOMACY

GOVERNORS' CIRCLE

CONSULS GENERAL AND JAPANESE AMERICAN LEADERS MEETING





# PRIME MINISTER ABE'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES



First Lady Akie Abe with Council Member Anne Nishimura Morse (right) at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.



Prime Minister Abe shaking hands with Mr. Ernest Higa, Chair of the USJC(J) Board of Directors, in Silicon Valley.



*"Let us call the U.S.-Japan alliance, an alliance of hope. Let the two of us, America and Japan, join our hands together and do our best to make the world a better, a much better, place to live."*

—PRIME MINISTER ABE DURING HIS HISTORIC ADDRESS TO THE JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS WASHINGTON, D.C.

WITH PRIME MINISTER SHINZO Abe's official state visit to the United States, the week from April 26 to May 2 was an exciting time for U.S.-Japan relations. USJC leadership and members played a prominent role in the visit and helped strengthen the bond between the two countries.

## BOSTON

When Prime Minister Abe visited the MIT Media Lab, its director, Council Member Joi Ito, led him on a tour. Council Member Anne Nishimura Morse, Senior Curator of Japanese Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, accompanied Mrs. Abe on a tour of the galleries. USJC Board Member Atsuko Fish was among six women who met with Mrs. Abe for a private discussion about their activities.

## SILICON VALLEY/SAN FRANCISCO

Prime Minister Abe spoke with top entrepreneurs and business leaders at a roundtable discussion at Stanford University. Chair of the USJC Board of Councilors Dr. Daniel Okimoto led the USJC team working on this event. Prime Minister Abe also visited the Gladstone Institutes at the University of California at San Francisco, where he met leaders that included 2012 Nobel Laureate and Member of the USJC Board of Councilors, Dr. Shinya Yamanaka. Meanwhile, Council Member Emily Murase, President of the San Francisco Board of Education, welcomed Mrs. Abe to an elementary school offering Japanese language classes.

## LOS ANGELES

Prime Minister Abe attended the Southern California Welcome Luncheon, which USJC supported. During his speech, he emphasized the importance of exchange programs, and thanked Japanese Americans for being a "bridge" between the countries. Prime Minister Abe also met with three TOMODACHI Inouye Scholars from Loyola Marymount University.

## SILICON VALLEY JAPAN PLATFORM

The Silicon Valley Japan Platform (SVJP), a new initiative of USJC and the Rebuild Japan Initiative Foundation, builds upon the Prime Minister's visit to Silicon Valley. SVJP's mission is to broaden and deepen the ties between Silicon Valley and Japan through programs that focus on entrepreneurship and innovation. SVJP, chaired by Dr. Okimoto, was previewed in the 2015 Annual Conference in Tokyo, and will play a central role in the 2016 Annual Conference in Silicon Valley.

# BUSINESS AND LEGISLATIVE NETWORKING



Ms. Naoko Yamazaki discusses U.S.-Japan collaboration in space.



Business leaders share a laugh with Congressman Castro (left).

## BUSINESS NETWORKING

The **Business Advisory Board (BAB)** is a group of business leaders in Japan with experience in the United States who are also familiar with the work of USJC. Under the leadership of Mr. Masaaki Tanaka, Vice Chair of the USJC Board of Councilors, BAB continued to be successful in 2015. BAB was held three times over the course of the year, each welcoming a speaker for their perspectives on U.S.-Japan relations: Mr. Glen S. Fukushima, Member of the USJC Board of Councilors and Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress (March); Dr. Shinya Yamanaka (June); and astronaut Ms. Naoko Yamazaki (October).

On July 13 and 14, USJC hosted the Japanese and Japanese American **Business Networking Initiative** meeting in Washington, DC. More than 30 participants—including representatives of seven Japanese Chambers of Commerce—attended from 12 states. Dignitaries who met with the participants included leaders from the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and several Members of Congress, including Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05), Democratic Whip, and



(L-R) Congressman Ami Bera (CA-07), Congressman Mark Takai (HI-01), Congressman Al Green (TX-29), Deputy Chief of Mission Hiroyasu Izumi, Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05), Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-22), and Congressman Mark Takano (CA-41) gather in support of USJC.

Congressman Joaquin Castro (TX-20), Co-Chair of the U.S.-Japan Caucus. The packed schedule included a reception generously hosted by Japanese Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae at his Residence, as well as a Capitol Hill reception hosted by USJC.

## LEGISLATIVE NETWORKING

Through Legislative Networking, USJC seeks to facilitate exchange between elected officials in the United States and Japan at the state, local and national levels. USJC was one of the cooperating organizations for a reception that was held on Capitol Hill on April 30, in honor of 14 leaders from the National Diet of Japan.



# REGIONAL PROGRAMS

USJC HOLDS REGIONAL PROGRAMS throughout the year to provide opportunities for Japanese and Americans to network and explore areas of collaboration in U.S.-Japan relations. 2015 events included:

## BOSTON

USJC's New England Members commemorated the Great East Japan Earthquake with a night of remembrance on March 31. Hosted by the Fish Family Foundation, where USJC Board Member Atsuko Fish serves as a Trustee, the evening's program included a presentation by Council Member Shun Kanda (pictured) about his plan for rebuilding Tohoku, and musical performances by TOMODACHI Suntory Music Scholars.



## HAWAII

Business and government leaders in Honolulu gathered on May 5 for a networking reception featuring a presentation by Mr. Paul Yonamine, USJC Board Member and Country General Manager and President of IBM Japan.



## NEW YORK

On September 9, the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and USJC jointly held a private reception featuring Council Member Dr. Susumu "Sus" Ito, a 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran who was a Second Lieutenant of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion (FAB) (U.S.). The 522nd



FAB, composed of Japanese Americans, was part of the U.S. forces that liberated the Dachau concentration camp system during World War II, freeing thousands of Jewish survivors.

*The USJC community was saddened that Dr. Ito passed away a few weeks after this event. A 96-year-old professor emeritus of Harvard Medical School, Dr. Ito led a remarkable life, including collecting an extensive number of photos of his experience during WWII.*



## ONLINE

On June 3, USJC hosted an online discussion with Ms. Janice Nimura, author of the new book, *Daughters of the Samurai*. This event was the brainchild of USJC Board Member Fred Katayama, who moderated the hour-long video conference. This pilot project, held entirely on social media, drew more than 20 USJC Members from locales as varied as New York, San Francisco, Seattle, and Jackson, Mississippi.



## WASHINGTON, DC

On December 16, USJC received the 2015 Foreign Minister's Award from Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae for "outstanding contributions in promoting the friendship and deep ties between Japan and the U.S." Many Council Members from the region attended the award ceremony.



# CULINARY DIPLOMACY



SHARING MEALS FROM DIFFERENT cultures can help promote cross-cultural dialogue and understanding, and create platforms for lasting personal relationships. Inspired by this belief, USJC held “Culinary Diplomacy” programs throughout the United States and Tokyo.



## MIDWEST

On February 4, USJC held a Midwest Culinary Diplomacy Event at Yoshi's Café in Chicago. USJC Members, supporters and friends, including Board Member Dayne Kono (pictured), Council Member Kathryn Ibata-Arens and TOMODACHI Inouye Scholars from DePaul University, and Chicago Consul General Masaharu Yoshida, gathered for a festive evening of networking.



## NEW YORK

On March 13, USJC hosted a New York City Culinary Diplomacy Event commemorating 3/11, with some of the net proceeds supporting the TOMODACHI Initiative. The event included a soba demonstration and a silent auction, and was made possible by Associate Members Adam Moriwaki and Jasmine Wilson, as well as many generous sponsors. Ambassador Reiichiro Takahashi took the time to attend even though he became Consul General of New York only the week before.

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

On October 1, USJC members in Northern California, led by Board Member Allen Okamoto (left), organized an event called “Taste of Tohoku” at the residence of Consul General in San Francisco Jun Yamada (right), who is from Tohoku. Among the dishes served were *shabu shabu* Iwate beef, *zunda* rice cakes and a dessert made with peaches from Fukushima.



## TOKYO

On November 10, as part of the 2015 Annual Conference, USJC hosted “Tastes of Tokyo”: dinners organized for small groups of 8-15 individuals in restaurants across the city. USJC Members and supporters organized the dinners, and coordinated meaningful dialogues in more than a dozen restaurants, ranging from very high-end eateries to izakayas.





## GOVERNORS' CIRCLE



SINCE 2010, USJC HAS led the Governors' Circle initiative to promote bilateral economic collaboration at the state-prefecture level.

In 2015, the governors of Hiroshima, Nagano and Shizuoka prefectures, as well as the state of Hawaii, gathered during the Annual Conference for a panel discussion called "Strengthening Regional Economies: A Dialogue among Governors." The governors discussed their activities in stimulating economic growth, including creating an environment that supports women who want to become mothers, encouraging innovation, and focusing on renewable energy.

Top: (L-R) Moderator Dennis Teranishi, Chairman of the Board at USJC, with Governor Shuichi Abe of Nagano, Governor David Y. Ige of Hawaii, Governor Heita Kawakatsu of Shizuoka, and Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki of Hiroshima.

Left: Several prefectures, including Okayama (pictured), presented their publications and products during the Annual Conference.



*"Japan is the anchor in our visitor industry and so important for our economy. As part of that, we have sister-state relationships with four prefectures in Japan . . . We believe that these relationships are important because they establish people-to-people relations—which USJC promotes—and that is so much a part of what makes us successful."*

—MR. DAVID Y. IGE, GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

## AMBASSADOR, CONSULS GENERAL AND JAPANESE AMERICAN LEADERS MEETING (CG-JA)



THE ANNUAL CG-JA MEETING is sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and organized by USJC and the Embassy of Japan.

As part of the 2015 meeting, on December 1, prominent Japanese Americans from across the United States gathered in Washington, DC for a discussion with Japanese diplomats. The talks explored how the U.S.-Japan relationship plays out locally across the country, and how both the Japanese government and individual communities can raise the profile of, as well as increase, the positive activities and contributions to U.S.-Japan relations that take place in the United States. Following the formal meeting, Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae hosted a lunch for participants at his residence.

# TOMODACHI INITIATIVE:

ABOUT TOMODACHI

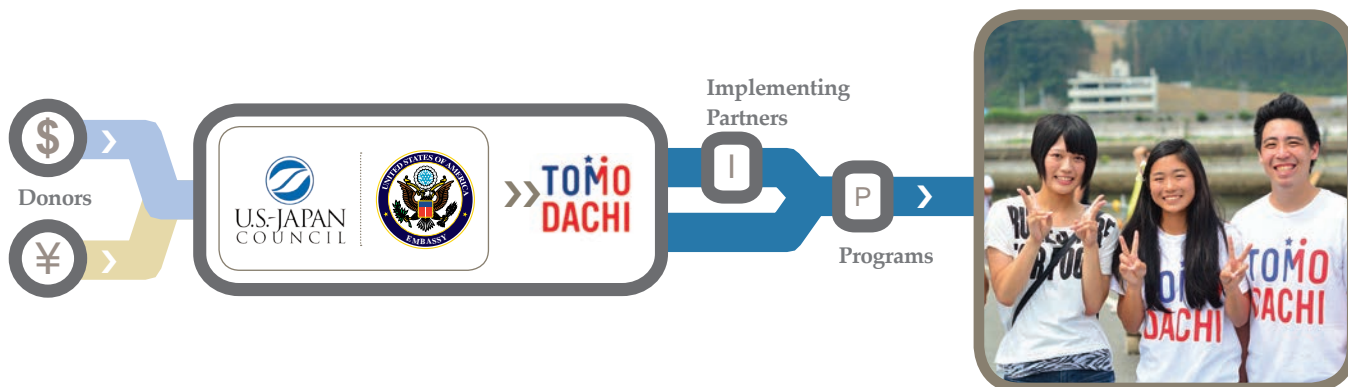
TOMODACHI PROGRAMS

TOMODACHI EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM



**TOMO**  
**DACHI**

# ABOUT TOMODACHI



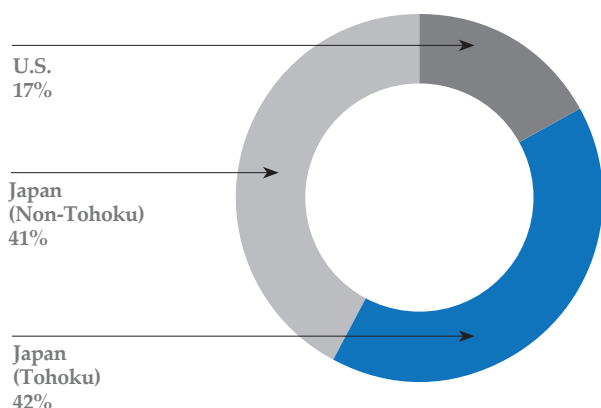
The TOMODACHI Generation

THE TOMODACHI INITIATIVE IS a public-private partnership, born out of support for Japan's recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake, that invests in the next generation of Japanese and American leaders through educational and cultural exchanges as well as leadership programs.

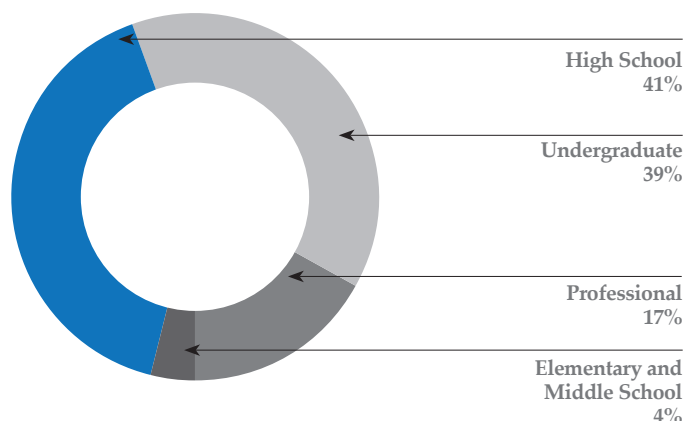
The TOMODACHI Initiative is led by the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and USJC and is supported by the Government of Japan, corporations, organizations and individuals from the United States and Japan. USJC coordinates with the Embassy and other partners, with the aim to foster the next generation of young American and Japanese leaders who are committed to and engaged in strengthening U.S.- Japan relations.

## 1,192 PARTICIPANTS IN 49 PROGRAMS 43 LOCATIONS IN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES

2015 PARTICIPANTS  
BY HOMETOWN



2015 PARTICIPANTS  
BY AGE



*Due to rounding, the total does not equal 100%.*



# TOMODACHI PROGRAMS



U.S. and Japanese university students discussed social problems and how to solve them during the Building the TOMODACHI Generation Program in February. The program is a partnership between The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars and the U.S.-Japan Research Institute.

*"The Building the TOMODACHI Generation program . . . allowed my teammates and myself to create a bond and commitment to the betterment of our communities and to lasting international friendships."*

—MR. JACOB C. MACKEY,  
TOMODACHI ALUMNUS



Approximately 140 TOMODACHI alumni gathered at Sophia University in Tokyo in November for the inaugural TOMODACHI Generation Summit. Here, Ms. Lata Reddy, President of the Prudential Foundation, speaks to alumni and guests.

*"The possibilities of the TOMODACHI Initiative are endless . . . The ties between the United States and Japan were strengthened as a result of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and we need to pass that on to the next generation."*

—MR. YOJI MUTO,  
STATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Top: The 2015 Annual Conference featured a TOMODACHI-themed reception, which welcomed speakers like Ambassador Caroline Kennedy and Mr. Yoji Muto, State Minister for Foreign Affairs (pictured here with Ms. Yuri Tabata, an alumna of the TOMODACHI Coca-Cola Educational Homestay Program, and Mr. Harry Hill, Chairman of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission). Left: TOMODACHI Suntory Scholars performed jazz.





# TOMODACHI PROGRAMS



A participant of the TOMODACHI U.S.-Japan Youth Exchange Program (right), a two-way exchange program among Japanese and American high school students in Washington, DC, shares his excitement about traveling to Japan.



Japanese participants of the TOMODACHI-Mitsui & Co. Leadership Program, a delegation exchange program for young American and Japanese professionals, learn about the history of cars in Detroit.



College nursing students and their mentors from Miyagi prefecture traveled to New York and Washington, DC in August as part of the TOMODACHI J&J Disaster Nursing Training Program. The two-week program supports capacity building of nurses in the Tohoku region by focusing on the field of disaster medicine.

*"Being part of this program, getting to go to Tohoku and seeing everything has . . . really opened my eyes on what I want to do with my future."*

—MS. CAITLIN MCDERMOTT,  
TOMODACHI ALUMNA



From June to July, 20 select high school students from Southern California visited Japan through the TOMODACHI MUFG International Exchange Program. They traveled to Tokyo, Sendai, Kesennuma, Hiroshima and Kyoto, participating in cultural exchange activities and homestays. Here, they speak with Mr. Nobuyuki Hirano, MUFG President & Group CEO, in Tokyo.

THESE PROGRAMS WOULD NOT be possible without the generous support of corporations from the United States and Japan. More information about these 49 programs in 2015 and their donors are published in a separate TOMODACHI report. Please see [www.tomodachi.org](http://www.tomodachi.org) for more information.

*"[This program] was very solid, fulfilling training. I'd like to keep thinking about how I can be of help in Japan, for Japan, and for the [rest of the] world."*

—MS. NATSUMI MIYAKAWA,  
TOMODACHI ALUMNA



# TOMODACHI PROGRAMS



In March, participants of the TOMODACHI New York Fukushima Very Young Composers Program delivered a special performance at the Lincoln Center. Beginning in October 2014, children ages 10-15 from Fukushima and New York City collaboratively composed short “musical postcards” based on the Japanese folksong “chou-cho” (butterfly), for a performance by musicians of the New York Philharmonic. The concert culminated a week-long residency by the nine children from Fukushima.



In March, 100 college students and faculty chaperons visited Washington, DC, Los Angeles and host cities (Boston, Chicago and Honolulu) on the TOMODACHI Inouye Scholars program, which is part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ KAKEHASHI Project. Their trip included sightseeing, giving presentations and participating in activities focused on learning the legacy of the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye. Here, Ritsumeikan students enjoy activities with Chicago primary school children.



In March, USJC and TOMODACHI staff, partners and alumni attended the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) held in Sendai. With the support of the TOMODACHI Alumni Leadership Program, TOMODACHI alumni participated in many side events, including the Youth Forum and the International Women’s Grassroots Academy in Tohoku.

*“My father felt that everyone could make a difference in the world. You are already making a difference just by thinking the way you do.”*

—MR. KENNETH INOUE, SON OF SENATOR INOUE,  
ADDRESSING TOMODACHI INOUE SCHOLARS AT A RECEPTION



From February to March, 25 Japanese university students and young professionals participated in the TOMODACHI Social Innovation in Seattle (SIIS) program, which invests in the next generation of Japanese social entrepreneurs and community leaders.



TOMODACHI Uniqlo Fellow Ryohei Kawanishi graduated from the Parsons School of Design with a Masters in Fine Arts in May. His pieces have been featured in *Vogue* and *Le Figaro*, and were part of New York Fashion Week.

# TOMODACHI EMERGING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

THE U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL'S TOMODACHI Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) is an interactive, educational program designed to encourage the next generation of leaders to act as first movers, innovators and entrepreneurs in their professional fields.

In its sixth year, the 2015 program brought 12 Japanese American young professionals to Tokyo for the 2015 U.S.-Japan Council Annual Conference. The Emerging Leaders participated in a leadership orientation program, networked with high-level leaders and participated in the Annual Members Meeting.



The 2015 class.

*"This is a family full of warm-hearted, compassionate, and ambitious brothers and sisters who all have incredible stories of what U.S.-Japan relations mean to them."*

—MS. MIKI SANKARY, 2015 EMERGING LEADER

## TOHOKU TRIP

AS PART OF THE 2015 Annual Conference, three ELP alumni from 2014 led and organized a two-day trip to Tohoku. From November 11 to 12, fourteen USJC members and six friends of USJC experienced the culture of Tohoku, seeing firsthand the progress that has been made in the recovery effort since the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Lauren Ohata, Mio Yamamoto and Jonathan Abbott worked with World in Tohoku, the NPO led by Ms. Yamamoto, and Women's Eye, the NPO led by Megumi Ishimoto (an alumna of the 2013 TOMODACHI NPO Leadership Study Tour, funded by J.P. Morgan) and coordinated site visits through Ishinomaki and Minamisanriku in Miyagi, two of the areas most devastated by the tsunami. The group toured sites of both destruction and reconstruction, and met residents who gave insight into what can be done for further support.

On this boat, the participants learned about the ongoing recovery of the local fishing industry and enjoyed fresh oysters and scallops.

*"During the trip, we developed a deeper, more immediate sense of connection with Tohoku. We also understood better the important role the community has played for residents in both initially surviving the tsunami, and now . . . in maintaining the drive to rebuild and move forward."*

—MS. LAUREN OHATA, TRIP LEADER  
AND 2014 ELP ALUMNA





# LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT:

U.S. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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USJC JAPAN BOARD

USJC MANAGEMENT & STAFF

SPONSORSHIP & SUPPORT

MEMBERSHIP



# U.S. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(AS OF DECEMBER 2015)

THE U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL'S ORGANIZING Board of Directors consists of Japanese American leaders from across the United States and in Japan who provide their expertise in establishing and guiding the Council's mission and activities.

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(L-R) Mr. Robert Ichikawa, Mr. Dennis Teranishi, Mr. Michael Hirai, Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye, Ms. Yoko Misawa, Mr. Colbert Matsumoto and Consul General Yasushi Misawa gather in Hawaii.

WE WOULD LIKE TO thank the Members of the Board of Directors who completed their terms in December 2015: Mr. Michael Hirai, Mr. Robert Ichikawa, Mr. Thomas Iino, Mr. Fred Katayama, Mr. Colbert Matsumoto and Ms. Moni Miyashita. We also thank Mr. Paul Yonamine, who has stepped down from the Board of Directors to assume the Chair of the Board of Councilors.



# U.S. BOARD OF COUNCILORS

(AS OF DECEMBER 2015)

THE U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL'S DISTINGUISHED Board of Councilors consists of leaders who are recognized for their life-long contribution and commitment to strengthening U.S.-Japan relations. Their expertise and guidance directs the Council's mission and activities.

WE WOULD LIKE TO thank Dr. Daniel Okimoto for his work as Chair of our Board of Councilors. He has stepped down to assume the Chair of the Silicon Valley Japan Platform. He remains a member of the Board of Councilors.

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Mr. Yasuchika Hasegawa and Mr. Glen S. Fukushima.



His Excellency Yasuo Fukuda addresses the audience at the 2015 Annual Conference.

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(AS OF DECEMBER 2015)

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In 2012, the U.S.-Japan Council (Japan) was created to support the administration of TOMODACHI. The U.S.-Japan Council (Japan) is a registered Public Interest Corporation (*koeki zaidan hojin*) and maintains an office in Tokyo, Japan.

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USJC RECEIVED AN EXTRAORDINARY GIFT at the end of 2015. Mr. Toshizo (Tom) Watanabe, President of the Toshizo Watanabe Foundation, contributed \$10 million to USJC to establish The Toshizo Watanabe Endowed Scholarship Fund. The scholarships will support Japanese students to study in the United States and American students to study in Japan. Mr. Watanabe also contributed \$200,000 to enable USJC to implement the first round of scholarships in 2016. His gift enables USJC to support the cross-cultural education of young Japanese and young Americans with leadership potential and financial need. We very much appreciate this incredibly generous gift, and look forward to supporting Japanese and American students.

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(AS OF DECEMBER 2015)

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A full listing of Council Members, Associate Members, Friends of the Council and Corporate Members are available on our website, [www.usjapancouncil.org](http://www.usjapancouncil.org).



*"I have always believed that the U.S.-Japan relationship is a vital relationship, not only for both nations but for the whole world. USJC plays a powerful and impactful role in enhancing this relationship through people-to-people bonds that transcend geopolitical and business issues. It is an honor to be part of a growing network of USJC members who share this same vision."*

—MR. ERNEST M. HIGA, CHAIRMAN & CEO, HIGA INDUSTRIES CO., LTD.

*"The U.S.-Japan Council has always represented hope: hope through people-to-people. And that's really, I think, what has been so important to me."*

—MS. PHYLLIS CAMPBELL, CHAIR, JPMORGAN CHASE & CO., PACIFIC NORTHWEST

*"Of all the many U.S.-Japan organizations that I've worked with, or have seen, over the past half-century, the U.S.-Japan Council is, by far, the most impactful and important."*

—DR. DANIEL OKIMOTO, FSI SENIOR FELLOW AND PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

*"The entire USJC community is doing invaluable work in diversity and inclusion, simply by being Japanese American pioneers in their respective industries. I am grateful to . . . USJC for embracing me in this important community that keeps me grounded and committed to doing good as a Japanese American."*

—MS. MANA NAKAGAWA, WOMEN'S DIVERSITY PROGRAM MANAGER, FACEBOOK

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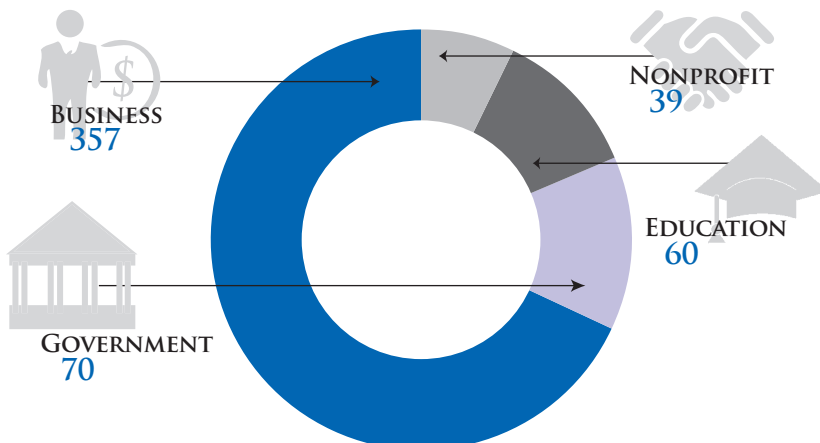
UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA  
453



JAPAN  
69

*There are 4 members in other countries throughout the world.*

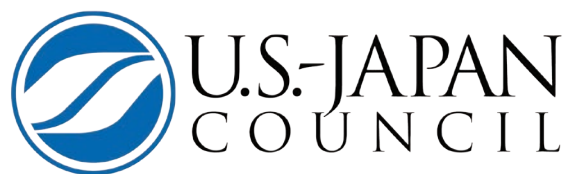
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