

# 2010 Annual Conference Report

U.S.-Japan Council Inaugural Annual Conference 2010:  
SHAPING THE FUTURE OF U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS

Sunday, September 19th – Monday, September 20th, 2010  
*Washington, DC*



# Conference Report

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# About the Conference

## The U.S.-Japan Council Inaugural Annual Conference 2010: Shaping the Future of U.S.-Japan Relations

On September 20th, U.S., Japanese and Japanese American leaders from across the country gathered in Washington D.C. for the U.S.-Japan Council Inaugural Annual Conference. The Conference served as the official unveiling of the U.S.-Japan Council, a newly formed 501(c)3 non-profit organization established in 2009.

The Conference brought thought leaders from various fields together in order to discuss and explore new areas of cooperation between the two countries. Conference topics included Clean & Green Technology, Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Women in the Workplace & Leadership, People-to-People Organizations, Transportation & High Speed Rail, and Education: Study Abroad & Language. Core groups of individuals, made up of USJC members and special guests, were created for each Conference topic. These “working groups” have been tasked with continuing to engage in dialogue, discuss the role that USJC can play in each area and create Action Plans.



Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Ambassador John Roos, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki and Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye

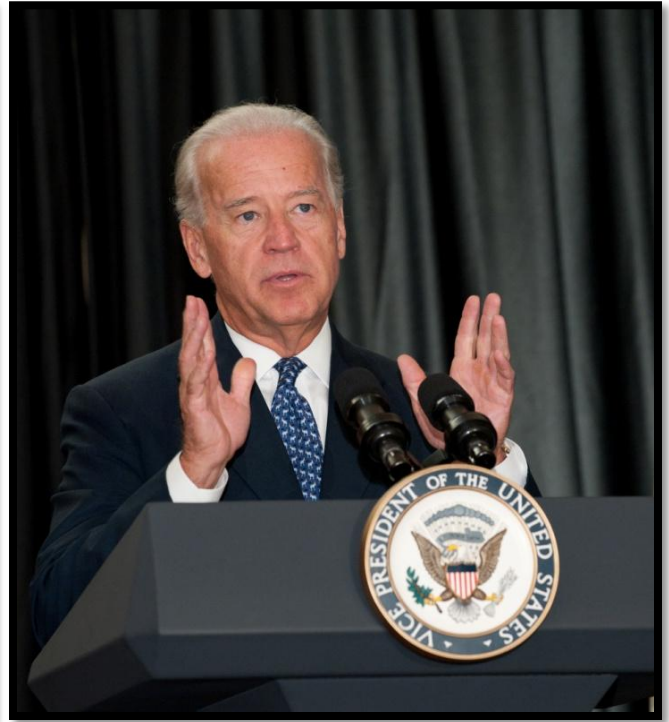
The Inaugural Annual Conference came to a close on Capitol Hill with a reception in the Dirksen Senate Office Building. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye, Ambassador John Roos, former Ambassador Thomas Schieffer, Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki, and USJC Chairman Thomas Iino made closing remarks. The representation at the reception together with Conference programming confirmed that there is a significant amount of enthusiasm and optimism about the future of U.S.-Japan relations.

*This Council is a manifestation of the importance of the relationship between our two countries and our great friendship. In our country we have been blessed with a great Japanese American population.*

– House Speaker Nancy Pelosi



# Featured Speakers



Vice President Joe Biden, speaking as the keynote speaker, set the tone for the day when he said **“all has changed in the last 15 years, circumstances have changed and it requires new thinking. I can think of no better group of folks to sit down and think through these changes together than with our Japanese colleagues.”** Biden’s speech painted a global picture in which Japan is the best possible partner for the United States moving forward.

Secretary Norman Mineta, the former U.S. Secretary of Commerce and former U.S. Secretary of Transportation, also spoke about U.S.-Japan relations during the opening session. He emphasized the strength of people-to-people relationships: **“The government-to-government relationship is just the tip of the iceberg. It is American and Japanese people who form the base of the relationship.”** Building people-to-people relationships is a cornerstone of the U.S.-Japan Council Mission and Vision as well as a 2010 Conference topic.

The Open Plenary and Keynote Speech Session also included remarks from Ambassador John Roos, Ambassador of the United States to Japan and Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki, Ambassador of Japan to the United States. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, made brief remarks and introduced the keynote speaker.

# Conference Agenda

## Annual Meeting for USJC Board Members, Council Members and Invited Guests Sunday, September 19th, 2010

### SESSION 1

10:00-11:45am

Emcee: *Mr. Robert Ichikawa*

#### Opening Remarks & USJC Overview

*Mr. Thomas Iino*, Chairman, Board of Directors, U.S.-Japan Council

*Mr. Masaru Sakato*, Acting Executive Director, Japan Foundation CGP

*Ms. Irene Hirano*, President, U.S.-Japan Council

#### Overview of Current U.S.-Japan Issues

*Mr. Glen Fukushima*, Chairman & Director, Airbus Japan K.K. (moderator)

*Dr. Sheila Smith*, Senior Fellow for Japan Studies, Council on Foreign Relations

*Professor Daniel Okimoto*, Professor Emeritus, Stanford University

*His Excellency Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki*, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America

### LUNCH

12:00 – 1:45pm

Members & Invited Guests: Lunch & Informal Networking

Joint Board of Councilors and Directors Meeting & Luncheon

Moderator: *Mr. Thomas Iino*

### SESSION 2

2:00-3:30pm

Emcee: *Mr. Frank Buckley*

#### Transportation/ High Speed Rail

*Mr. Hideki Hamamoto*, President, HHTransPac Corp. (moderator)

*Mr. Randell Iwasaki*, Executive Director, Contra Costa Transportation Authority

*Mr. Torkel Patterson*, President, U.S.-Japan MAGLEV

#### Education: Study Abroad and Language

*Mr. Paul Niwa*, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism, Emerson College (moderator)

*Mr. Naoyuki Agawa*, Vice President, International Collaborations, Keio University

*Mr. David Jānes*, Director, Foundation Grants, United States-Japan Foundation

*Ms. Jeanette Takamura*, Dean, School of Social Work, Columbia University

### SESSION 3

3:50-5:45pm

Emcee: *Mr. Henry Ota*

#### USJC Vision and Impact

*Ambassador Ryoza Kato & Senator Daniel K. Inouye*

Moderator: *Mr. Fred Katayama*

#### Leadership Roundtable Discussions

*Board of Councilors, Board of Directors and Members*

5:45-evening: Cocktail reception & networking followed by a No-Host Dinner at Meiwah Restaurant, Chevy Chase, MD



# Conference Agenda

## U.S.-Japan Council Annual Conference Monday, September 20, 2010

### OPENING PLENARY SESSION & KEYNOTE SPEAKERS [Independence F, G, H, I]

9:00 – 10:15 am

Emcee *Fred Katayama, USJC Board of Directors*

#### **U.S.-Japan Council Welcoming Remarks**

*Thomas Iino, Chairman USJC*

#### **Remarks**

*The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta, Vice Chairman, Hill & Knowlton Inc. and Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation and Commerce*

#### **Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

*The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, President Pro Tempore*

#### **Keynote Speaker**

*Vice President Joe Biden, Vice President of the United States of America*

#### **Remarks**

*His Excellency Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America*

*His Excellency Ambassador John Roos, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of the United States to Japan*

#### **U.S.-Japan Council Annual Conference Introduction and Opening Session Conclusion**

*Irene Hirano Inouye, U.S.-Japan Council President*

### PANEL SESSION 1

**10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

#### Session 1: Clean & Green Technology [Conference Theatre, Level 1B]

Moderator: *Maurice Kaya, Consultant and Project Director, Pacific International Center for High Technology Research; Advisor to Hawai'i State Energy Advisory Board and Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technical Advisory Committee*

Panelists: *Guido Bartels, General Manager Global Energy & Utilities Industry, IBM and Chairman, GridWise Alliance*  
*Osamu Onodera, Director General, General Affairs and Policy Planning Department New Energy and Industrial technology Development Organization (NEDO)*  
*Bill Parks, Senior Technical Advisor, Office of Electricity, U.S. Department of Energy*

#### Session 2: People-to-People Organizations and Community Engagement [Roosevelt & Wilson Level 3B]

Moderator: *Glen Fukushima – Chairman & Director, Airbus Japan K.K.*

Panelists: *Robert Asher, Chairman Emeritus, AIPAC, American Israeli Public Affairs Committee*  
*Karen Donfried, Executive Vice-President, German Marshall Fund*

# Conference Agenda

## LUNCHEON: U.S.-Japan-China: Impact of Triangular Relationships

12:00 – 1:45 pm

Emcee      *Fred Katayama, Anchor, Reuters Television*

### Panel Speakers

*James Jaska, Executive Vice President, Government, AECOM*  
*The Honorable Ryoza Kato, Former Ambassador of Japan to the U.S.*  
*Savio Tung, Managing Director, Investcorp and CFO, Committee of 100*

## PANEL SESSION 2

2:00-3:30pm

### Session 1: Entrepreneurship & Innovation [Conference Theatre, Level 1B]

Moderator:      *Daniel Okimoto– Professor Emeritus, Stanford University (moderator/panelist)*

Panelists:      *Emiko Higashi, Managing Director, Tomon Partners, LLC*  
                     *Darren Kimura, President, Founder & CEO, Sopogy*  
                     *Wallace Tsuha, Chairman & CEO, Saturn Electronics & Engineering, Inc.*

### Session 2: Women in the Workplace & Leadership [Roosevelt & Wilson Level 3B]

Moderator:      *Jan Yanehiro, President, Jan Yanehiro, Inc.*

Panelists:      *Barbara Adachi, National Managing Principal, Initiative for the Retention & Advancement of Women, Deloitte LLP*  
                     *Royanne Doi, Chief Legal Officer, Prudential Life Insurance Company Ltd.*  
                     *Irene Natividad, President, Global Summit of Women*

## STRATEGIC WORKING GROUPS

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm

*Co-Leaders will facilitate discussions with USJC Members and invited guests on the role of USJC in these topic areas and recommended action of USJC in the months ahead.*

## RECEPTION & CONFERENCE CLOSING ON CAPITOL HILL

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Dirksen Senate Building SD-G50

Welcome      *Thomas Iino, Chairman, Board of Directors, U.S.-Japan Council*

Emcees      *Frank Buckley, Co-Anchor, KTLA-TV and Council Member*  
                     *Jan Yanehiro, President, Jan Yanehiro, Inc. and Council Member*

Speakers      *The Honorable Nancy Pelosi*  
                     *The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye*  
                     *His Excellency Ambassador John Roos*  
                     *His Excellency Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki*  
                     *The Honorable John Thomas Schieffer*

Closing      *Irene Hirano Inouye, President, U.S.-Japan Council*



*Senator Daniel K. Inouye Speaks at the Closing Reception*

# On U.S.-Japan Relations

*It is in the interest of the U.S. as well as the interest of Japan to lock arms and move through the world together. This is a very dangerous part of the world, in Northeast Asia. However, it is made safer because of a strong U.S.-Japan alliance. What the U.S.-Japan Council can do is reinforce that message in both the United States and Japan.*

– Honorable Thomas Schieffer, Former Ambassador of the United States to Japan, USJC Board of Councilors



*The problem is that domestically, given these economic difficulties, we are apt to see extremism in the political front, extremist ideologies and extremist groups clashing with one another. In the face of these global problems it is critical that the U.S. and Japan work together closely, that they realize their full potential. To date, I think the U.S.- Japan relationship, for its great importance, has not utilized the full range of resources that are possible for the two allies to contribute to the world.*

– Dr. Daniel Okimoto, Professor Emeritus, Stanford University, USJC Board of Councilors



*The U.S.-Japan relationship is a fundamentally stabilizing relationship. It is a stabilizing influence for the Japanese public and I think it is important for those of us on this side of the Pacific to understand that this relationship can not be allowed to waver and quiver. I think the Japanese public is counting on us to manage and navigate our way through this political change that they are currently facing*

– Dr. Sheila Smith, Senior Fellow for Japan Studies, Council on Foreign Relations





# Conference Attendance

## Distinguished Guests of the USJC Annual Conference & Closing Reception

*In Alphabetical Order*

### Political Leaders & Current and Former Ambassadors

*Honorable Joseph Biden*, Vice-President, United States of America

*Honorable Ichiro Fujisaki*, Japanese Ambassador to the U.S.

*Honorable Daniel K. Inouye*, President Pro Tempore

*Honorable Ryozo Kato*, Former Japanese Ambassador to the U.S. & Commissioner, Nippon Professional Baseball

*Honorable Nancy Pelosi*, Speaker, House of Representatives

*Honorable John Roos*, U.S. Ambassador to Japan

*Honorable J. Thomas Schieffer*, Former U.S. Ambassador to Japan

*Honorable Eric Shinseki*, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs

### Officials from Tokyo, New York Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C.

*Professor Naoyuki Agawa*, Vice-President, International Collaborations, Keio University, Tokyo

*Minister Akira Chiba*, Minister of Legislative Affairs, Embassy of Japan in the United States of America

*Mr. William Farrell*, Chairman, National Association of Japan American Societies

*Counsellor Yoshiro Funabiki*, Counsellor, Embassy of Japan in the United States of America

*Mr. Eric Gangloff*, Director, Japan-US Friendship Commission

*Ms. Mizuho Hayakawa*, Deputy Director, First North America Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

*Mr. Yosuke Honjo*, President & CEO, ITO EN North America

*Consul General Junichi Ihara*, Consul General, Consulate-General of Japan in Los Angeles

*Minister Kazuhide Ishikawa*, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in the United States of America

*Mr. Kiyohiko Ito*, Managing Director, Keizai Doyukai, Japan

*Mr. Tsutomu Karino*, Executive Director, Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of New York & Executive Vice President, Nippon Club, New York

*Mr. Peter Kelley*, President & CEO, National Association of Japan American Societies

*Mr. Tatsuo Kobayashi*, Deputy Director General, Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, New York

*Mr. Takashi Ohde*, Chairman, Japan Commerce Association of Washington, D.C. & Managing Director, Hitachi, Ltd.

*Mr. Yuichi Okura*, President, Japan Business Association of Southern California & Executive Vice President, Union Bank

*Mr. Osamu Onodera*, Director General, New Energy & Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)

*Mr. Masaru Sakato*, Executive Director, Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership

*Mr. Michihisa Shinagawa*, President & CEO, Sumitomo Corporation of America & Chairman, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New York

*Minister Hideo Suzuki*, Minister and Head of Chancery, Embassy of Japan in the United States of America

*Mr. Yoshihisa Suzuki*, President & CEO, ITOCHU International, Inc.

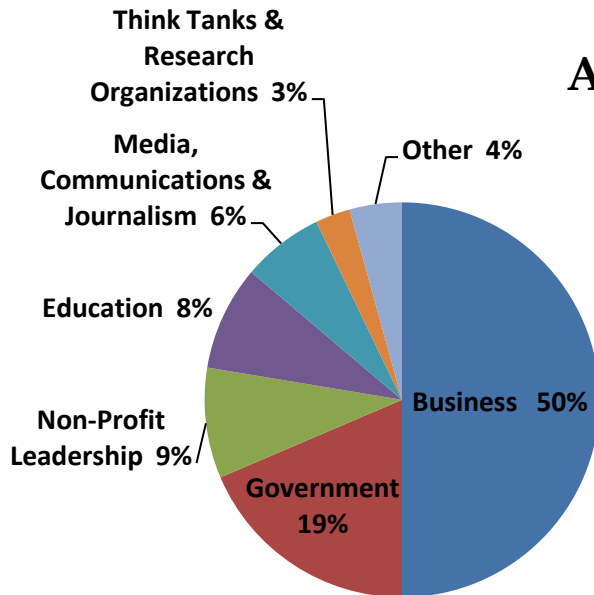
*Minister Shigeki Takizaki*, Minister of Public Affairs, Embassy of Japan in the United States of America

*Mr. Masaaki Tanaka*, CEO for the Americas, Bank of Tokyo, Mitsubishi-UFJ

*Ms. Hiroko Tatabe*, Founder & Executive Director, Global Organization for Leadership & Diversity (GOLD)

*Mr. Kazuyoshi Umemoto*, Director General, North American Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

# Conference Attendance



The U.S.-Japan Council Inaugural Annual Conference and Annual Members Meeting had 210 attendees from across America and overseas.

*Increasing awareness, clarifying the atmosphere, and sharing perceptions on personal basis are key cornerstones to promoting successful relations. Our investment in individual relationships amongst our leaders and within our community now will secure peace and prosperity for our future.*

*The strong relationships developed during this conference will lead to solutions to some of our most pressing issues in the areas of transportation, education, technology, and business. I am grateful for my experience, and I am committed to continuing my involvement because of this new understanding.*

– Kendee Yamaguchi, USJC- ITO EN Leadership Development Program Recipient



# Featured Photographs



Mr. Robert Ichikawa, USJC Board of Directors; Secretary Norman Mineta, USJC Board of Councilors; and Mr. Akemi Kurokawa, USJC Member



Mr. Curtiss Rooks, USJC Member, questions the panelists



Mr. Paul Niwa, USJC Board Member, reports out during the Leadership Roundtable Discussions



Senator Inouye and Rear Admiral David Boone at the Closing Reception



USJC Members: Judge Kerry Hada, Ms. Jan Yanehiro, Mr. Frank Buckley, Mr. Jose Fuentes, Judge Peter Sakai and Mr. Calvin Manshio at the Closing Reception



Senator Inouye, Ambassador John Roos, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki



# U.S.-Japan Council Leadership at the Conference

## U.S.-Japan Council Board of Councilors and Board of Directors



**Front row:** Mr. Hideki Hamamoto, Secretary Norman Mineta, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, former Ambassador Thomas Foley, former Ambassador Thomas Schieffer, Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye and Mr. Thomas Iino

**Back row:** Mr. Kaz Maniwa, Mr. Sho Dozono, Mr. Henry Ota, Ms. Susan Onuma, Mr. Paul Niwa, Dr. Daniel Okimoto, Mr. Dennis Teranishi, Mr. Fred Katayama, Dr. Paul Terasaki, Mr. Glen Fukushima, Mr. Roy Yamaguchi, Mr. Masaaki Tanaka, Mr. Naoyuki Agawa, Mr. Stephen Kagawa, Mr. Colbert Matsumoto, Mr. Mike Hirai, Mr. Robert Ichikawa, Ms. Moni Miyashita and Mr. Allen Okamoto



*Maintaining a meaningful bilateral relationship requires vision and dedication from governments and citizens on both sides of the Pacific. The USJC Board of Councilors and Board of Directors represent an impressive roster of government, private sector, and NPO leaders who are all committed to maintaining the U.S.-Japan relationship.*

**– Ambassador John Roos**

Ambassador John Roos with Board Members Mr. Masaaki Tanaka and Mr. Thomas Iino, who is accompanied by his wife, Barbara Iino

# Leadership Development Program



The U.S.-Japan Council and ITO EN (North America) Inc. have jointly created the USJC-ITO EN Leadership Development Program, in which eight young Japanese American professionals or college students are selected to attend the U.S.-Japan Council Annual Conference and Annual Members Meeting.

The Conference provides a forum for education and networking among the highest levels of leadership in business, public policy, academics and community organizations. By providing exposure and access to senior leaders and key U.S.-Japan topics, the program aims to motivate young professionals and young leaders in pursuing further activities that promote strong and positive U.S.-Japan relations.



The 2010 Recipients with Senator Inouye and Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye at the Members Meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Front row:** Ms. Aimee Eng, Ms. Kendee Yamaguchi, Senator Inouye, Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye, and Lt. Janelle Kuroda

**Back row:** Mr. Kent Walther, Ms. Kaoru Utada, Mr. John Rankin, Mr. Nate Imai and Mr. Michael Mikawa

*I left the conference feeling not only a sense of community, but also invigorated to have been a participant in a type of event that has long been neglected. I was in a reverie of emotions. I felt extremely gracious for the opportunity to attend such a unique and monumental event and hopeful for the future of Japanese Americans as active participants in U.S.-Japan relations. Most of all, I felt a sense of community. Despite dissipating Japantowns and assimilation theories of the vanishing Japanese American culture, our community is still involved, vigorous, and striving to do its part in the future of Asia Pacific issues. I now yearn to be more involved and want to know how I can contribute further to the relationship between the United States and Japan as a young Japanese American professional.*

— Mr. Michael Mikawa, 2010 Leadership Development Program Recipient



# 2010 Conference Topics

The Conference brought thought leaders from various fields together in order to explore and discuss new avenues of cooperation between the U.S and Japan. Each year, the U.S.-Japan Council chooses several topics that are relevant to current affairs to focus on at the Annual Conference and throughout regional programming.

## 2010 Conference topics:

- ❑ Clean & Green Technology
- ❑ Education: Study Abroad & Language
- ❑ Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- ❑ People-to-People Organizations
- ❑ Transportation/High Speed Rail
- ❑ Women in the Workplace & Leadership

Additionally, core groups of individuals, consisting of USJC members and special guests, were created for each Conference topic. These “working groups” are responsible for creating dialogue, uncovering new information and assembling an Action Plan.

*The key topics of the USJC ‘Shaping the Future of U.S.-Japan Relations’ Conference are remarkably similar to our U.S. Mission goals in Japan. The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, as well as our constituent posts in Sapporo, Nagoya, Kansai, Fukuoka and Naha are all committed to furthering green, renewable energy initiatives, increasing public outreach, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, promoting study in the U.S., and addressing the role of women in the workplace.*

– Ambassador John Roos



Women in the Workplace and Leadership Panel,  
U.S.-Japan Council Inaugural Annual Conference

# Clean & Green Technology

The U.S. and Japan are leaders in the field of Clean & Green technology. The two countries are already working together on a number of key initiatives including carbon capture and storage, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, nuclear energy and joint projects between Okinawa and Hawaii. At the Conference, the panel explored noteworthy programs of both countries and further opportunities for collaboration.

## The Panel

**Mr. Maurice Kaya**, Consultant and Project Director, Pacific International Center for High Technology Research (PICHTR) (Moderator)

**Mr. William Parks**, Senior Technical Advisor, Office of Electricity, U.S. Department of Energy

**Mr. Osamu Onodera**, Director General, General Affairs and Policy Planning Department, New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)

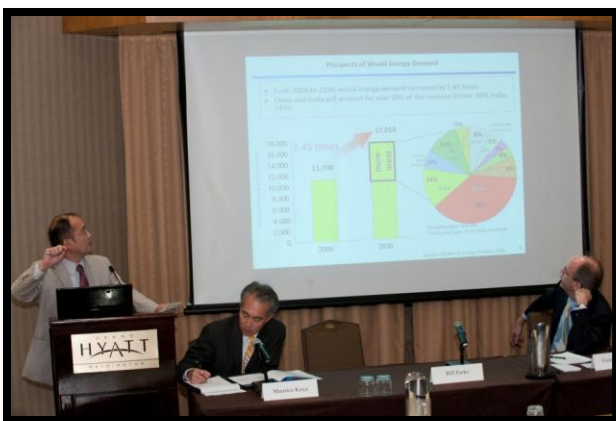
**Mr. Guido Bartels**, General Manager, Global Energy and Utilities Industry, IBM & Chairman, GridWise Alliance.

## Highlights

The U.S. and Japan have complimentary strengths which have incredible potential in the field of Clean & Green Technology. According to Mr. Onodera, Japan excels at applied technology, manufacturing technology and energy conservation while the U.S. is strong in research, system engineering and entrepreneurship.

Several panelists named the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative as a success story in private-public sector partnerships that implement the use of Clean Energy. The Hawaii-Okinawa Energy Task Force was also named as a collaborative effort with high potential. The success of these initiatives serves as proof that Clean and Green Technology is a field with many opportunities for collaboration that could deepen the comprehensive U.S.-Japan relationship.

Looking ahead, Smart Grid technology, which by nature would transform the infrastructure of energy as we know it, could be the next major cooperative project between the U.S. and Japan. The U.S.-Japan Council will continue to engage leaders of the Clean and Green Technology field in discussion and monitor the progress of projects already underway.



*The U.S. and Japan have  
complimenting strengths.  
Combining these two parts is very  
important in order to lead the  
world by deepening this  
comprehensive partnership.*

– Mr. Osamu Onodera

# Education: Study Abroad & Language

The number of Japanese students studying in the U.S. has been declining for the past 15 years as well as the amount of Japanese language instruction in American classrooms. At the same time, there is a significant amount of enthusiasm for expanding and developing exchange and language programs. The panelists examined potential causes of the decline, current trends and possible programming to counteract these trends.

## The Panel

**Mr. Paul Niwa**, Assistant Professor of Journalism, Emerson College (Moderator)

**Ms. Jeanette Takamura**, Dean, School of Social Work, Columbia University

**Mr. David Jänes**, Director of Foundation Grants, United States-Japan Foundation

**Mr. Naoyuki Agawa**, Vice President of International Collaborations, Keio University

## Highlights

After naming South Korea and China as countries whose students represent the highest percentage of international students at Columbia University, Dean Takamura proposed two factors that are contributing to the decline of Japanese students choosing to study abroad in the U.S. The first is the context of the shifting global economy. “The market plays a huge role in how people make their decisions. The truth of the matter is, the ‘coin of the realm’ now is the Chinese Renminbi. People want to learn Chinese, they want to go to China and they want to do it because they want to be competitive,” Takamura said. The second factor is the current corporate climate in Japan. According to Dean Takamura, it is far more advantageous for a young person to stay in Japan and focus on his or her own university community, because those networking opportunities will ultimately lead to a career. Similarly, those who go abroad



enjoy the experience and feel they can engage in international discourse; however, when they return to Japan, there is a disconnect, and corporations do not know where to place them.

Mr. Jänes emphasized that there has been an increase in the number of American college students going to Japan and that the students are primarily motivated by a deep interest in Japanese culture. On the other hand, in order to encourage more Japanese students to come to the U.S., Mr. Jänes suggested that the U.S. spend more money on innovative programming. He concluded that the best role for the U.S.-Japan Council is to be involved in these innovative programs, thus playing a major affecting change in education.

Mr. Agawa provided a Japanese prospective sharing that fundamentally, Japan has had trouble internationalizing, which has impacted education. However, for Japanese students that go aboard to study, the U.S. is still the number one destination. According to Mr. Agawa, the U.S. is the top choice because of a respect for the U.S. educational system, and this signifies possible opportunities for growth.

# Entrepreneurship & Innovation

In the new global economy, there are infinite opportunities for entrepreneurial collaboration on an international level. In this context, the Entrepreneurship & Innovation panel examined the strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. and Japan, revealing how collaboration is in the best interest of both countries.

## The Panel

**Dr. Daniel Okimoto**, Professor Emeritus, Stanford University (Moderator)

**Mr. Wallace Tsuha**, Chairman and CEO, Saturn Electronics & Engineering, Inc.

**Ms. Emiko Higashi**, Managing Director, Tomon Partners, LLC

**Mr. Darren Kimura**, President, Founder and CEO, Sopogy, Inc.

## Highlights

Both the U.S. and Japan have strengths to contribute in entrepreneurship and innovation. The U.S. has made significant breakthroughs in basic research, applied technologies, path-breaking companies like Google, and new industries and sectors like wireless telecommunications, while Japan has elevated the level and quality of production technology and the assembly process.

According to Mr. Tsuha, there are factors that limit each countries' success. The U.S. struggles with trade deficit, government debt, high consumer debt, and aging baby boomers, whereas Japan suffers from a shrinking population, students who prefer to remain in Japan and a shortage of entrepreneurs. Ms. Higashi emphasized obstacles related to perception, such as differences in the concept of time in U.S. and Japanese business cultures.

Looking ahead, there are reasons to be optimistic about entrepreneurship in the U.S. and Japan. Both countries have mature economies, business ethics and resources needed for a productive entrepreneurial environment. Mr. Kimura offered a concluding suggestion: small business incentives and awards should be given to create a culture of encouragement in Japan as in the U.S. This would be a step in the right direction.



*When combining Japanese entrepreneurs with U.S. venture capitalists in the field of clean and green technology, it is possible to create products that could be sold globally and therefore, the U.S. and Japan mutually benefit.*

– Mr. Wallace Tsuha



# People-to-People Organizations & Community Engagement

People-to-People organizations focus on the power of relationship building . Often, these organizations start small and expand into thriving organizations in part by focusing on the human, or emotional element. The U.S.-Japan Council is just one example of an organization that focuses on people-to-people connections. Specifically, USJC strives to build a dynamic, international network of Japanese Americans who are committed to strong U.S.-Japan relations. Other organizations similarly pull on the strength of building relationships in order to carry out their mission and vision. The panelists provided insight into how their organizations have developed over the years.

## The Panel

**Mr. Robert Asher**, former President, American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)

**Dr. Karen Donfried**, Executive Vice President, German Marshall Fund of the United States

**Mr. Glen Fukushima**, Chairman & Director, Airbus Japan K.K. (Moderator)

## Highlights

Mr. Asher stated that AIPAC's main mission is to interpret and explain events that affect the U.S.-Israel relationship, and accomplishing the same for the U.S.-Japan relationship is very important. According to Mr. Asher, the American public still lacks a thorough understanding of the cultural differences that exist around the world, and are oftentimes unaware about the importance of connecting with others on a global scale. Specifically when it comes to Japan he added:



*Japan has a beautiful culture, thousands of years old. It is generally unknown to the American public. It is extremely important that events which affect the U.S.-Japan relationship be explained and interpreted in an appropriate way to Americans.*

In her time at the German Marshall Fund (GMF), Dr. Donfried has seen significant growth and development. She emphasized four pillars of growth that GMF focused on when expanding its activities in Asia. They are: grant making, networking, researching and convening. She applied these pillars to the goals of the U.S.-Japan Council, offering that the two organizations have commonalities:



*When I was reading the USJC website, I saw that in your mission statement there is a real focus on the U.S.-Japan relationship but your vision is very much grounded in a view of a vibrant Asia Pacific region. So, you have both of these roles, much in the way GMF does, wanting to think about the U.S.-Japan relationship in a broader regional context.*



# Transportation / High Speed Rail

High Speed Rail is currently in the spotlight due to President Obama's recent allotment of \$8 billion to build an inter-city high speed rail system in the United States. Japan, along with France, China, Germany and South Korea, are bidding for the contract. Some believe this is an opportunity for enhanced cooperation between the U.S. and Japan.

## The Panel

**Mr. Hideki Hamamoto**, President, HHTransPac Corp. (Moderator)

**Mr. Torkel Patterson**, President, U.S.-Japan MAGLEV

**Mr. Randell Iwasaki**, Executive Director, Contra Costa Transportation Authority

## Highlights

We are at a pivotal point in time when it comes to the development and expansion of High Speed Rail. According to Mr. Hamamoto, in addition to President Obama's considerable investment, the recent appointment of Minister Seiji Maehara as the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Japan will bode well not only for U.S.-Japan relations, but also for the expansion of High Speed Rail.

Mr. Patterson serves as President of the U.S.-Japan MAGLEV, which champions the development of ultra-high speed magnetic levitation (Maglev) transportation technology in the United States. At the panel session, he emphasized Japan's excellence as a systems integrator, which he says the country does not get credit for internationally. He encourages private-sector and governmental cooperation in Japan that moves beyond promoting goods and services to promoting the technology's role as an elite systems integrator.

Mr. Iwasaki described the activities of the California High-Speed Rail Authority and explained how HSR is an important solution to California's rapidly growing population. With a HSR system in place in California, one could travel from San Diego to San Francisco in just under four hours. He also stressed the economic benefits of a High Speed Rail system in California, including the creation of 450,000 new permanent jobs by 2035.

*When you think about what we spend on infrastructure in the United States, it is relatively cheap for what we're going to get by moving to this transformational mentality.*

– Mr. Torkel Patterson on the cost of implementing High Speed Rail



The Transportation/ High Speed Rail Panel: Mr. Randy Iwasaki, Mr. Frank Buckley (Emcee), Mr. Hideki Hamamoto and Mr. Torkel Patterson

# Women in the Workplace & Leadership

The U.S. and Japan are among many countries looking to address the inequalities that exist for women on corporate boards or in senior executive positions. The Women in the Workplace & Leadership panelists presented strong arguments as to why including women in top-level decision making builds leads to more successful business.



## The Panel:

**Ms. Jan Yanehiro**, President, Jan Yanehiro Inc. (Moderator)

**Ms. Barbara Adachi**, National Managing Principle, Initiative for the Retention & Advancement of Women (WIN) , Deloitte LLP

**Ms. Royanne Doi**, Chief Legal Officer, The Prudential Life Insurance Company, Ltd.

**Ms. Irene Natividad**, President, Global Summit of Women

## Highlights

The panelists presented two major business-case reasons why it is crucial to have women in professional leadership positions.

First, according to Ms. Adachi, women represent the largest growing segment of the market, as well as the majority of consumers in the marketplace. Therefore, it is best practice for a company to ensure that its decision-makers match its clientele. Ms. Adachi heads up WIN, a division of Deloitte that works to create advancement opportunities for women.

Second, promoting and including women in high levels of corporate leadership leads to the creation of better products and more innovative solutions to problems. According to Ms. Doi, not just women, but also people with varied backgrounds and experiences, are needed at the table in order to improve the performance of any company.

In order to enable more women to enter the top tiers of corporate leadership, Ms. Natividad explained that there needs to be more transparency of board composition. Transparency of board composition will lead to transparency of board governance, which will ultimately make it possible for more women to make advancements.

*It's not that you should help promote women because it's the right thing to do or the nice thing to do. The reason you want to have women at your table is because it's the smart thing to do.*

– Ms. Royanne Doi on the power of diversity

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