

Defining a New Paradigm for U.S.-Japan Relations



U.S.-Japan Council Japan Meetings 2011

May 30th — June 1st

“The eyes of the world are now transfixed on the country of Japan. If we organize our strengths and speak with one transparent voice, Japan again will own its opportunities and demonstrate global economic leadership. Perception is the key, and today, Japan can control its destiny.”

— Thomas Iino, Chairman of the Board, U.S.-Japan Council

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

A delegation of U.S.-Japan Council leadership and staff traveled to Tokyo for a series of meetings including the Council's first official event in Japan: The Japan Leadership Symposium. This report details the key findings and next steps coming out of the trip.

Japan Leadership Symposium—May 30, 2011	3-4
Symposium Sponsorship & Support	5
Meetings with the Japanese Business Community	
Keidanren—May 30, 2011	6
Keizai Doyukai — May 31, 2011	7
Forum 21 Alumni — May 31, 2011	8
Featured Events	
Non-Governmental Organization Leaders Meeting — May 31, 2011	9-10
Showa Women's University Panel: "Girls Be Ambitious!" — June 1, 2011	11-12
USJC Initiatives with the Japanese Government — June 1 and 3, 2011	13
U.S.-Japan Council Board Leadership Meeting—May 31, 2011	14
Closing Reception at the Ambassador's Residence	15
Reflections: U.S.-Japan Council Board and Staff Visit the Tohoku Region	16-17
Attendees	
U.S.-Japan Council Delegation	18
Meeting Participants	19-22



Japan Leadership Symposium & Reception



The Symposium: **“Defining a New Paradigm for U.S.-Japan Relations”** was held on May 30th, 2011 and attracted a crowd of 350 people. Held at Keidanren Hall, the focus of the Symposium was on the future of U.S.-Japan relations from business and government perspectives. The Symposium was also a part of the public-private partnership agreed upon by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Foreign Minister Takeaki Matsumoto after the March 11th earthquake and tsunami.

The recovery and rebuilding efforts from these events allow Japan to strengthen its relationships with the global community, including with its ally, the United States. In his keynote speech, Senator Daniel K. Inouye stated, “I look upon the disaster as an opportunity to demonstrate a strong U.S.-Japan relationship and how close our relationship truly is. It is also a chance to help restore Japan to its greatest potential.” On the response from America and the U.S. Military’s Operation Tomodachi, Senator Inouye stressed that the U.S. will support Japan no matter what the cost, “We didn’t talk about cost of relief, because friendship has no price tag,” he said.

Joining Senator Inouye as keynote speakers were Hitachi, Ltd. Chairman, Mr. Takashi Kawamura and Mitsubishi Corporation Chairman, Mr. Yorihiro Kojima. Both acknowledged the contributions and outpouring of support from Americans.

“Support from the U.S. has not only touched the victims of the catastrophe, but also all Japanese,” said Kawamura. “The American people’s concern for the victims in Japan and also the gratitude of the Japanese people to Americans represent the individual sentiments that the people of both countries have for each other, an important source for creating a new paradigm for Japan-U.S. relations. The promulgation of positive U.S.-Japan relations in the world will contribute to the future of global society.”

Chairman Kawamura also described the opportunity for infrastructure in the newly rebuilt region to include leading global technology. “In principle, the economic recovery of Japan cannot occur without the recovery of the northeast region, and such activities apply the latest and leading technology in safety, comfort and ecological city-planning,” he said.

Also representing the business prospective, Chairman Kojima acknowledged the role of the Great East Japan Earthquake in the U.S.-Japan relationship. “The earthquake was a most unfortunate and unprecedented incident, but it has also created a strong vision and determination for rebuilding Japan in the new era,” said Kojima. “The Japan-U.S. relationship is the most important relationship, and the friendship and trust between the two nations, including the younger generation, should be nurtured and strengthened.”

Japan Leadership Symposium & Reception



Ms. Aiko Doden of NHK moderated a panel made up of Frederick H. Katayama of Thomson Reuters, Ms. Kumi Sato of COSMOS PR and Mr. Naoyuki Agawa of Keio University. The panelists explored global perceptions of Japan and how best to accurately convey the Japan of today and tomorrow to the outside world. Mr. Katayama recommended that Japan open itself up to things like immigration and women in the workplace and be bold in other ways by taking risks and by not being ashamed of failure.

Ms. Sato emphasized the need for proactive dissemination of positive stories about Japan in order to flood the world with the message that Japan is open for business. "People need to understand that Japan is safe," said Ms. Sato. "We are all here living our lives and going to work." She suggested that the private sector take responsibility in spreading this message.

Finally, Mr. Naoyuki Agawa stressed the important role of the Japanese youth in the future of Japan, including the rebuilding process. He stated that young people are looking at Japan with new eyes, knowing that they have to do something to impact the future of their country.

Foreign Minister Takeaki Matsumoto and Ambassador John V. Roos provided closing remarks at the Symposium, each delivering forward-thinking, hopeful messages. The Foreign Minister described the public-private partnership recently forged with Secretary Hillary Clinton: "We agreed that both countries will address the prevention of damage caused by harmful rumors on Japanese products and concerns on Japan's role in the global supply chain." He continued, "We would also like to ensure that the recovery is done with openness to the world."

After describing moments of kindness shown by both Americans and Japanese during this time of crisis, Ambassador Roos closed by saying: "Japan will accomplish great things on its road to recovery. The steps forward will not be easy and it will be a long journey, but the power, spirit and hope has inspired us all over the last 80 days, and rest assured that the U.S. will be there for Japan, wherever, whenever."



U.S.-Japan Council Board of Councilors Member Glen S. Fukushima served as Chair of the Symposium. Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye, USJC President and Mr. Thomas Iino, USJC Chairman of the Board, made remarks to introduce the Council to a predominantly Japanese audience at the organization's first official event in Japan.



The Japan Leadership Symposium was immediately followed by a reception at Keidanren Hall hosted by the U.S.-Japan Council with the support of our sponsors.

Japan Leadership Symposium Sponsorship & Support

The U.S.-Japan Council thanks Symposium sponsors, with major support from the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, Hitachi, Ltd., Mitsubishi Corporation and Lockheed Martin. The Symposium was also sponsored by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, and Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ. Special thanks to Mr. Glen S. Fukushima, Mr. Ernest Higa, Mr. Stephen Kagawa and Mr. Henry Ota for their individual sponsorships. The Nippon Keidanren, Grew Bancroft Foundation and the Fair Trade Center served as supporting organizations.

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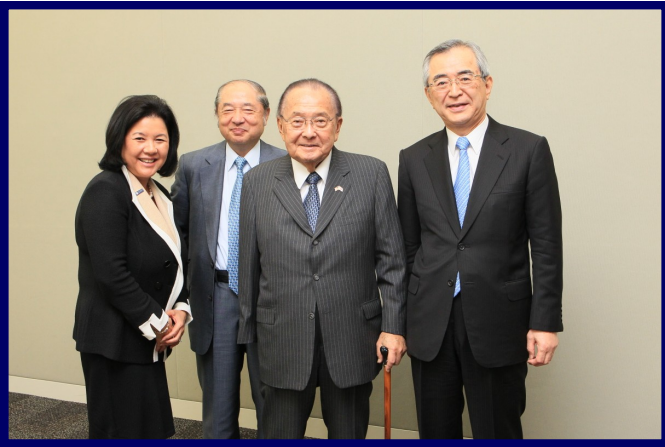
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Meeting with Nippon Keidanren



A luncheon meeting with leadership from Nippon Keidanren was chaired by Vice-Chairman Takashi Kawamura, Chairman of Hitachi Ltd. Keidanren Vice-Chairman Yorihiro Kojima, Chairman of Mitsubishi Corporation, also attended the luncheon. Both served as keynote speakers at the Japan Leadership Symposium immediately following the luncheon. Members of the American Committee of Keidanren were joined by other leaders from Keidanren's member companies.

Opening remarks by Chairman Kawamura acknowledged the critical role that the business sector in

Japan will play in the aftermath of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Many of Japan's top companies have made major contributions to the relief efforts including encouraging employees to volunteer in the Tohoku region. Keidanren is currently developing recommendations for the rebuilding process in Japan. At the meeting, Senator Daniel Inouye provided brief opening remarks, thanking Keidanren for its continued leadership role and its support of Japanese American initiatives over the years.

USJC Board of Councilors Member, Dr. Daniel Okimoto, provided remarks about economic challenges and opportunities in Japan. He also spoke of worldwide economic challenges and the critical role Japan plays in many of the world's economies, especially in the U.S. economy. Dr. Okimoto stressed the importance of the transformation of both economies through greater innovation, technology and financial restructuring.

Keidanren has been a long-time supporter of initiatives connecting Japanese Americans and U.S.-Japan relations. Every year, Keidanren's American Committee hosts a luncheon with members of the Japanese American Leadership Delegation. This meeting provides an opportunity for the Delegation to exchange views with leading Keidanren members. Keidanren has also provided a venue for past symposia on Japanese Americans.

Keidanren also served as a supporting organization of the Japan Leadership Symposium, organized by the U.S.-Japan Council, which was held at Keidanren Hall on May 30, 2011.

Nippon Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organizations) has a membership of 1,600 members which includes approximately 1,200 companies, 129 industrial associations and 47 regional economic organizations. It is the leading business association in Japan who strives to promote Japan's economic growth.

Meeting with Keizai Doyukai



Discussion at the meeting between Keizai Doyukai and the U.S.-Japan Council delegation focused predominantly on relief efforts, new economic opportunities for Japan and motivating the Japanese youth. Yasuchika Hasegawa, Chairman, Keizai Doyukai, opened the meeting stating that the U.S. remains Japan's closest ally and that the Japanese appreciate all that Americans have done in support of Japan, with particular emphasis on the U.S. Military's Operation Tomodachi. USJC Chairman of the Board Thomas Iino stated

that he believes it is leadership organizations like Keizai Doyukai that have the foresight to lead change in Japan.

Mr. Hasegawa reported that 100,000 people are still living in evacuation shelters and 50,000 people are in "self evacuation" with limited access to parts of their homes. He described the difficulty in building temporary housing, because many municipal offices were also lost or damaged, making the dissemination of funds and goods an arduous process. On Japan's economy, Mr. Hasegawa discussed the importance of promoting start-ups, which have been in decline domestically. He reported that \$2.2 billion was invested in start-ups the previous year.

The group also discussed opportunities available to Japan during this crucial turning point in the country's future. Dr. Daniel Okimoto described the historic opportunity for Japan in the estimated \$1 trillion infrastructure market, noting several industries in particular: healthcare, medical research, tourism, water purification, solar energy and Smart Grid technology. "When the U.S. and Japan get together in creating standards, by de facto, it becomes a global standard. We need to get momentum generated and seize this opportunity," said Okimoto.

The third topic was the Japanese youth and student exchange. The group agreed that in Japan, students' focus has shifted from the U.S. to China, Korea and Singapore for study abroad. Yutaka Kase, President & CEO of Sojits Corp., mentioned that the Keizai Doyukai has been encouraging Japanese universities to offer more English classes. Mr. Hasegawa shared that an international meeting, such as the Scientific Technology Society (STS)'s meeting for corporate executives, could possibly be a forum for young entrepreneurs from around the world to exchange ideas. The next STS meeting will be held in Kyoto in October, 2011. Dr. Okimoto suggested organizing a disaster prevention and relief corps, which would be a new, innovative form of bilateral exchange of young volunteers. USJC Board Member Fred Katayama closed by stating that a new attitude is necessary and that there needs to be an acceptance of failure in Japanese society and role models who are not afraid to take risks.

Keizai Doyukai (Japan Association of Corporate Executives) is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization formed in 1946. The organization is made up of 1,300 top executives who participate independently from their companies and believe that corporate managers should be key players in a broad range of political, economic and social issues.

Meeting with Forum 21 Alumni



Alumni of Forum 21 shared their perspectives on recovery efforts and Japan's future with the USJC delegation at a meeting on May 31st at Mitsubishi Corporation headquarters.

Takaharu Ando, Commissioner General of the National Police Agency provided an overview of the personnel working on-the-ground in the region including 12,500 police officers. He also reported that there are still 8,500 missing people. He pointed out that after the Hanshin Earthquake in 1995, the police force was able to identify 98% of the missing people and

victims after two weeks, whereas the tsunami in the Tohoku region made it especially difficult for search and rescue missions. He described the sense of loss and vulnerability felt by people in the Tohoku region, knowing that their entire community, and livelihoods had been destroyed.

Former NTT CEO, Hiromi Wasai, described the need for industrial recovery especially within the automotive industry, which he expects will recover no earlier than this November. He argued that there is a need to rethink the "just-in-time" process in Japanese manufacturing in order to build back a better Japan. In telecommunications, more than 300 mobile stations were lost, and almost all underwater phone cable connections were destroyed. However, he also described the quick recovery of these communication lines and connections by rerouting these lines through Kansai.

The strength of the Japanese High-speed Rail system was also demonstrated on March 11. Mr. Yuji Fukasawa, Managing Director, Japan East Railway Company, described at the meeting how 27 bullet trains were operating on the Tohoku line at the time of the earthquake. They all stopped, without a derailment or injuries, as the early earthquake detection system triggered emergency brakes on the trains nine to twelve seconds before the main earthquake.

Forum 21 President, Shoichi Umezu, broached the subject of how Japanese politics is affecting Japan's recovery: "There are many politicians but there are a lack of trusted leaders. Many politicians in Japan have only served in peaceful eras and are not equipped to handle a true crisis," said Umezu. He recommends that the current administration act with greater urgency and altruism.

Forum 21 alumni emphasized that Japan is open for business and that hosting major international events like the G8 summit would help to boost residual economies, as would tourism.



Forum 21 President Shoichi Umezu and Forum 21 alumni present Senator Inouye with a calligraphy painting.

Director General Takashi Matsumoto left meeting attendees with the notion that this catastrophe has demonstrated the democratic, peaceful nature of the Japanese people and that individuals, companies and nations must continue to ask how they can help.

Forum 21 is a leadership training organization for mid to upper level managers. Those who participated in the May 31st meeting were alumni of this prestigious program.

Meeting with NGO & NPO Leaders

Throughout the week, the U.S.-Japan Council delegation met with leaders of the NGO & NPO (Non-Governmental Organizations & Non-Profit Organizations) sector in Japan that have received funds collected through the U.S.-Japan Council Earthquake Relief Fund. These organizations include: **Japan Platform (JPF)**, **Center for Public Resources Development (CPRD)**, **Civic Force** and **Ashinaga**. A formal meeting was organized with the help of Tadashi Yamamoto and Hideko Katsumata from the Japan Center for International Exchange to assess the state of northeastern Japan three months after the earthquake and tsunami.



Keiko Kiyama, Co-Chair of JPF and Trustee of JEN, reported that JPF currently has 27 of 33 member NGOs working in the Miyagi, Ibaraki and Fukushima prefectures. Their priorities are: 1) Shelter, 2) Debris clean up, 3) Job creation and 4) Psychological support. She explained the importance of supporting not only the fishermen, who were impacted the most, but also workers in peripheral industries such as boat building, refrigeration and supply chain/logistics. In addition, she shared the difficulties experienced in coordinating disaster relief among all organizations and the government at the macro level. The other NGOs leaders present at the meeting agreed

that this is a real issue.

Sachiko Kishimoto, Executive Director of CPRD, reported that their network provides support for the most vulnerable victims, such as children, foreigners and people with handicaps and allergies. She emphasized that CPRD will be focusing on creating jobs that a broad range of people could perform, in order to allow people to earn a living. They would also like to support building senior citizen-friendly infrastructure, especially because temporary shelters and permanent houses will be built at higher elevations.

Kensuke Onishi of Civic Force and Peace Winds Japan advocated that the time has come to go beyond the distribution of goods to tactics that will jump-start local economies. He emphasized the need for financial access, including the creation of social funds (in collaboration with local banks), small-medium enterprise (SME) banking and private sector support. Civic Force is also positioned to provide research in Fukushima, which has received significantly less direct support due to the risk of radiation. He reminded attendees that it took 15 years to recover from the Hanshin Earthquake, which was significantly smaller in scale. Ms. Kiyama echoed that the region will take at least 10-15 years to recover, sharing that in Ishinomaki city alone, there are six million tons of sludge to be cleared, and currently only 240,000 tons, or 4%, has been removed.



Meeting with NGO & NPO Leaders



Yukichi Okazaki of Ashinaga shared that they have visited 800 shelters and that more than 1,000 newly orphaned children from the tsunami have applied for Ashinaga scholarships. A small delegation of high-school age orphans will be visiting New York for the three month anniversary of the earthquake and tsunami in order to raise funds and to meet orphans from September 11th. They are also planning to build a center for orphans in Sendai, called the Rainbow House, which will be modeled after the Rainbow House in Kobe.

Also at the meeting was Ms. Eriko Nitta, who serves as head of the planning Division, Japan NPO Center which was established in 1996. She described the NPO Center's work to support other NPOs in Japan, adding that many of these NGOs and NPOs were based in the Tohoku region and also suffered major losses.



All of the NPO & NGO leaders thanked the USJC delegation for their quick response to the disaster and ongoing support. The U.S.-Japan Council is committed to supporting the growing NPO & NGO sector in Japan through information exchange on best practices and increasing visibility of these organizations in Japanese society.

For more information on these organizations and ongoing relief efforts visit:

- ⇒ Civic Force — <http://civic-force.org/english/>
- ⇒ Japan Platform & Member Organizations — <http://www.japanplatform.org/E/>
- ⇒ Ashinaga — <http://www.ashinaga.org/en/>
- ⇒ Center for Public Resource Development — <http://www.public.or.jp/english/index.html>
- ⇒ Japan NPO Center — <http://www.jnpoc.ne.jp>

Photos from the field

Civic Force Delivers and
Installs 20 Trailers from the
United States



JEN Soup Kitchen Volunteers
in Kazuma



Soccer in Kesenuma
with the help of
PeaceWinds Japan.
— Photo credit: Japan
Center for International Exchange



Showa Women's University Panel: Girls Be Ambitious!



On Wednesday, June 1st, five dynamic women came together to participate in a panel titled “Girls, be Ambitious!” — An allusion to the historic, nationally-known motto in Japan, “Boys, be Ambitious!” uttered by Professor William S. Clark in the late 19th Century. The panelists, Ms. Susan H. Roos, Ms. Joy Sakurai, Ms. Jan Yanehiro and Ms. Jaclyn Zimmerman discussed opportunities and obstacles for women of the new generation. These include career opportunities, work-life balance and strengths women bring to the workplace. More than 200 Showa Women’s University students served as the audience. The panel was made possible by University President, Dr. Mariko Bando, who also served as the moderator.

Ms. Susan Roos, wife of Ambassador John V. Roos, set the tone when she stated: “I always knew that I wanted it all; I wanted a career, I wanted children and I thought if a man can have both, so can I.” Ms. Roos is credited with banding together San Francisco women at different law firms to convince their employers to offer better maternity leave policies. Thanks to this mighty group, all firms in San Francisco and across the country now offer superb maternity benefits.



All panelists communicated the following message: Push boundaries, don’t be afraid to ask for what you deserve and don’t take no for an answer. Instead, create the opportunities you expect to see.

Mother and daughter panelists, USJC Board Member Jan Yanehiro and her daughter Jaclyn Zimmerman, spoke of the importance of having a female mentor early on in one’s career and later serving as a mentor oneself, for an up and coming young woman in the same field. “Make sure you help another woman coming up the ladder,” said Yanehiro.

“We have to make the door wider so more women can come through, take her hand and guide her through.”



Showa Women's University Panel: Girls Be Ambitious!



The panelists also addressed influencing factors in Japanese society that may make it more difficult for a Japanese woman to advance in her career, like limited childcare options. The panelists urged young women in the audience to take on the project of expanding childcare options in Japan, much like Dr. Bando did when she successfully extended childcare hours until 6:30pm. "You must find ways to help other women to make childcare absolutely possible in Japan so that you can be the presidents, vice presidents and managers," said Yanehiro.

On the Japanese custom of working for only one company throughout one's career, the panelists challenged the students to break this mold. "Things are changing in Japan; the first job you get doesn't have to be your only job. Don't be afraid to take risks, move from job-to-job," said Roos.



The U.S.-Japan Council has been exploring the topic of Women in the Workplace and Leadership since its Inaugural Annual Conference in 2010. This panel was a chance to further the dialogue on the subject and reach new and young audiences.

The panelists left the students of Showa Women's University with personal, motivational mantras:



"If it's worth doing, it's worth overdoing."

"Never be afraid of hard work."

"Make small changes that benefit everyone, like the Japanese concept of *kaizen*."

USJC Initiatives with the Japanese Government

Prefectural Governor's Meeting



On June 1st, Ambassador John V. Roos, Dr. Daniel Okimoto and Japanese governors from Oita, Shizuoka, Hiroshima and Saga prefectures convened in Tokyo as a follow up to a meeting held in Tokyo in November, 2010. The purpose of the June 1st meeting was to exchange ideas on Japan's economic recovery after March 11th and to explore and foster regional economic opportunities between Japanese prefectures and U.S. states, especially Hawaii and California.

Japan and the United States have already developed formidable strengths in such promising areas as clean technology, energy and transportation infrastructure, health care for the elderly, tourism, and advanced R&D. The objective of the meeting was to connect concrete projects, companies and technologies with market opportunities at the prefectural and state levels.

Both the U.S. Embassy in Japan and the U.S.-Japan Council place a high priority on developing people-to-people relationships, and this governors' caucus presented an opportunity to build essential relationships at the local levels in ways that will enable the U.S. and Japan to realize the vast potential intrinsic to their bilateral relationship.

The June 1st meeting, organized by the U.S.-Japan Council with support from the United States-Japan Foundation, was held at the Tokyo American Center at the U.S. Embassy in Japan.



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Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with MLIT



The U.S.-Japan Council and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), executed a "Framework Document on Future Cooperation" between the two entities on Friday, June 3, 2011. MLIT Vice Minister Masafumi Shukuri and USJC President Irene Hirano Inouye signed the formal document in a meeting with USJC Board Members and MLIT staff.

Led by Dr. Daniel Okimoto and Council Member, Debra Nakatomi, USJC has been working with MLIT officials over the past year by providing consultation and advice in areas related to transportation projects and High-speed Rail initiatives. Following the signing, USJC Board Members joined Ms. Hirano Inouye and Vice Minister Shukuri, Yumi Yamaguchi and other MLIT staff in a meeting with MLIT Minister Akihiro Ohata.

Minister Ohata discussed Japan's High-speed Rail initiatives in the U.S. and the superior performance of the Shinkansen during the March 11th earthquake. USJC leaders urged Minister Ohata and MLIT officials to share that information with American officials, especially in states like California, where earthquakes are probable and plans for High-speed Rail are progressing. The Framework Document formalizes a working relationship between MLIT and the USJC over the next few years.

U.S.-Japan Council Board Leadership Meeting

On May 31st, U.S.-Japan Council Board Members and Council Members came together for a leadership meeting that featured input from the organization's Japan-based Board of Councilors.

A common discussion theme was the need for expansion of exchange programs ranging from educational to parliamentary or professional exchanges that engage counterparts in the U.S. and Japan. U.S.-Japan Council Vice Chair Henry Ota described his recent involvement in a parliamentary exchange organized by USJC and stated that he encountered many U.S. congressmen who were interested in Japan and would like to find a way to bring them to Japan.

Mr. Naoyuki Agawa, Vice President of International Collaborations at Keio University recommended that the Council work with other organizations to establish a presence in Japan through educational exchange. He suggested that the individuals selected to come to Japan should come from prestigious outlets including Rhodes Scholars, White House Fellows and those completing a Supreme Court clerkship. This, he said, will ensure high-quality exchange.

On Japanese students traveling to the U.S., Mr. Frederick H. Katayama, Anchor of Reuters Insider, recommended profiling successful individuals who have studied abroad in the U.S. who are now leaders in business and government in Japan, thus motivating more Japanese students to take risks and study abroad.

Former Speaker Yohei Kono provided a report out on the current state of Japan after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, estimating that the recovery process will likely take 10-20 years. However, he reminded meeting attendees that the earthquake and tsunami should not be the only focus of the U.S.-Japan relationship: "The U.S.-Japan relationship needs to be an equal partnership, where each country has something to offer," said Kono. "I believe Japan should also help the U.S. and the Japanese should provide support to Japanese Americans."

He also expressed the vulnerability felt by the Japanese, who struggle to get a sense of achievement in such a long recovery process. Ambassador Kunihiko Saito stressed the importance of controlling negative rumors about the safety of Japan and its products, urging the private sector, including NGO and NPO organizations, to play a role in combating these rumors.

Increasing the number of Americans traveling to Japan was a chief goal expressed by many meeting participants. "We really hope that American people will come back to Japan for business and pleasure," stated Yoshio Okawara, Special Advisor for the Institute for International Policy Studies. Mr. Glen S. Fukushima, Chairman and Director of Airbus Japan K.K. described China's proactive, even aggressive, approaches in attracting business and government officials to visit China, suggesting that Japan employ great measures to bring people into their country as well.

It was a unique opportunity for U.S.-based USJC Board Members, Council Members and staff to sit face-to-face with the Council's Japanese advisors. The Council will continue to explore and implement their ideas and suggestions.

Closing Reception at the Ambassador's Residence



On June 1st, 2011 a reception was held at the residence of Ambassador John V. Roos in honor of the U.S.-Japan Council to celebrate a series of successful meetings throughout the week. In addition to the U.S.-Japan Council delegation, the reception was attended by Japan's top business leaders, government officials, members of the Japanese Diet and Japanese American leaders living in Japan.

Remarks were provided by Ambassador Roos, Senator Daniel K. Inouye and Mr. Thomas Iino. Mr. Iino, who serves as Chairman of the Board of the U.S.-Japan Council, reaffirmed

in his statement that the Japanese American community stands with Japan both during the best of times and during the most challenging moments.

Senator Daniel K. Inouye spoke at the reception after having toured the affected northeastern region earlier that day. During his visit he met with U.S. and Japanese military officials who helped to provide an assessment of the progress being made and next steps.

All those who spoke at the reception were in support of enhanced cooperation between the U.S.-Japan Council and the U.S. Embassy in Japan, both in effectively supporting ongoing recovery and rebuilding efforts as well as strengthening U.S.-Japan relations.



Diet Members Toshiko Takeya (New Komei Party), Kotaro Nogami (LDP) and Shinji Oguma (Your Party) at the reception at the Ambassador's residence. Those pictured participated in a Diet Member exchange program organized by the U.S.-Japan Council and the Tokyo America Center in May, 2011. Diet Member Takako Ebata (DPJ) also participated in the program.

Tohoku Region Visit Reflections

During the week, several members of the U.S.-Japan Council delegation traveled to the Tohoku region to meet with NGO and NPO leaders and participate in volunteer activities. As the delegation met with top officials and a broad range of Japanese people, everyone expressed their sincere appreciation for the tremendous outpouring of support from the United States.

We took a bus and walking tour of some of the hardest hit areas along the coast lines and saw the magnitude of the tsunami's force up close. We visited a junior high school, now only a concrete shell, where teachers were able to get most of the students to the top floor of the school building, saving their lives. Unfortunately, three students insisted on going home to their parents and left the school. They have yet to be found. In the debris remaining at the school, one desk and chair, a few musical instruments from the music class and bits and pieces of lunch boxes and other school materials are scattered on the grounds.

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



In Onagawa, the shelter we visited at an elementary school, where victims had been living for more than three months, was orderly, organized, respectful and clean. Shoes were removed, families were speaking quietly, all living together in a classroom. Posters drawn by the children adorn the hallways..."Be strong," "Try your best," and "Don't give up hope." The resilience of the Japanese people must be admired.

— Jan Yanehiro, U.S.-Japan Council Board Member

Tohoku Region Visit Reflections



I was fortunate to join a group of 75 Americans on a volunteering trip called "Flight of Friendship." We had several teams working with different NGOs, including a group to set up temporary shelters in Ofunato (led by Peace Winds Japan), clear the school grounds in Ishinomaki (led by JEN), distribute supplies in Sendai and clear debris from homes in Kessennuma (led by Japan Platform).

Our team was in Kessennuma, and we were assigned to assist the Sato family. The Sato's were one of the fortunate families who survived the tsunami, but had gone through a horrific experience, as Mrs. Sato, her elderly mother and their dog, Ryu, decided to stay inside of their home on March 11th. They told their neighbors not to look for them, and anticipated what was to come on the second floor of their house as the water engulfed the entire first floor and reached ankle-deep on the second floor. They remained trapped for two days until the Self Defense Force finally forced open their front window and cleared the debris to let them out. All of the Sato family survived and they are now living in a rented apartment.

Volunteering requires preparedness, patience and physical strength. There are years of hard work ahead for the regions, and the presence of knowledgeable workers and volunteers is extremely important. It was very special when the team was able to salvage several family photo albums and pieces from the family shrine. It was moments like this that made us understand why it was so important for us to be there and to show support.

— Saki Takasu, U.S.-Japan Council Development Manager



We flew over the entire region in a military plane and helicopter. The wide-spread devastation from the tsunami we saw on television became visible and real. Vast areas are punctuated by piles of debris that include cars and ships. There were also parts of the region that were not damaged, creating a sharp contrast between adjacent areas.

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

U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL

USJC Delegation

U.S.-Japan Council Board of Councilors

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Irene Hirano Inouye, President, U.S.-Japan Council, Washington, D.C., Honolulu, Hawaii

Henry Y. Ota, Vice-Chair, U.S.-Japan Council; Attorney at Law, Los Angeles, CA

Board Members:

Sho Dozono, President, Azumano Travels, Portland, OR

Ernest M. Higa, President & CEO, Higa Industries Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan

Stephen Kagawa, President and CEO, The Pacific Bridge Companies, Inc., Honolulu, HI

Frederick H. Katayama, Anchor, Reuters Insider, Thomson Reuters, New York, NY

Paul Niwa, Professor of Journalism, Emerson College, Boston, MA

Jan Yanehiro, President, Jan Yanehiro, Inc., San Francisco, CA

Paul Yonamine, General Manager, IBM Japan Ltd., Tokyo, Japan



U.S.-Japan Council Members

Margaret Cummisky, Deputy Staff Director, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC

Stan Koyanagi, VP Legal, KB Homes, Los Angeles, CA

Gary Moriwaki, Partner, Trusts & Estates, Fox Rothschild LLP, New York

Hiroyo Nonoyama, Japan Business Team Marketing Manager & Senior Paralegal, Reed Smith LLP, Los Angeles, CA

Yoichihiro Taku, Partner, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Palo Alto, CA



U.S.-Japan Council Staff

Laura Goldstein, Communications Associate, Washington, DC

Saki Takasu, Development Manager, Washington, DC

Bryan Takeda, Program Director, West Coast, Los Angeles, CA

Other Participants

Ms. Michiko Okimoto

Ms Yoko Makino

Ms. Barbara Iino, Mr. Bradley Iino and Mr. Michael Iino

Ms. Jaclyn Zimmerman

Japan Meetings Attendees

May 30, 2011

KEIDANREN LUNCHEON MEETING

Takashi Kawamura, Vice Chairman, Nippon Keidanren; Representative Executive Officer, Chairman and CEO, Board of Directors, Hitachi, Ltd.

Haruo Murase, Co-Chairman, Committee on U.S. Affairs, Nippon Keidanren; Chairman, Canon Marketing Japan Inc.

Keikichi Honda, Chairman, Planning & Coordinating Sub-Committee Committee on U.S. Affairs, Nippon Keidanren; Chairman, EFI K.K.

Yukio Hayashi, Senior Executive Officer, Daikin Industries, Ltd.

Youji Ishimaru, President, Japan Machine Tool Builders' Association

Shinichiro Ito, President & CEO, All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd.

Keiichi Kamiguchi, Corporate Officer, General Manager Corporate Strategy Office, Showa Denko K. K.

Masamichi Morooka, Representative Director, Senior Managing Corporate Officer, Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha

Okifumi Murata, Representative Director & President, Syngenta Japan K. K.

Osamu Nagata, Managing Officer, Toyota Motor Corporation

Motoyuki Oka, Chairman, Sumitomo Corporation

Takehiro Okaya, Managing Director, Okaya & Co., Ltd.

Hajime Suzuki, Executive Vice President, The Overseas Construction Association of Japan, Inc.

Yoshihisa Suzuki, Adviser, ITOCHU Corporation

Tatsuo Tanaka, Deputy President, The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.

Shigeki Tani, Executive Officer, Administrative Division, Toyota Tsusho Corporation

Minoru Tsukada, President, Hitachi Research Institute

Asao Yamakawa, President, Infrastructure Development Institute - Japan

Keidanren Staff

Kazuyuki Kinbara, Director, International Affairs Bureau, Nippon Keidanren

Masakazu Kubota, Senior Managing Director, Nippon Keidanren

Nobuko Sanui, Managing Director, Nippon Keidanren

Japan Meetings Attendees

May 31, 2011

U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL BOARD AND MEMBERS MEETING

U.S.-Japan Council Board of Councilors

Naoyuki Agawa, Vice President, International Collaborations, Keio University

Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, United States Senator, State of Hawai'i and Senate President Pro Tempore

Glen Fukushima, Chairman and Director, Airbus Japan K.K.; Senior Vice President, Airbus SAS

Honorable Yohei Kono, Former Speaker, Japanese Diet, Lower House

Honorable Yoshio Okawara, Special Advisor, Institute for International Policy Studies

Dr. Daniel Okimoto, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Stanford University

Honorable Kunihiko Saito, Former Ambassador of Japan to the United States

Honorable Shotaro Yachi, Professor, Institution for Japan-US Studies, Waseda University and Keio University; Former Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Japanese Corporate Representatives and Guests

Satohiro Akimoto, General Manager, Corporate Strategy & Research Department, Mitsubishi Corporation

Kazuo Koga, Assistant to Speaker Yohei Kono

Takashi Ohde, Corporate Officer and General Manager, Hitachi, Ltd.

NGO LEADERS MEETING

NGO Leaders

Sachiko Kishimoto, Executive Director, Center for Public Resources Development

Keiko Kiyama, Co-Chair, Board of Directors, Japan Platform

Eriko Nitta, Head of Planning Division, Japan NPO Center

Yukichi Okazaki, Board of Director, Ashinaga Ikueikai

Kensuke Onishi, Chairman & Founder, Civic Force/Peace Winds Japan

Japan Center for International Exchange

Tadashi Yamamoto, President

Hideko Katsumata, Managing Director & Executive Secretary

Satoko Ito, Chief Program Officer

Hiromi Hasegawa, Assistant Program Officer

Guests

Hideyuki Inoue, Founder & President at Social Venture Partners Tokyo

Britt Yamamoto, Ph.D., M.S., Executive Director, iLEAP

Japan Meetings Attendees

May 31, 2011

KEIZAI DOYUKAI MEETING

Yasuchika Hasegawa, Chairman, Keizai Doyukai; President & CEO, Takeda Pharmaceutical Company, Ltd.

Kaneichi Maehara, Vice Chairman & President, Keizai Doyukai

Takeo Takasu, Vice Chairman, Keizai Doyukai; Chairman & Director, Namco Bandai Holdings, Inc.

Chikatomo Hodo, Vice Chairman, Committee on Americas-Japan Relations (2010); President, Accenture Japan Ltd.

Kiyohiko Ito, Managing Director, Keizai Doyukai

Yutaka Kase, Chairman, Committee on National Security; President & CEO, Sojitz Corporation

Eizo Kobayashi, Chairman, Committee on Asia-Japan Relations; Chairman, ITOCHU Corporation

Ken Shibusawa, Vice Chairman, Committee on National Security; CEO, Shibusawa and Company, Inc.

FORUM 21 MEETING

Shoichi Umezu, President, Forum 21

Takaharu Ando, Commissioner General, National Police Agency

Yuji Fukasawa, Managing Director, Japan East Railway Company

Kenichiro Hamada, President & CEO, ANA Research Institute

Takashi Matsumoto, Director General, Cabinet Office

Norio Okaido, Special Assistant, Japan Foundation

Ryoichi Ueda, EVP and CFO, Mitsubishi Corporation

Hiromi Wasai, Chief Executive Council, NTT Communications Corp. (Former CEO)

Kenichiro Yonezawa, Chairman & President, Shohoku College, Sony Institute of Higher Education



Meeting with Keizai Doyukai



Meeting with Forum 21 Alumni

Japan Meetings Attendees

June 1, 2011

AMBASSADOR ROOS, DR. OKIMOTO AND GOVERNORS' MEETING

Meeting Co-Chairs

Ambassador John Roos, U.S. Ambassador to Japan

Dr. Daniel Okimoto, Member, Board of Councilors, U.S.-Japan Council and Professor Emeritus, Stanford University

Governors

Governor Yasushi Furukawa, Governor of Saga Prefecture

Governor Katsusada Hirose, Governor of Oita Prefecture

Governor Heita Kawakatsu, Governor of Shizuoka Prefecture

Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki, Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture

U.S. Embassy in Japan

Suzanne Basalla, Senior Advisor to the Ambassador, U.S. Embassy in Japan

Mark M. Wall, Minister Counselor for Economic and Scientific Affairs

Christopher W. Bishop, U.S. Consulate-General, Osaka-Kobe

Mark S. Dieker, U.S. Consulate, Fukuoka

E. Bruce Howard, Counselor for Science, Environment, and Health

U.S.-Japan Council Board and Staff

Thomas Iino, Chairman of the Board, U.S.-Japan Council

Glen Fukushima, Member, Board of Councilors, U.S.-Japan Council

Henry Ota, Vice-Chairman of the Board, U.S.-Japan Council

Saki Takasu, Development Manager, U.S.-Japan Council

Showa Women's University Panel: "Girls Be Ambitious!"

Panelists

Dr. Mariko Bando, President, Showa Women's University

Susan Roos, Wife of Ambassador John V. Roos and Attorney at Law

Joy Sakurai, Program Development Officer, Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Tokyo

Jaclyn Zimmerman, Market Manager-Asia, RapidEye AG

Jan Yanehiro, President, Jan Yanehiro Inc.