

Japanese American Leadership Seminar

Japanese Americans making a difference in their community by “Economic development” and “Leadership” and in U.S.-Japan relations

About The Japanese American Leadership Delegation Program (JALD)

Japanese migration to the U.S. began during the Meiji Era (1868-1912), and there are about 760,000 Japanese Americans in the U.S. (2010, national census). Following the internment camps of World War II, the Sansei (third generation), and Yonsei (fourth generation) have contributed enormously both in their respective fields of work and their communities. Co-organized by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and U.S.-Japan Council (USJC), a diverse group of about 10 Japanese-Americans who are playing leading roles

in such fields as business, public organizations, education and arts are invited to Japan each year. During the 1-week stay in Japan, the group meets and exchanges information with Japanese leaders in government, political, business and non-profit sectors. The group visits regional cities to exchange ideas with experts in various fields and experience traditional Japanese culture. As part of the program, CGP co-hosts a public symposium or a seminar with USJC. In 2014, 10 participants are invited from March 8-15.



Date: March 10, 2014 14:00–15:30

Venue: Fukuoka American Center



The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership
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Organized by:
The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP)
Co-Organized by: U.S.-Japan Council (USJC)
Supported by:
The American Consulate in Fukuoka, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
The Japan-America Society of Fukuoka



Introduction

The Japanese-American Leadership Delegation Program (JALD) has been held every year since 2000 for the purpose of promoting mutual understanding and deepening interaction between the Japanese-American society and Japan, sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As part of this program, the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP) has held an annual seminar or symposium, focusing on a different theme every year. On March 10, 2014, we held a seminar in Fukuoka under the title "Finding a Voice in Government: Japanese-Americans Making a Difference in Their Communities and in U.S.-Japan Relations," which

focused on "local economic development" and "leadership" based on Japanese-American history and experience.

This report is a compilation of summaries of presentations, discussions, and Q&A sessions of the seminar. The presentations by the panelists were especially insightful and encouraged all to think about the history and the current relationship between Japan and the U.S.

We hope that the seminar helped to develop collaborative relationships not only between Fukuoka and the U.S., but also between Kyushu and Chugoku area and the U.S.

Program

Date: March 10, 2014 14:00–15:30

Venue: Fukuoka American Center

- Program: 14:00** Opening Remarks
- 14:05** Screening of Short Film "History of Japanese Americans"
- 14:15** Presentations
 - Ms. Carrie Okinaga "Hawaii Connections"**
 - Ms. Keiko Orrall "Japanese Americans in US Politics"**
 - Mr. Brad Miyake "City of Bellevue USA"**
- 14:45** Discussion and Q&A
- 15:30** Closing



Remarks by Ms. Margaret MacLeod, Consul for Public Affairs, Director, Fukuoka American Center



Remarks by Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye, President, US-Japan Council



Presentation by Ms. Carrie Okinaga



Presentation by Ms. Keiko Orrall



Presentation by Mr. Brad Miyake



Seminar in Fukuoka American Center

Remarks:

**Ms. Margaret G. MacLeod,
Consul for Public Affairs, Director, Fukuoka American Center**

The United States is often represented by the term salad bowl or mosaic, which means we are a multiethnic country and US citizens have their roots in all over the world. There were a lot of Japanese immigrants that came to the United States, their descendants are exceedingly active in American Society at political or business fields, represented by late Senator Daniel Inouye.

Today, we have Q&A session after the presentations by the panelists. So we would like the audience to make the session lively to make this seminar a very meaningful one.

Remarks:

**Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye,
President, US-Japan Council**

On behalf of the US-Japan Council, and the 2014 Japanese American Leadership Delegation, we are so honored to join you this afternoon.

I am especially pleased to return to Fukuoka as my father's parents, my grandparents were from the Fukuoka area, they went to the United States in the early 1900s. And as you heard, my late husband, Senator Daniel Inouye, also had roots in Yame, Fukuoka. His grandparents went to Hawaii as contract laborers to work in the sugar plantations. As two of our leaders here today also have roots in Fukuoka, we are so much delighted to be here.

The US-Japan Council is a non-profit organization. It was established by Japanese Americans and is headquartered in Washington, DC. The council's mission is very simply to develop strong people to people relationships between the US and Japan at the government, the business, and the civil society level. For example, through educational programs, the council works with a diverse range of American and Japanese leaders. Also we work on several programmatic initiatives which include networking between Japanese business leaders and American business leaders, and supporting Japan's NPO and NGO sector.

Among those activities, one of the key programs of the US-Japan Council is the Japanese American Leadership

Delegation (JALD). This is the 14th year of this program and a total of over 166 Japanese American leaders from throughout the United States have participated in the program. The leadership delegates meet with top leaders in Japan, including the prime minister, the foreign minister, heads of major Japanese companies to exchange ideas and enhance its relationship.

I have had the honor of traveling with every leadership delegation for the past 13 years. In 2011, the Leadership Delegation was in Tokyo on March 11, 2011; when the Great East Japan Earthquake struck. And in 2012, the delegation visited Sendai, and we visited Fukushima last year.

Following March 11, the US-Japan Council established an earthquake relief fund and supported many NPOs in Japan that were working on the ground to provide relief and recovery. Many JALD alumni and the US-Japan Council have frequently visited the Tohoku region and worked with communities for their recovery.

For this seminar, we will be hearing from three members of the leadership delegation. It is so wonderful to see an absolutely full house. Thank you very much.



Moderator:

IRENE HIRANO INOUE (Washington DC)
President, US-Japan Council

Irene Hirano Inouye is President of the U.S.-Japan Council, a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., dedicated to building people-to-people relationships between the United States and Japan. She is the former President and founding CEO of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, a position she held for twenty years. A recipient of bachelor's and master's degrees in Public Administration from the University of Southern California, Ms. Hirano Inouye has extensive experience in nonprofit administration, community education and public affairs with culturally diverse communities nationwide. Ms. Hirano Inouye's professional and community activities include serving as Chair, and Trustee Ford Foundation, Trustee and immediate past chair, Kresge Foundation; Trustee, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Trustee, Washington Center, and Trustee, Independent Sector. She was married to the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii. *Prefecture in Japan of ancestral origins: paternal side from Fukuoka, maternal side from Tokyo.*

Abstract of the presentation:

Ms. Carrie Okinaga, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary, First Hawaiian Bank

Aloha. Thank you very much for the privilege and the honor of addressing you here today. I am Sansei. My father's family was from Fukuoka and my mother's from Kumamoto, like so many Japanese Americans from Hawaii. By the early 1900s, Japanese Americans represented over 40% of the population in Hawaii. By contrast, in 2010, Japanese Americans represented just 13.6%. The most populous Asian ancestry descendants are now Filipinos in Hawaii. As I am Hawaiian, I am very much proud that many Japanese Americans from Hawaii have been playing an active role in various areas.

First and foremost, there are late Senator Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga who served as Senator at the same time. Also former Governor Ariyoshi was the first Asian American Governor in the United States. Growing up as a Japanese American woman, in Hawaii there was no question, we had a series of mentors and good role models for us. Patsy Mink, who was elected to the US Congress in the 1960s and Senator Mazie Hirono, currently is the only person of Asian ancestry serving in the senate and she was born in Japan. We are also currently represented in the House of Representatives

by Colleen Hanabusa, who is a Yonsei. We also have many proud Japanese Americans such as four-star army general, Eric Shinseki and baseball player, Wally Yonamine.

As you may know, Fukuoka is the first sister city of Hawaii, and it was established in 1981 when Governor Ariyoshi was governor. We have been supported by the Fukuoka Kenjinkai to continue exchange programs such as the homestay programs and, the JET program. We also can see the strong connections between Hawaii and Japan from the episode which after the Great East Japan Earthquake, \$9 million was raised and it was the largest amount raised for a natural disaster outside of Hawaii.

Tourism is Hawaii's number one industry and it is a key connection point between Japan and Hawaii. It is 20% of our economy, we had 8.236 million visitors in 2013, spending \$14.5 billion. 18.5% of our visitors are from Japan, 1.52 million people, and they spend approximately \$2.5 billion which is about 3.5% of our state's GDP. We have approximately 12 flights per day. Hawaii will continue to execute various initiatives to attract tourists. Come visit us. Aloha and mahalo.



Panelist:

CARRIE OKINAGA (Honolulu, HI)

General Counsel, Corporate Secretary, First Hawaiian Bank

Ms. Carrie Okinaga is General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for First Hawaiian Bank, the oldest and largest financial institution in Hawaii. She is a member of senior management and oversees legal matters as well as corporate secretary functions of the bank and its subsidiaries. As the Corporation Counsel of the City and County of Honolulu from 2005-2011, Ms. Okinaga served as the chief legal counsel and officer through three different mayoral administrations, overseeing a department of over 80 people and a budget in excess of \$9 million. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART), Honolulu's semi-autonomous governmental entity responsible for the planning, operation, maintenance and expansion of the City and County of Honolulu's first elevated fixed guideway mass transit system. Ms. Okinaga earned a B.A. in Government/Public Policy from Pomona College and a J.D. from Stanford Law School, where she currently serves as a member of the Board of Visitors. *Prefectures in Japan of ancestral origins: paternal side from Fukuoka, maternal side from Kumamoto.*

Abstract of the presentation:

Ms. Keiko Orrall, State Legislator, Massachusetts State Legislature

Konnichiwa. I am honored to be here to present to you today about Japanese Americans in US politics. I am from Boston, Massachusetts, and Boston is located on the eastern seaboard of the United States. Massachusetts has a population of approximately 6.6 million people. The median income is \$55,602 and our annual state budget is around \$34 billion. We are home to many excellent colleges including Harvard, MIT, and my alma mater Smith Daigaku. And we also have great sports teams as well.

My story as a Japanese American in politics begins in Okinawa. My grandfather, Saburo Matsudo, moved to Hawaii around 1910 and worked in the sugarcane plantations of Hawaii. My grandmother is also from Okinawa. My father Jinichi Matsudo is the second youngest and was the only one

in his family to attend college, and he married my mother who is German-Irish. I grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and am one of five children. I was fortunate that my parents instilled the values of hard work in our family and I was able to attend Smith College where I met my husband Norman. I have two children.

I decided to run for office in 2011 because I wanted to provide a voice for advocacy for my community since I was involved in local politics and organizing grassroots campaign. In order to run for office in the United States, it takes a lot of work, effort, perseverance, and money. My family is vital to my life as a politician. My husband is my campaign manager, and my children have helped tremendously on all of my campaigns. And most importantly, my supporting team.

I am the first Asian woman in the House of Representatives and the first Japanese American ever to serve in the Massachusetts Legislature. Additionally, it is very difficult to get elected because I am in the Republican Party, and Massachusetts is predominantly and very strongly Democrat. But I believe it is important for all voices to be heard, and so I work hard to be respectful of both parties. After being as a politician, because of my Japanese heritage, I have many opportunities to participate in not only the Japanese

community but in all Asian communities in Massachusetts.

In last December of 2013, the governor of Massachusetts made a visit to Japan to promote Massachusetts-Japan partnership. We are renowned as a world technology hub, such as leaders in medicine, biotech expansion, clean energy, and innovation. We are excited to have opportunities with more than 100 Japanese companies and welcome business leaders here from Fukuoka to investigate Massachusetts as a possibility for expansion. Domo arigato gozaimashita.



Panelist:

KEIKO ORRALL (Boston, MA)

General Counsel, Corporate Secretary, First Hawaiian Bank

Representative Keiko Orrall currently represents the 12th Bristol District of Massachusetts. She was elected as a state legislator in 2011. She is the Ranking Minority Member of the Joint Committees on Labor and Workforce Development as well as State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. She also serves on the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Joint Committee on Public Health. Representative Orrall is the first Japanese American to serve as a member of the Massachusetts Legislature. She has worked to encourage economic development with the cranberry industry and is focused on business expansion in Massachusetts. Prior to office, she taught public school, was involved in politics on a local level and led several successful grassroots campaigns. *Representative Orrall earned a B.A. from Smith College. Prefecture in Japan of ancestral origins: Okinawa.*

Abstract of the presentation:

Mr. Brad Miyake, Acting City Manager, City of Bellevue

Good afternoon. I am Sansei and I am from the City of Bellevue. Today I would like to tell you about my family history, my experience as a Japanese American, my career in civil service, and economic development in Bellevue.

In terms of my family, my father's parents emigrated from Hiroshima to Sacramento, California and my mother's parents were from Nagano and they emigrated from Nagano to Seattle, Washington, in the early 1900s. My parents had five children, three girls and two boys and my father was in the car business selling cars as well as he was the manager in the construction business and my mother was an accountant. Since we were raised primarily in a Caucasian and African American community, we felt very much like a minority there. Having said that though, my father emphasized to me and my brothers and sisters at a very early age to be very proud of my Japanese heritage. In fact, I remember times when we had this huge sense of pride when Japan began dominating both the electronics and automobile industry.

Next is my career of working at the City of Bellevue. In a number of different leadership positions, as a budget manager I oversaw a multimillion dollar capital and operating budget and after that I became a deputy director of our utilities department. Currently, I serve as the acting city manager, which is the chief executive officer for the City of

Bellevue where I lead all city functions including economic development.

In terms of the City of Bellevue, it is located just east of the City of Seattle and roughly 60 years old. We have a population of 130,000. Bellevue has many ties to Japan. It has started that the Japanese immigrated to Bellevue in the early 1900s. We had a large Japanese farming community and one of the large ones, they produce strawberries. We also have ties with the consulate general of Seattle, where we work on areas of economic development. We also hold many Japanese cultural events.

Bellevue has a very strong and vibrant economy so that we are a major regional employment center. Why would you invest in Bellevue? We have some of the lowest tax rates in the State of Washington. We have access to a highly educated workforce. Bellevue is also voted one of the most livable cities by a well-known magazine in the United States called Money magazine. It is also voted one of the best places to start a new business by *Forbes* magazine. It has outstanding schools. It has some of the top public schools in the United States.

Lastly I wanted to welcome Japan to Bellevue. I will do everything to accommodate you and would love to have your business come to Bellevue, so thank you very much.



Panelist:

BRAD MIYAKE (Bellevue, WA)

Acting City Manager, City of Bellevue

Mr. Brad Miyake has been Acting City Manager of the City of Bellevue since May 2013. He had previously served as Deputy City Manager from 2006-2013. Mr. Miyake has played key roles in developing the city's budget process, obtaining the Utilities Department's first professional accreditation and spearheading efforts to improve city management processes. He oversees a biennial budget of approximately \$1.3 billion, over 1,200 positions, and all City operations including Police, Fire, Public Works, Economic Development, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Transportation and Utilities. Mr. Miyake holds a B.A. in Business Administration from the University of Washington. *Prefecture in Japan of ancestral origins: Hiroshima.*

Question 1: Talking about Japanese and Americans, we have different cultural backgrounds. For instance in the United States you are rather straight. Casually you can say things that you are thinking about, but many Japanese, they try to understand you reading in between the lines so to speak. For Japanese Americans, how do you see this difference in cultures between Japan and the United States? And what would be a good idea to mutually understand each other's cultures? What needs to be done? Would you give us advice?

Answer: Toko Serita, Americans are known to be very direct and I think that there is a cultural understanding that needs to take place. One of the things that I think will help the situation is understanding where Americans are coming from, but also Americans understanding how Japanese respond and how they are reacting in situations, so that cultural understanding between both societies is very important. I think that Americans really do need to understand the nuances and the sensitivities that the Japanese approach various things, including communication with Americans so I think that there is a level of understanding and education that needs to happen on both sides.

Question 2: My question goes to Ms. Keiko Orrall. If your last name had been Japanese, would your election have been more difficult?

Answer: Keiko Orrall, My first name is actually very Japanese, and so every day when I go into a meeting, it is mispronounced. They call me Kiko, they call me Kaiko. And so it has been a challenge politically because my last name doesn't help. So it is very important for me to make sure that people understand what type of person they are electing so that they know to vote for me.

Question 3: I moved to California and attended middle school and high school. And then I came back to Japan for university. I am what we called a Kikoku Shijo, which means a returning student whose home country is Japan but has lived abroad. And I feel we, the Kikoku Shijo, have both Japanese and American background. So I wanted to ask you that what do you recommend us, the Kikoku Shijo, to play a role in US-Japan relations?

Answer: Yoriko Kishimoto, I think that people like us play a very important role, obviously, in understanding the United States and Japan in any field, in business and government and such. I think the important mind-frame is not to think of yourself as being in between two cultures but that you are the best of two cultures really. You are the future of both the United States and Japan, because the United States is a multiethnic country and Japan will also be looking for people who are multicultural to help lead the future.

Question 4: In the theme of the symposium, it says leadership here. So what leadership do you have in mind? What does it mean? And what is needed for leadership or

what is important for being a leader or to show leadership?

Answer: Brad Miyake, You have to have integrity to be a leader, you have to be a highly values driven type of person as well as highly principled. I think it is good to have a good education and also to have good experience. It is good not to just stay in one place when you work. I think it is good to get a wide range of experience. And lastly I think it is good to have a mentor, someone that takes you under their wing and helps to you as you move throughout your career.

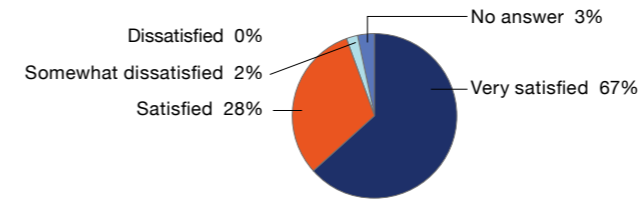
Answer: Derek Okubo, Being a leader, when I think of the best leaders that I have worked with, it is really no different than being a good parent in a lot of ways. You have to be willing to not be popular. As a parent, with your children, if you try to be popular all the time you are going to get yourself into a lot of trouble, and I think as a leader it is no different. You have to have the courage to say no or to make decisions that are sometimes unpopular, but for the betterment of the whole community you have to have the community's interests in mind rather than your own. I think the other thing is, as far as being a leader—to do that requires courage and the courage to stand up for what you believe in the face of people trying to influence you in different ways. As far as you are a leader, when you really think about the best solution, your own credit doesn't matter. It is important that if you are a true leader, credit is not the main purpose for making decisions. The main purpose is to keep the broader community good in mind first, and that is the paramount type of thing. And also to realize that being a leader does not mean you know all of the answers and many times you don't know the answers at all, but you might know the questions that need to be asked in order to get those answers that need to be taken care of.

Question 5: I have a question to Irene. Unfortunately Late Senator Daniel Inouye passed away. I was wondering if he has left any messages about the future of Japan-US relationship which you can share with us?

Answer: Irene Hirano, I think that the Senator was always very proud of his Japanese ancestry and believed that the relationship between the US and Japan was very important, and he worked very hard at various levels of government. I think that legacy is part of the reason the US-Japan Council was started, because he felt, as do many of us, we need to build that relationship for the long-term, and so it is very important to have people who understand each other's countries and that we find ways to be sure there is a strong foundation. So even if often the governments, the presidents, and prime ministers don't agree, if we have a strong foundation, that is an enduring way in which we ensure the future. I think many of the organizations' activities that the senator was involved in, that his legacy will continue in the way. And I hope that many people in Japan feel that the relationship with the United States is also very important as well.

The summary for the questionnaire

Q: Impression of a seminar



Feedbacks from the audience

- I really enjoyed the seminar, the speakers and delegates were very friendly. I assume there are many challenges they face due to their background or their role in political or business fields. But in despite of these situations, I felt they had overcome them by their efforts and being positive. I am sure their story encouraged each of us who attended today.
- It was a good seminar and it was an opportunity for me to think about what leadership is beyond cultures.
- I learned a lot about the history of Japanese Americans which I had never had the chance to study before. I now would like to learn more about Japan-US relations and its background when it appears in the news.
- I was moved. I now understand well that Japanese Americans have been active in American Society by their constant effort and passion.
- It was impressive that there were a lot of university students at present and they actively asked questions.
- I would like to keep in mind about the future of US-Japan relationship and make my effort to reach my goal to work abroad.
- I am deeply proud of those who emigrated to the US and their efforts, their descendant's activities and contribution in American Society.
- Please hold this kind of seminar as many times as possible. Today's seminar was full of energy and it was brilliant! I haven't felt this satisfied for a long time.
- I now understand well about the values of Japanese Americans in the U.S. and their leadership.

Other Delegates except the Panelists



ELISA DOZONO
(Portland, OR)
Partner, Miller Nash
Lawyer specializes in business litigation and government law
Prefectures in Japan of ancestral origins: paternal side from Fukuoka and Okayama, maternal side from Tokushima and Chiba



YORIKO KISHIMOTO
(Palo Alto, CA)
Director/Former Mayor, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District/City of Palo Alto
Political leader, and worked with technology executives across the Pacific negotiating partnerships and technology transfers.
Prefectures in Japan of ancestral origins: paternal side from Osaka, maternal side from Shiga



TOKO SERITA
(Queens, NY)
Acting Supreme Court Justice, Queens County
She is the first Japanese-American Judge in New York State. She is a leading judicial expert on human trafficking.
Prefecture in Japan of ancestral origins: Hokkaido



GARY YAMASHIROYA
(Chicago, IL)
Detective Commander, City of Chicago, Department of Police
He has spent the past 27 years with the Chicago Police Department and worked closely with Japanese officials, assisting them in the field of Criminal Justice and Law.
Prefectures in Japan of ancestral origins: paternal side from Yamaguchi, maternal side from Hiroshima



LEONA HIRAOKA
(Washington, DC)
Vice President, Communications, Points of Light
Senior communications executive, enterprise-level strategist, and media entrepreneur specializing in advancing client company goals with targeted audiences using integrated media platforms and marketing.
Prefectures in Japan of ancestral origins: paternal side from Hiroshima and Kumamoto, maternal side from Yamaguchi



DEREK OKUBO
(Denver, CO)
Executive Director, Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships
He oversees eight offices and ten community commissions that serve as a bridge between the Mayor's Office, local government's departments/agencies and the community.
Prefectures in Japan of ancestral origins: paternal side from Toyama, maternal side from Hiroshima



KEITH WALTERS
(Santa Monica, CA)
Lieutenant Colonel/Army Research Fellow, U.S. Army/RAND Corporation
He contributes to RAND studies on U.S. strategy and policy in East Asia and on the development of future Army concepts and force structure.
Prefectures in Japan of ancestral origins: Miyagi, Tochigi