



U.S.-JAPAN  
COUNCIL & U.S.-Japan Council (Japan)

## 2019 Annual Conference

### ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS

**Eleni KOUNALAKIS** *Lieutenant Governor, State of California*



Ambassador Kounalakis was sworn in as the 50th Lieutenant Governor of California by Governor Gavin Newsom in January 2019. She is a native Californian and the first woman to be elected as the state's lieutenant governor. From 2010 to 2013, Ambassador Kounalakis served as President Obama's Ambassador to the Republic of Hungary. She was the first Greek American woman—and one of America's youngest—to serve as U.S. Ambassador. She holds a B.A. from Dartmouth College, an MBA from UC Berkeley and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the American College of Greece.

**Christopher J. DODD** *Senior Counsel, Arnold & Porter; Former Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Motion Picture Association of America*



Senator Dodd brings strategic counsel to Arnold & Porter's clients seeking to address governmental, political and business challenges. Senator Dodd previously served in the U.S. Congress for more than three decades. He was Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and on the Committees on Foreign Relations (including its East Asia subcommittee) and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Laws that he authored include the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, as well as the Family and Medical Leave Act. After leaving government service in 2011, Senator Dodd joined the Motion Picture Association of America.

**Kenichiro MUKAI** *Minister, Head of Chancery, Embassy of Japan in the United State of America*



Serving in his current role since August 2018, Mr. Mukai oversees general affairs, including VIP visits between Japan and the United States, annual events at the Ambassador's residence, and strengthening relations with states, governors and Japanese American communities. An Arabic-speaking diplomat, he has held positions that include: Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Egypt; Director of the First and Second Middle East Divisions at Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of Japan in Iraq; and Counsellor, Japan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations. He holds a B.A. from Kyoto University and studied at University of Michigan.

**Maika ITSUNO** *TOMODACHI Program Alumna*



Ms. Itsuno is a fifth-year medical student at Keio University in Tokyo, currently conducting neurophysiological research while doing her clinical rotations. She participated in the TOMODACHI U.S.-Japan Youth Exchange Program while in high school, and the TOMODACHI MetLife Women's Leadership Program while in college. Inspired by her experience, she has since explored opportunities across many areas of interest. Most recently, she participated in the Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar, where she took part in a program with young scientists from all over the world. Wishing to pay forward to the TOMODACHI community, she helped organize the first TOMODACHI Generation Summit.

*\*Ms. Itsuno is speaking on the "Investing in the TOMODACHI Generation" panel.*



Ms. Komatsu is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Rice University. She received her bachelor's degree in applied physics at Keio University in Japan. She spent her junior year at Rice University participating in an exchange program supported by the TOMODACHI Sumitomo Corporation Scholarship Program. She also participated in the TOMODACHI STEM @ Rice University for Female Students Program in 2017. She researches carbon nanomaterials for next-generation semiconductor and renewable energy devices.

*\*Ms. Komatsu is speaking on the "Investing in the TOMODACHI Generation" panel.*



Ms. Gotoh has 25+ years of experience in the animation industry, with an emphasis on the evolution of animation and CGI. She is currently producing a Netflix animated feature called Escape from Hat. Her screen credits include the upcoming Klaus, The Lego Movie 2, The Little Prince, The Illusionist, 9, Finding Nemo and Space Jam. She has worked at Disney Feature Animation and Pixar. She serves as Vice-President for Women in Animation, which aims to advance women and people of diverse backgrounds in the industry. She earned a B.S. in Applied Math and an MFA in Film from Columbia University.

*\*Ms. Gotoh is speaking on the "Women's Dialogue: Effective Leadership in Today's Competitive World" panel.*



After taking cooking classes at Le Cordon Bleu in Pasadena, Ms. Hata moved to North Carolina and began working at fine dining restaurants. She joined Herons in the Umstead Hotel in Cary, and then worked at [ONE] Restaurant in Chapel Hill as chef de partie. While there, her interest in fermentation grew, and she received her first SCOBY (Symbiotic Culture of Bacteria and Yeast) from Co-Executive Chef Kim Floresca. Ms. Hata joined Thomas Keller's Bouchon in Beverly Hills as chef de partie in 2015, and later joined Christopher Kostow's Charter Oak restaurant in Napa Valley. She began working at The Manufactory in 2018.

*\*Ms. Hata is speaking on the "Fermentation: Food as Medicine" panel.*



Ms. Wolfson is a freelance writer and theatre artist who explores the creative process by telling stories about talented people who make amazing things. Her work as a journalist is driven by whisky distillers, coffee roasters, entrepreneurs, artists and designers, as well as musicians, chefs, and even occasional celebrities who have stories of innovation and ingenuity. As a theatre director and arts educator, Ms. Wolfson has directed plays at numerous regional theatres and taught workshops in acting and comedy. She also holds public speaking workshops, where students learn how to harness the power of theatre to tap into their best presentational selves.

*\*Ms. Wolfson is speaking on the "Fermentation: Food as Medicine" panel.*