



September 2014

The inaugural invitation exchanges of the TOMODACHI Inouye Scholars Program under the KAKEHASHI Project have been a resounding success. This gift of exchanges to the U.S.-Japan Council in honor of my late husband, Daniel K. Inouye, have given nearly 100 American college students an opportunity to visit Japan, meet Japanese peers and learn about Japanese culture and history first-hand, thus beginning a long-lasting relationship with Japan and her people. The Senator had an optimism and confidence in the next generation's ability to continue to make the world better. He was a strong supporter of TOMODACHI's vision of investing in young people of the United States and Japan to create the next generation of leaders in our countries.

The four U.S. schools selected to participate in the invitation portion of the exchange were DePaul University (Chicago), Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles), University Massachusetts, Boston and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. The final reports, blog posts, reflections and final projects clearly show the impact this program had on their academic and professional interests and personal development. In many, it sparked an interest in Japan as well as a desire to return to Japan to deepen their understanding of Japanese culture and history.

In addition to bringing new voices and future leaders into the U.S.-Japan relationship, this program has strengthened as well as created institutional new partnerships between American and Japanese universities among colleagues within academic fields, not just through study abroad centers. These partnerships, based on people-to-people relationships have the potential to expand university capacities in both nations to increase the numbers of international students coming for academic study, thus contributing to U.S. and Japanese government's long term educational internationalization goals.

The success of the exchanges this summer make us enthusiastic and excited for the visits by the Japanese students to the United States, tentatively scheduled for March 2015. We at the U.S.-Japan Council look forward to welcoming the 100 Japanese visitors to host cities across the country including Washington, D.C., where the Senator spent much of his professional life serving in the United States Congress.

I sincerely thank the Government of Japan and Japan Foundation for making the TOMODACHI Inouye Scholars Program possible, and for bringing these 200 participants into the TOMODACHI Generation!

Sincerely,

Irene Hirano Inouye
President
U.S.-Japan Council

TOMODACHI Inouye Scholars Impact Report

DePaul University



DIRECT PROGRAM IMPACTS

- **Five (5)** students inspired to *study Japanese*
- **One (1)** advanced speaker encouraged to take advanced translation seminar
- **One (1)** student offered *job rotation in Tokyo* by an executive met at a dinner hosted by the Higa Family
- **One (1)** student has *returned to visit Kyoto* with their family
- **One (1)** student has *begun studying* in Kyoto at Ritsumeikan University
- **DePaul administration** is considering it as a model for *future international student exchanges* in Japan and elsewhere





"I believe, much like Senator Inouye did, reexamining the past can uncover narratives that aid us as future leaders, professionals, and friends. Throughout this trip, let us learn from the great leaders we hope to follow in the footsteps of. Senator Daniel Inouye is a leader I can strive to emulate."

– Zander Shaindlin

"After visiting many different places, there is so much more I want to know. I plan on conducting further research and reading more about Japanese culture. Most importantly, I will translate all that I have learned and experienced into social and educational settings, such as family gatherings and discussions during classes, where I know it will relate. My experience in Japan has certainly been memorable!" – Roy Cases



"I was inspired to pursue living in Japan at some point later in life. I'm still trying to figure out where exactly I will find my niche in the Japanese workplace, but the two ideas I have been toying with are applying for JET or working for an international public relations firm which would allow me to travel between the two countries regularly. While in Tokyo, we had a panel discussion at the U.S. Embassy hosted by the TOMODACHI Initiative, which included eight people who are working with both America and Japan. This was a great addition to the program because it illustrated to us how we can be involved in Japan through our unique interests. [...] The diversity of speakers was so eye-opening for me. I feel like I have so much room to grow, learn and thrive in Japan." – Lillian Hart



TOMODACHI Inouye Scholars Impacts Loyola Marymount University Summer 2014



"Overall, this was the best trip that I have taken so far in life. Even though this was my first time ever leaving the country, I believe Japan was the best way to start my traveling path. I plan on traveling a lot more now. This experience has helped me develop an interest in learning about other cultures, hands on. Japan left me wanting more."



"It took a young group of leaders and made them all realize the importance of diplomacy and successful relationships between the United States and Japan. And it also reassured Japanese students, business officials, NPO leaders and government politicians that the youth of America is committed to healthy pacific relations."

"I have continued to exchange emails with one individual from Yasuda's Women's University. She was my calligraphy instructor. She spoke the least English of any of the Japanese students I met and yet she has kept in touch with me for the longest. She said the program solidified her desires to visit the USA through her school program. It was all because of us visiting their school, I never foresaw such outcomes of our presence."

"But I know how much of an honor it was to be a part of this trip. I know that I will work forever to repay that honor. This trip convinced me to keep working hard towards the success in life I can achieve. I had been lazy and self-doubtful, now I am determined and convinced to succeed. I have this trip to thank for that. I want to thank all the organizations and individuals for setting up this trip, and ensure them all that the next time I go to Japan I will have made some concrete contribution to the prolonged peace in the Pacific."





"This was the first chance that we had to meet college students. We had real conversations with real Japanese students. They even took us to do karaoke. To say that Sophia University wasn't a turning point in the trip would be a lie. This was the first time that I realized that it would be possible to become friends with students who are my age and have similar lives to my own. We all bonded with the students and faculty. Each individual we met that day, gave us that much more confidence to practice our Japanese and become that much more immersed with not only the culture, but the people of Japan as well. People to people relations took form during that visit. It shaped everything about our trip from that moment on."

"Hearing the owner [of Nihonjinmamura] speak with so much passion reminded me of my dream to be a doctor. This man devoted his entire life to this museum and seeing others learn about the different stories filled him with joy. This showed me that once you find your purpose or a career that you love you won't have to work a day in your life. The man was working but he was happy that his work was enlightening others. This is the type of career I want."



"Senator Inouye, I believe, would be proud of the experiences we all have had, and the sense of responsibility we all feel toward ensuring a better future for the people of the United States and Japan. United we stand as TOMODACHI Inouye Scholars. United we stand as people of the world community."

IMPACTS

- **One (1) LMU participant** changed his schedule to **enroll in first-year Japanese language courses**. He now wishes to pursue a degree in linguistics so that he can **pursue a career in Asia**.
- **One (1) LMU participant** is exploring a **change of major** allowing her to focus more on **international** issues.
- **Several LMU participants** have expressed a desire to return to Japan. Several of the seniors are **seriously considering applying** for the **JET Program**, as well as **Fulbright Fellowships**.



University of Hawai'i Manoa

TOMODACHI Inouye Scholars Impact Report



Not only have the scholars strengthened relationships within their own community, they have now built a “bridge” with their Matsuyama University peers. Thanks to the TOMODACHI Inouye Scholars Program, our students now have a more global perspective. Furthermore, they understand that though we live in a diverse international society, we are all essentially connected by shared human experience. The global is no longer simply political or abstract. For these 23 students, it’s personal.

The Matsuyama University exchange, the Japanese American female leaders’ panel, and the Tohoku panel were three valuable experiences on this trip. The following quotes show just a sampling of what our scholars have to say about Senator Inouye’s legacy and their experiences in Japan.



Senator Inouye’s Legacy

“The late Senator Inouye frequently stressed the critical need for “solidifying bonds between nations via people-to-people interactions.” I believe the goal of [this program] was similar to the Senator’s vision in that the words “bridge”, “people-to-people”, and even “between”, are rooted in the idea that dialogue, cultural exchanges, realizing the commonality of people, and building friendships will help facilitate kinship between America, Japan, and all countries of the world.”

– Casey Miyashiro, UH student



Matsuyama University Exchange

“Participating in the student exchange with Matsuyama University was an amazing experience. I was very hesitant about this portion of the program because I was worried that I would not be able to effectively communicate with my [Japanese peers]. But by taking part in new experiences together.... [we] could communicate with each other. Our non-verbal expressions during these shared experiences allowed us to understand each other and form a bond.

– Brittney Acoba, UH student



Japanese American Women Leaders Panel

The panel of Women Leaders at Amazon.com was a highlight. They talked about being an American and a working woman in Japan. This panel as well as my experience at the U.S. Embassy, really got me thinking about doing something with international relations in the future. I have never considered a career in international relations previously, but I am now inspired. Not only has this program piqued my interest in international relations, it has also helped me be more aware of the rest of the world.

– Emily Murai, UH student



Tohoku Panel

Most touching to me was the trip to the embassy in which a group of panelists from the Tohoku region shared their tragedies and triumphs concerning Fukushima. Despite the calamity, I heard stories of hope and resilience, of dreams that dared to rise from the ashes of destruction to redeem, rebuild, and restore. It was that moment I truly felt connected, for our stories are threads that bind us together as human. To hear and to see the faces that represent struggle and victory struck a resonant. I talked with them, laughed with them, mourned their misfortunes but rejoiced in their successes. In that moment I felt endlessly inspired to create as they did, to continue to strive and to dream.

– Nina Martinez, UH scholar



Scholars before their meeting with Governor Nakamura in Ehime Prefecture



Scholars perform an “Aloha” dance during a cultural exchange with Matsuyama University Students



Thank you for this fantastic, life-changing opportunity!

Mahalo,

Dr. Dennis Ogawa, Coordinating Professor

Patsy Iwasaki, Chaperone

Christine Kitano, Chaperone

The Mass Media

UMass Boston's independent student newspaper



UMass Boston scholars have a great time in Japan!

SUMMER 2014

The **TOMODACHI Inouye Scholars Program** aimed at forging stronger bond between two nations.

"I met Sen. Inouye on several occasions and in these encounters, and indeed throughout his illustrious career, I was impressed by his commitment to the value of international understanding built on direct people-to-people exchanges.

This program, and our personal experience with it, demonstrates the wisdom of Sen. Inouye's message. I am convinced that our students were changed for the better through their encounters with people from Japan. I am confident as well that many who met our students were similarly influenced in profound and positive ways." – *Professor Paul Watanabe*

The group visited **Tokyo** and **Hiroshima**, as well as participated in exchanges with peers at **Hiroshima University** and **Showa Women's University**.

Hiroshima and Tokyo Highlights



Participant Testimonials

I signed up for this program] because I needed the opportunity to speak English and make friends," she said. "I'm really interested in spending more time in the U.S. and seeing places I've never been to before. – *Kaho Kusayanagi, Showa Women's University*

I applied to the TOMODACHI [Inouye Scholars] program with the goal of exploring a new culture outside of my comfort zone. The trip has proven to be an incredibly insightful experience; I was able not only to learn about Japanese culture, but to begin to cultivate new friendships and a deeper connection to Japan. I fully intend to stay involved in U.S.-Japan relations and I hope to encourage others to do the same." – *Sarah Bolden, UMass Boston student*



"We live in a global community, and our histories are intertwined with those of other nations. As U.S. residents, we have an obligation to understand the lives of peoples elsewhere, because so much of what we do has an impact on the rest of the world. When we are removed from our familiar spaces, we can sometimes be made uncomfortable and disoriented, but this discomfort is crucial to our growth as learners and as individuals.

– *Rajini Srikanth, Dean, UMass Boston*

"One of the most exemplary instances of international connection was meeting with students from Hiroshima University and Showa Women's University. The students from both universities were enthusiastic and kind. What was especially striking about Showa, however, was what the students represented. The women of Showa were not only excited about their studies, but bright and driven. Many of them dreamt of teaching in both the U.S. and in Japan."

– *Zubeda Kahn, UMass student*

ありがとう



ございました。