

Japanese American Leadership Symposium 2025

From Hiroshima to Hope: Japanese American Perspectives on Global Peace and Security

2025

Mon, March 3

6:30_{pm} - 7:45_{pm}

Doors Open at 6:00pm

Venue:

**Gaines Hall, Hiroshima Jogakuin
Junior & Senior High School**

11-32 Kaminobori-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima City

Registration:



Contact

U.S.-Japan Council (Japan)

Email: jald@usjapancouncil.org

***Simultaneous interpretation available (Japanese-English)**

***Free admission**

As the world reflects on the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and celebrates the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Nihon Hidankyo for their dedication to nuclear disarmament, this session examines the unique role Japanese Americans play in advancing global peace and security. Following a keynote address by Hidehiko Yuzaki, Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture, four distinguished JALD delegates will participate in a panel discussion. The session will explore the enduring legacy of Hiroshima and the contributions of Japanese Americans to peacebuilding efforts. Delegates will also share their personal and family histories, highlighting their deep ties to Japan and the Japanese American experience.

Program:

Opening Remarks

Audrey Yamamoto President & CEO, U.S.-Japan Council

Keynote Speech

Hidehiko Yuzaki Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture

Short Movie

A History of Japanese Americans

Panel Discussion Moderator

Derick Yanehiro Producer, ABC Network News

Panelists

Ellen Kamei City Councilmember, City of Mountain View, CA

Ann Teranishi President & CEO, American Savings Bank

Dawn Yamane Hewett Partner, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP

Q&A Session

Host/Organizer: U.S.-Japan Council

Supporter: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Hiroshima Prefecture, Hiroshima City, Hiroshima Prefectural Board of Education,
Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace

Special Supporter: The Japan Foundation

Collaborator: Hiroshima Jogakuin Junior and Senior High School, NPO Peace Culture Village

About the Japanese American Leadership Delegation Program (JALD):

The Japanese American Leadership Delegation Program (JALD) has been hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) since 2000 to foster mutual understanding between the Japanese American community in the United States and Japan, and to strengthen long-term relationships between the two nations. The U.S.-Japan Council provides administration and organization for this program. In 2025, 10 Japanese American leaders will be invited to Japan for one week, and will visit Hiroshima and Tokyo. They will engage with a wide range of Japanese leaders and intellectuals from the political, public, and private sectors. As part of this program, this public symposium aims to deepen understanding between Japanese and American communities, promote people-to-people relationships, and advance U.S.-Japan dialogue.

Aligned with both nation's priorities of fostering mutual understanding and international collaboration, the session will also highlight the importance of cultural exchange and shared histories in addressing contemporary global challenges. Together, the panelists will inspire dialogue on how the lessons of Hiroshima can guide future generations toward peace, reconciliation, and a strengthened U.S.-Japan partnership.

Keynote Speaker



Hidehiko Yuzaki Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture

Governor Yuzaki graduated from the University of Tokyo and holds an MBA from Stanford University. At the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (presently Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)), he engaged in work on automobiles, trade with the U.S., energy, ventures, etc., and then was seconded to a venture capital firm in Silicon Valley. After resigning from METI, he founded ACCA Networks. As Founder and Representative Director, he engaged in the diffusion of broadband access aimed at individuals and corporate enterprises, contributing to the infrastructure of Japan's internet industry. The company became listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in 2005. He won his first election in 2009 as Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture and has been reelected for four consecutive terms to date.

Moderator



Derick Yanehiro (Los Angeles, CA) Producer, ABC Network News

Derick is an ABC Network News Producer based in Los Angeles, California. He is the lead producer for the series Maui Strong 808, which highlighted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' and the U.S.-Japan Council's purposeful program, Kibou for Maui. He also covers entertainment and breaking news stories for Good Morning America, World News Tonight, and Nightline. The five-time Emmy winner started his career in New York as an intern at ABC News, served as Assignment Editor and now Producer. Derick believes telling Asian stories matters now more than ever and has made it his goal to spotlight Asian stories in the mainstream media. He is a member of the Asian American Journalists Association and mentors young Asian journalists. He is a third generation Japanese American and was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. He graduated from Long Beach State University with a degree in Broadcast Journalism.

Prefecture in Japan of ancestral origins: Yamaguchi.

Panelists



Ellen Kamei (Mountain View, CA) City Councilmember, City of Mountain View, CA

Ellen is a Councilmember and former Mayor for the City of Mountain View, CA, located in the heart of Silicon Valley. She represents over 86,500 residents, nationally and internationally known corporations, and a thriving small business community. She is the daughter of a Chinese and Puerto Rican American mother and a Japanese American father born at Heart Mountain Incarceration Camp. A government affairs professional, Ellen has worked at every level of government including Capitol Hill, the City of New York, and the California State Assembly. Currently, she is part of the External Affairs Team for AT&T California. She is a Silicon Valley Business Journal Women of Influence awardee and Immediate Past President, League of California Cities Peninsula Division, representing 36 cities in the Bay Area region. Ellen earned her MPA from the University of Pennsylvania, BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School Senior Executives in State and Local Government.

Prefecture in Japan of ancestral origins: Wakayama.



Ann Teranishi (Honolulu, HI) President and CEO, American Savings Bank

Ann is President and CEO of American Savings Bank (ASB) and a member of its board. As a former attorney with nearly 20 years of experience in banking, Ann held various leadership roles, including EVP of Operations, where she advanced digital banking services and automation. She also developed an enterprise-wide compliance program, led the retail credit team to best-in-class fulfillment times for consumer loans, and built out the bank's customer experience approach. Ann is active in the community, mentors emerging leaders, and serves on various boards including the U.S.-Japan Council. Ann holds a bachelor's degree in international relations and economics from Claremont McKenna College and a juris doctorate degree from the UC Law San Francisco. As a college student, she studied abroad at Kansai Gaidai University. She resides in Hawaii with her husband and has a daughter in college and a teenage son.

Prefecture in Japan of ancestral origins: maternal side from Kumamoto & Niigata, paternal side from Yamaguchi & Hiroshima.



Dawn Yamane Hewett (Washington, DC) Partner, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP

Dawn is a litigation, arbitration, and investigations partner at Quinn Emanuel, one of the world's leading disputes firms. She draws on decades of experience in policy and international affairs and her prior service in government as Deputy General Counsel for Strategic Initiatives at the U.S. Department of Commerce to advise clients in a variety of high-stakes disputes, including investment treaty and commercial arbitrations, internal investigations, investigations by government agencies, and national security related matters. Dawn holds degrees from Yale Law School, Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs, Trinity College Dublin, and the University of Washington. She is a U.S.-Japan Council Leader, a U.S.-Japan Leadership Program Fellow, and past President of the local Asian Pacific American Bar Association. She also leads the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's Leadership Advancement Program, a professional development program for midcareer AANHPI lawyers. Dawn lives in Washington, DC with her husband and two kids.

Prefecture in Japan of ancestral origins: Hiroshima.

About U.S.-Japan Council:

The U.S.-Japan Council (USJC) develops and connects global leaders to create a stronger U.S.-Japan relationship. Our community of members across the United States and Japan is a vibrant and diverse professional and personal network that fosters deep and meaningful connections to address and create solutions to mutual concerns. The Council is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization that was founded by a group of Japanese American leaders in 2009 and is headquartered in Washington, DC. In 2012, the U.S.-Japan Council (Japan) was created and in 2013, it became a Public Interest Corporation (koeki zaidan hojin).

<https://www.usjapancouncil.org/>

