



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

15 YEARS OF
STRENGTHENING A
THRIVING GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP





WHO WE ARE

Founded by Japanese Americans, the U.S.-Japan Council is the premier organization dedicated to strengthening U.S.-Japan relations through people-to-people connections.

From high school classrooms to corporate boardrooms, from college lecture halls to the halls of government, we develop and connect leaders from every sector committed to a strong and enduring global partnership.

Through our transformative leadership initiatives, innovative exchange programs, and impactful in-person and virtual events, we bring together leaders at every level to address key bilateral issues. Our community of members across the United States and Japan is a vibrant and diverse professional and personal network. It fosters deep connections and opportunities to make meaningful contributions.



OUR VISION

A world where the U.S.-Japan relationship serves as the model for a thriving global partnership that inspires international collaboration and nurtures visionary leaders who create an inclusive, sustainable, and secure world.

OUR MISSION

We cultivate and connect leaders at every level in the United States and Japan who are committed to strengthening our global partnership.



WORDS FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear USJC Community,

As we reflect on 2024, a remarkable year of growth and impact for us, we are pleased to present our Annual Report. This document represents not just a collection of achievements, but a demonstration of the vibrant community we've built together across sectors and generations over the last 15 years.

This past year reflects our strong commitment to our mission to cultivate and connect leaders at all levels across the U.S. and Japan. Through our wide range of programs, events, and initiatives, we've continued fostering meaningful relationships and creating opportunities for connection and collaboration between our two nations.

We successfully launched the TOMODACHI Kibou for Maui program with support from the Government of Japan and key partners including the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, ODYSSEY Nature Japan, and PICHTR. The pilot of our Mineta Ambassadors Program, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, marked another significant milestone in developing next-generation leaders. Our impact was recognized at the highest levels of government, with three of our initiatives being highlighted for their role in strengthening people-to-people ties in the United States-Japan Joint Leaders' Statement issued in connection with Prime Minister Kishida's State Visit.



AUDREY YAMAMOTO

President & CEO



KATHY MATSUI

*Board Co-Chair
2023-2024*



SUSAN MORITA

*Board Co-Chair
2023-2024*

In the following pages, you'll find stories from the past year of impact, growth, and transformation. From facilitating crucial dialogues through Government Briefings to hosting over 700 participants at our Annual Conference in Tokyo, each endeavor reflects our commitment to strengthening U.S.-Japan relations and developing leadership pipelines across sectors.

We are deeply grateful to our supporters, partners, and members who make USJC's work possible. Looking ahead, we remain committed to our vision of a world where the U.S.-Japan relationship models a thriving global partnership and inspires visionary leaders to create an inclusive, sustainable, and secure world.

With appreciation,

***Kathy Matsui & Susan Morita, Board Co-chairs
Audrey Yamamoto, President & CEO***



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Fifteen years of unwavering commitment to strengthening U.S.-Japan relations culminated in recognition in the **United States-Japan Joint Leaders' Statement**, which recognized USJC's role in deepening people-to-people ties through impactful programs and initiatives.



Co-hosted pivotal **government briefings and roundtables** featuring distinguished leaders such as U.S. Senior Advisor to the President for International Climate Policy John Podesta, United States Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Wally Adeyemo, and Representative Adrian Smith



Led **TOMODACHI Kibou for Maui** with generous support from the Government of Japan in partnership with the **Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii**, **ODYSSEY Nature Japan**, and **PICHTR**



In partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, launched **Mineta Ambassadors Program** pilot with a \$12M endowment to support student exchange experiences



Hosted **an engaging Annual Conference** attended by over 700 participants, including nearly half from the United States and a quarter under the age of 40, with the first-ever conference-adjacent **GX-DX-AI Summit**



Celebrated 15 years of USJC's impact with heartfelt tributes, including a **commemorative video** and an inspiring fireside chat

2024 KEY METRICS



350+

next-generation
leaders trained



1,000+



leaders convened to strengthen
our global partnership

150+

donors driving the
success of our
mission



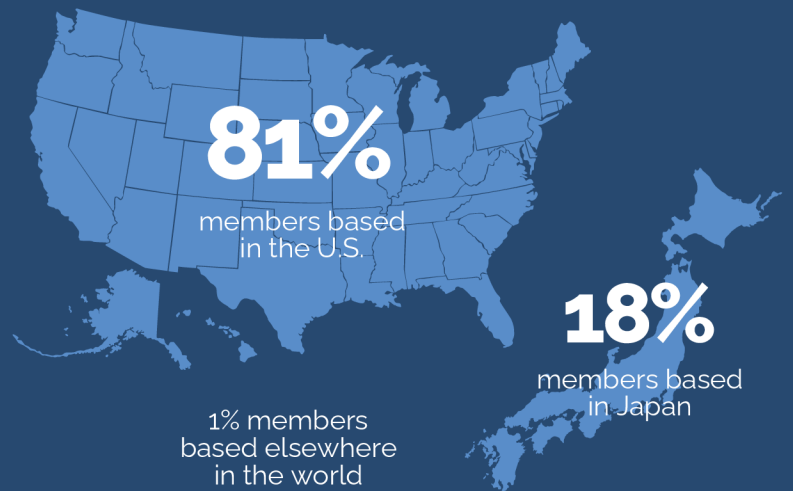
115+

member events



members across 12 regions

- Business - 56.7%
- Law - 6.7%
- Healthcare - 2.4%
- Education - 9.2%
- Non-profit - 14.1%
- Government - 8.7%
- Student - 2.2%



SINCE OUR
FOUNDING...



years in
operation



24

staff across
U.S. & Japan



23,000+

event
attendees



11,000+

leadership program alumni

STRENGTHENING OUR GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

USJC continued serving as a trusted convener of high-level, bilateral conversations. Our U.S.-Japan Leadership Initiative is a framework that develops a robust network of globally minded leaders focused on addressing critical bilateral issues.



At our signature event – the 2024 Annual Conference – we welcomed over 700 attendees, with nearly half from the United States and a quarter under 40. We were honored to feature distinguished speakers, including Takeshi Niinami; Jun Sawada; Governor KOIKE Yuriko; Ambassador Rahm Emanuel; Member of the House of Representatives KONO Taro; and Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado.





CULTIVATING LEADERS AT EVERY LEVEL

Our leadership initiatives flourished through multiple programs that cultivated leaders who are committed to our global partnership. This includes programs for high school and college students through our [TOMODACHI Initiative](#), [TOMODACHI Alumni Leadership Program](#), [Toshizo Watanabe Study Abroad Scholarship Program](#), and the newly launched [Mineta Ambassadors Program](#). In addition, we hosted our U40 Summit in Seattle and selected exceptional leaders—both rising and established—for our [Emerging Leaders Program](#), [Advanced Leaders Collective](#), and [Japanese American Leadership Delegation](#).

We also coordinated the annual meeting of the Ambassador, Consuls-General and Japanese American Leaders in Washington DC that was hosted by Ambassador YAMADA Shigeo and sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prominent Japanese American leaders were selected by their respective Consulates to discuss ways to work collaboratively to ensure a stronger U.S.-Japan relationship.



Next-Generation Leaders
TOMODACHI Initiative



TOMODACHI Alumni
Leadership Program



Emerging Leaders
Program



Advanced Leaders
Collective



Japanese American
Leadership Delegation



ADDRESSING KEY BILATERAL ISSUES

Climate & Sustainability Initiative



In March, USJC partnered with the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ) to co-organize a roundtable featuring John Podesta, Senior Advisor to the U.S. President for International Climate Policy, that focused on the U.S.-Japan Partnership for a Net-Zero World. In September nearly 700 participants joined a webinar focused on carbon pricing that USJC hosted in partnership with the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan and the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation.



Our [GX-DX-AI Summit](#), held on November 1 at the Deloitte Tohmatu Innovation Park, brought together over 200 leaders from various sectors to explore how Green Transformation (GX), Digital Transformation (DX) and AI are shaping Japan's technological and sustainable future. Following the Summit, a celebratory Tradition & Innovation Soiree that blended Japan's cultural heritage with modern innovation and featured a musical performance by the renowned Kodo taiko group from Sado Island.



Business Advisory Board

The [Business Advisory Board \(BAB\)](#) consists of Japanese business leaders with U.S. experience and senior American business leaders in Japan, all of whom are familiar with our mission. Under the leadership of Masaaki Tanaka, Vice Chair of the USJC Board of Councilors, the BAB hosted three meetings in 2024, attracting nearly 200 members and guests.



Government Briefings

Our Government Briefings provide a critical platform for dialogue between key Council stakeholders and government officials shaping U.S.-Japan policy. These briefings deepen understanding of the political and economic landscape and foster stronger ties between government and private sector leaders. Through timely, off-the-record conversations, participants gain unique insights into strategic priorities and emerging challenges across both nations. Featured speakers in 2024 included: U.S. Representative Adrian Smith, Chair, U.S.-Japan Congressional Caucus and Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo.



MEMBERS & COMMUNITY

Our member regions bridge global perspectives with local action to foster meaningful engagement. Highlights include [Visionary Voices](#) series launch in New York, discussions in Northern California navigating the future of U.S.-Japan relations after the 2024 elections, and bonenkai celebrations across the world. Our 12 member regions worked to strengthen local community connections, while member-led affinity groups continued to connect members across regions through virtual events and seminars.

PLATINUM
\$100,000**Deloitte.***fabbit*KATHY MATSUI
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