



POLITICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Since its creation, JCIE has worked to promote closer relations between Japan's leaders and their overseas counterparts through political exchange. The Political Exchange Program dates back to 1968, when the first U.S.-Japan Parliamentary Exchange brought eight Congressional members to Tokyo for an unprecedented program of meetings and discussion sessions with leading Japanese political and social figures. In the ensuing years, JCIE broadened its programs, establishing additional exchanges for young political leaders from Japan and the United States (1973), for senior U.S. Congressional staff (1982), and for young Australian and Japanese political leaders (1991). To date, nearly 1,000 individual political leaders have taken part in one or more of these exchange programs.

While the initial emphasis of these exchanges was generally on deepening mutual understanding and building bilateral networks of leaders, dramatic changes in the international and domestic environment have encouraged JCIE to increasingly stress the objective of offering political leaders the opportunity for dialogue on common challenges. This evolution has been accompanied by a significant expansion in the role of Japanese politicians in policymaking that has made political exchange even more meaningful.

Also, in response to the growing needs of political leaders for broader networks and new sources of information, JCIE has further expanded its programs to include frequent study meetings for Diet members with visiting foreign leaders and other experts. It has also increasingly involved political leaders in many of its study and dialogue projects—particularly the younger generation of Diet members and other politicians who are now gaining influence and who have limited experience with substantive international exchange and dialogue.

U.S.-Japan Parliamentary Exchange Program

The U.S.-Japan Parliamentary Exchange Program was initiated in 1968, making it the longest-running exchange of its kind. The annual weeklong exchange visits of Japanese and American parliamentary delegations at the core of this program typically consist of a series of high-level meetings, briefings, and working sessions with leaders from diverse sectors of society. In response to the evolving needs of political leaders, this program has continued to become more substantive in nature, shifting in focus from purely bilateral relations to the regional and global role of the U.S.-Japan partnership. For example, in 1997, JCIE initiated the Joint Parliamentary Study and Dialogue Project on U.S.-Japan Security Relations in Asia Pacific in order to promote a deeper understanding of the bilateral security relationship among members of Congress and the Diet.

24th Japanese Diet Delegation to the U.S.

On January 11–15, 2004, seven Diet members visited the United States for meetings with top politicians, policymakers, analysts, and business leaders. Highlights of the trip included meetings with Dr. Henry Kissinger, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly. Discussions focused on the dispatch of Japanese Self-Defense Force troops to Iraq, the North Korean nuclear crisis, and the current political dynamics of both countries.

The delegates also took part in well-attended public seminars in New York and Washington, D.C., on the current state of Japanese politics and their outlook on the U.S.-Japan relationship. All seven members of the multipartisan delegation participated in a January 13, 2004, luncheon seminar in Washington on the topic of “Japanese Politics after the General

Election,” cosponsored with the Center for Strategic and International Studies. In New York, delegation members participated in a seminar cosponsored with the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New York.

Participants:

KAZUHIRO HARAGUCHI, *House of Representatives, Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ)*

TATSUYA ITO, *House of Representatives, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)*

KENJI KOSAKA (Delegation Leader), *House of Representatives, LDP*

KOJI MATSUI, *House of Councillors, DPJ*

HAKUBUN SHIMOMURA, *House of Representatives, LDP*

KIYOHICO TOYAMA, *House of Councillors, New Komeito*

SHU WATANABE, *House of Representatives, DPJ*

U.S. Congressional Exchange

JCIE has a long history of facilitating visits by individual and small groups of legislators. On December 14–20, 2003, Representative Brian Baird (D-WA), traveled to Tokyo, Nagoya, and Kyoto on a special visit arranged by JCIE as part of the U.S.-Japan Parliamentary Exchange Program. In Tokyo, he met with a wide range of Diet members from the ruling and opposition parties, as well as government, business, and nonprofit leaders. They exchanged opinions on various issues of mutual concern, including agriculture, information technology, the environment, and the role of the United States and Japan in the reconstruction of Iraq. In addition, he was the featured speaker in a public symposium titled, “A New Pattern of Congressional Debate: Cases of Energy and

Environmental Bills,” which focused on the growing challenges of legislating in the increasingly polarized U.S. political system.

Seminar Series

As part of a broad effort to expand the Political Exchange Program, JCIE has launched a new seminar series geared toward business executives and other leaders in the U.S.-Japan community, primarily in New York. Building on JCIE’s 35 years of experience in political exchange, these seminars bring Congressional members, Diet members, and their legislative staff as speakers for small, closed-door discussions. The seminars are aimed at updating participants on trends in U.S. and Japanese policymaking

processes and the current thinking of legislative leaders on issues of mutual concern.

The inaugural seminar took place in New York on November 17, 2003, as Representative Rick Boucher (D-VA) met with a small group of leaders from the New York area to discuss his views on the Congressional agenda, focusing on energy policy in particular.

Four members of the 24th Diet Delegation to the United States participated in a January 14, 2004, seminar on “The Outlook for Japanese Politics and U.S.-Japan Relations in 2004,” which was cosponsored with the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New York. This public seminar drew an audience of more than 70 members of New York’s U.S.-Japan community, and was followed by a separate discussion session with a small group of business leaders.

U.S.-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange Program

Since 1973, JCIE has worked with the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) to carry out the U.S.-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange Program. This intensive two-week study program is designed to expose young leaders from each country to the political, social, and economic conditions of the other country, enhance their understanding and appreciation of U.S.-Japan relations, and create personal networks among the two nations' leaders. In addition to visiting the host nation's capitol for meetings with national leaders, participants travel to at least two additional cities to gain a more diverse perspective. During the course of the program, delegates meet with a wide range of senior government officials, political party representatives, industry executives, and community leaders. American delegates typically include state and local elected officials as well as staff members, and equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans are selected each year. The Japanese delegates primarily consist of Diet staffers and prefectural and local elected officials from the ruling and opposition parties.

18th Japanese Delegation to the U.S.

The 18th Japanese Delegation of the U.S.-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange Program visited the United States from July 19 to August 1, 2003. Participants traveled to Washington, D.C.; Maryland; Alabama; and California, where they met with senior government officials, representatives from political parties, local elected officials, and leaders from the business and nonprofit sectors. In Washington, D.C., the delegation met with various congressmen, including Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL), and Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), to learn

about local issues facing their constituencies and to discuss foreign policy issues and U.S.-Japan relations. In Maryland, the delegation met with nonprofit representatives, county officials, and city council members to learn about local and state efforts to build a healthy economy, healthy environment, and healthy communities.

Participants:

SHUSAKU INOUE, *Member, Kita-Kyushu City Council, LDP*

ICHIRO KATO, *Professional Staff Member, Party Organization Bureau, LDP*

TAIZOH MATSUBARA, *Assistant to Takashi Kosugi, former Member of the House of Representatives, LDP*

MOTOSHI MORII, *Member, Aichi Prefectural Assembly, DPJ*

MUNEAKI MURAI, *Professional Staff Member, Youth Division, Party Organization Committee, DPJ*

MASAKI TAKANO, *Assistant to Shingo Nishimura, Member of the House of Representatives, Liberal Party*

HISAYUKI TAKEDA, *Reporter, Komei Shimbun, New Komeito*

MIKI WAJIMA, *Member, Yamagata Prefectural Assembly, DPJ*

22nd U.S. Delegation to Japan

On October 18–31, 2003, the 22nd U.S. Delegation of the U.S.-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange Program visited Tokyo, Kanagawa, Kyoto, Himeji, and Kita-Kyushu. As the participants arrived shortly before the November general elections in Japan,

they had the opportunity to observe firsthand various aspects of Japan's election system and political processes. In Tokyo, the delegates received briefings from top party officials on their election strategies and learned about Japan's foreign policy and various domestic issues through meetings with Ambassador Howard Baker, up-and-coming political leaders such as Councillor Yoshimasa Hayashi (LDP), journalists, and business leaders. The participants also learned about Japan's history, culture, local government systems, and decentralization efforts through meetings with local elected officials and city council members in Kanagawa, Kyoto, and Himeji. In Kita-Kyushu, they had the opportunity to attend a campaign speech by Prime Minister Jun'ichiro Koizumi.

Participants:

CLAUDIA ALVAREZ, *Councilwoman, City of Santa Ana (Democrat)*

MERIKA COLEMAN, *Representative, State of Alabama (Democrat)*

FERDINAND "TREY" FRANK FISCHER, *Representative, State of Texas (Democrat)*

STEPHANIE OLSEN, *Representative, State of Minnesota (Republican)*

DAN SCHOOFF, *Representative, State of Wisconsin (Democrat)*

GEOFFREY SMITH, *Representative, State of Ohio (Republican)*

PETER SU, *Congressional Liaison, International Affairs, U.S. Department of Treasury (Republican)*

DOUG TURNER, *President, DW Turner Public Relations (Republican)*

Australia-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange Program

In 1991, JCIE and the Australian Political Exchange Council launched the Australia-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange Program in order to build a network among the next generation of leaders in both countries and to promote bilateral dialogue. Since the program's inception, 170 participants have visited their counterparts' country for briefings and discussions with political, business, nonprofit, and opinion leaders.

13th Australian Delegation to Japan

On February 22–28, 2004, the 13th Australian Delegation to Japan visited Tokyo, Nagoya, and Kyoto. In Tokyo, they met with leading Diet members such as Ichiro Aisawa (senior vice-minister for foreign affairs), ministry officials, and top Japanese business executives for briefings and discussions on Japan's politics, economy, and foreign policy, as well as security issues of shared concern and the Australia-Japan relationship. The delegates also took part in a panel discussion on current issues and the future outlook concerning Australia's political and economic situation and the implications for the Australia-Japan relationship. The delegation traveled to Nagoya for a tour of an automobile manufacturing plant and a meeting with Toyota executives, and then to Kyoto for an introduction to Japanese history and culture.

Participants:

MICHAEL DURRANT, *Vice President of Sturt Federal Electorate Committee; Member, Board of Management, Kelly & Co. Lawyers, Liberal Party*

JOHN EDGE, *Secretary, Australian Political Exchange Council*

MARTYN EVANS MP, *Federal Member for Bonython, Australian Labor Party*

BRENDON GRYLLES MP, *Member for Merredin, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Western Australia, National Party*

JONATHAN KIRKWOOD, *Adviser to Mr. Robert McClelland MP, Shadow Minister for Homeland Security, Australian Labor Party*

SUSSAN LEY MP (Delegation Leader), *Federal Member for Farrer, Liberal Party*

AMALIA MATHESON, *Media Adviser, Rural Doctors Association of Australia; Former Vice President of the ACT Division of the Liberal Party of Australia, Liberal Party*

JAMES MERLINO, *Member for Monbulk, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Victoria, Australian Labor Party*

NICOLE WELLS, *Adviser to the Hon. Duncan Kerr MP, Federal Member for Denison, Australian Labor Party*