

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 US-Japan Parliamentary Exchange brought eight Congressional members to Tokyo for an unprecedented program of meetings and discussions with leading Japanese political and social figures. In the ensuing years, JCIE broadened its programs, establishing additional exchange programs for young political leaders from Japan and the United States (1973), for senior US Congressional staff (1982), and for young Australian and Japanese political leaders (1991). More than 1,000 individual political leaders have taken part in one or more of these exchange programs.

While the initial emphasis of the 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 such as global warming or energy security. 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, and in response, JCIE has expanded its programs to include frequent study meetings for Diet members on issues relating to international affairs, often with the participation of visiting foreign leaders and other experts.

JCIE has also increasingly drawn on the strong network of political leaders it has developed through this program to involve them in study and dialogue projects on key policy issues of critical concern. For example, members of the Diet who have participated in previous exchanges or dialogues form the core of the Diet Task Force (see page 41) of the Friends of the Global Fund, Japan, which meets regularly with overseas leaders to discuss the pressing issue of Japan's response to the spread of communicable diseases.



US-Japan Parliamentary Exchange Program

The US-Japan Parliamentary Exchange Program was initiated in 1968, making it the longest-running exchange of its kind. Exchange visits of Japanese and American parliamentarians form the core of this program and typically consist of a series of high-level meetings, briefings, and working sessions with leaders from diverse sectors of society. JCIE also facilitates visits to the United States by individual Diet members and visits by individual American members of Congress to Japan.

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 US-Japan partnership. JCIE also organizes study group meetings for young, emerging Diet members, and it actively involves Diet members and other political leaders in policy studies on cutting-edge regional issues.

Congressional Visit to Japan

Representative Rick Boucher (D-VA), the new chairman of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, visited Japan on April 7–15, 2007, for a program focusing on climate change and new energy technologies. The US Congress was preparing new legislation on energy issues and climate change throughout the spring of 2007, and Representative Boucher's visit centered around a series of discussions with a broad range of political leaders, government officials, business executives, and NGO experts about Japan's experiences adapting to climate change regulations and the Kyoto Protocol, promising new energy technologies being implemented in Japan, and the potential for US-Japan cooperation on energy and global warming.

On April 11, a public seminar was held in cooperation with the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on "The US Debate on Responses to Global Warming." As keynote speaker, Representative Boucher discussed the recent dramatic shift in US thinking on global warming. Nearly 150 Diet members, government officials, corporate representatives, NGO leaders, scholars, and journalists took part in the seminar, which was covered widely in the Japanese press.



Public seminar with US Representative Rick Boucher

Study Groups for Members of the Diet

Since 1997, JCIE has organized multiparty study group meetings for young, emerging Diet members to bring them together with overseas experts from the fields of academia, policy, government, business, and media in order to enhance their understanding of international affairs.

On April 25, 2006, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger spoke at a roundtable discussion on China-Japan-US trilateral relations with eight emerging Japanese political leaders. A year later, on March 27, 2007, Dr. Kissinger again addressed a roundtable of six Diet members. JCIE also arranged meetings for

continued on page 30

US Congressional Staff Exchange Program

JCIE established the US Congressional Staff Exchange Program in 1982 in recognition of the vital role that staff members play in legislative and policymaking processes. The one-week program provides senior Congressional staffers with the opportunity to meet a wide range of Japanese legislators, policymakers, and experts, thus giving them a sense of Japan's policymaking process and of recent trends in politics, economics, and foreign policy. Since its inception, 139 staffers serving Congressional members from both parties have visited Japan on this program, bringing their heightened understanding of US-Japan relations and the politics of Japanese policymaking back to their work in the US Congress. Alumni of the program are encouraged to take part in other JCIE programs, such as a special roundtable on US-Japan relations that was held in Washington DC on July 30, 2007.

19th Congressional Staff Delegation to Japan

The 19th US Congressional Staff Exchange Program held on February 17–25, 2007, brought five senior Congressional staff to Japan for an intensive schedule of meetings and site visits. During their visit, they met with more than a dozen Diet members—including the leadership of both the ruling and opposition parties—to hear about Japan's evolving policymaking process and the prospects for future US-Japan partnership. Economic issues were a key topic of discussion in a number of meetings with key business leaders, while diplomats, journalists, and civil society leaders spoke with the delegation about how Japan is slowly redefining its role in East Asia. The participants also served as panelists for a public symposium on the foreign policy implications of the US

midterm elections and discussed common challenges with their counterparts during a roundtable with Diet policy staff.

The delegation then traveled to Aichi Prefecture for a program focusing on local-level governance, where the group spoke about the role of local governments with the chair of the prefectural assembly, Yasuhiro Uchida, after attending the new assembly's opening session. The final destination for the group was Kyoto, where Representative Seiji Maehara, former president of the Democratic Party of Japan, briefed the group on district-level politics and then accompanied them to a local campaign launch. The group also had a rare meeting with Seiha Mori, chief abbot of the famous Kiyomizu Temple, and a private lecture and demonstration by Soshitsu Sen XVI, head of the Urasenke School of Tea.

Participants:

CHARLES COGAR, *Legislative Director, Office of Senator Wayne Allard*

SIOBHAN O'NEIL, *Analyst in Domestic Security and Intelligence, Congressional Research Service*

JAMES PARETTI, JR., *Workforce Policy Counsel, House Committee on Education and the Workforce*

BRANDON RENZ, *Legislative Director, Office of Representative Virginia Foxx*

GREGG RICHARD, *Minority Staff Director, Senate Banking Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Urban Development*



US-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange Program

Since 1973, JCIE has worked with the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) to operate the US-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 US-Japan relations, and create personal networks among the two nations' leaders. In addition to visiting the host nation's capital 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 efforts are made to select equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans each year. The Japanese delegates primarily consist of Diet staffers and prefectural and local elected officials from the major ruling and opposition parties.

In recognition of the strong ties between the two organizations, JCIE facilitated the ACYPL's 40th Anniversary International Alumni Summit in Tokyo on July 24–27, 2006. Roughly 100 Asian and American alumni of ACYPL exchanges with the East Asia and Pacific region gathered for a summit that involved discussions of good governance, the rule of law, the role of civil society, media and politics, and US-Asia relations. Many of the summit participants are serving as elected officials or hold influential positions in government, business, and the nonprofit sector, and the summit was intended to improve mutual understanding, share best practices, and identify ways to remain connected with each other.

20th Japanese Delegation to the United States

From January 27 to February 9, 2007, a delegation of Diet staff and elected officials traveled to Washington DC, meeting with Representative Michael M. Honda and Representative Dana Rohrabacher, and then visiting both the Democratic and Republican National Committees to receive briefings on the election campaign system. The delegation also met with White House and State Department officials and experts from leading think tanks and nonprofit organizations for briefings on domestic US politics, foreign policy, and economics.

In North Carolina, the delegation visited Duke University Hospital and the Research Triangle Park to discuss public health policy and university-industry-government collaboration. In addition, the group compared notes on local politics with members of the North Carolina General Assembly, the county district attorney, and the mayor of Wilmington. The delegation then concluded its trip in Sacramento and San Francisco, where it met with elected state and city officials to learn about the relationships among the federal, state, county, and municipal governments.

Participants:

AKIKO ENOMOTO, *Staff Researcher, Policy Research Committee (Democratic Party of Japan [DPJ])*

TATSUO IGARASHI, *Member, Tsukuba City Assembly (DPJ)*

CHIKAKO IKEDA, *Staff, Election Bureau, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Headquarters*

MITSUYOSHI MIZOGUCHI, *Acting Assistant Chief, Integrated Center Secretariat, New Komeito Headquarters*

HIDEAKI OCHIAI, *Acting Assistant Chief, Shikoku Branch Office, Komei Shimbun (Party organ paper)*
TAKAAKI WANI, *Staff, Diet Affairs Committee, LDP Headquarters*

Observer:

HIDEKAZU TAKEDA, *Program Officer, Intellectual Exchange Division, Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership*

21st Japanese Delegation to the United States

Eight local legislators and Diet staffers took part in the 21st Japanese delegation to the United States, which was held on January 12–25, 2008. The visit began in Washington DC, where the delegation focused on US foreign policy in meetings with Congressman Ed Royce, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Alex Arvizu, and key players in domestic policymaking from the White House and from various interest groups. Since the visit coincided with the start of the 2008 presidential primaries, they also spoke with a wide range of party activists, campaign advisors, and political analysts, who shared insights into the complex US electoral system and how presidential campaigns are operated at the national and local levels.

The group then traveled to Indiana and Florida for a series of site visits and discussions with state government officials, local politicians, business executives, and nonprofit leaders. They were welcomed to Indiana by a wide range of local leaders, including Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman, and they visited a Honda automobile plant and spoke with town officials about differences in Japanese and American public administration at the local level. In Tallahassee, Florida, the group spoke with local elected officials about their policymaking challenges, exchanged views with Florida State University students, and made site visits to city facilities ranging from a child-care center to the city jail.

Participants:

YAMATO AOYAMA, *Member, Ibaraki Prefectural Assembly (DPJ)*

HIROKI IWAMATSU, *Staff, LDP Party Organization Headquarters*

RIKA KITAGAWA, *Correspondent, Komei Press (New Komeito Party)*

JUNKO KIYONO, *Staff Researcher, Policy Research Committee, DPJ*

MASAYOSHI KUBOYA, *Assistant to Marutei Tsurunen, Member of the House of Councillors (DPJ)*

YASUHIRO MASUJIMA, *Leader, Information System Bureau, Information System Department, New Komeito*

SHINGO MIYABARA, *Assistant to Kenji Kosaka, Member of the House of Representatives (LDP)*

KEIKO OGAWA, *Member, Nerima City Assembly (LDP)*

Observer:

TAKASHI IMAI, *Chief Officer, Intellectual & Grassroots Exchange Divisions, Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership*

24th US Delegation to Japan

Seven US political leaders taking part in the 24th US delegation visited Tokyo, Ibaraki, Aichi, and Kyoto on April 14–27, 2007. While in the capital, they met with representatives of the three major parties—including LDP Secretary-General Hidenao Nakagawa, Tetsundo Iwakuni of the DPJ, and Hiroshi Takano of the New Komeito Party—to learn about their platforms for the April 22 local elections and the summer’s Upper House elections. These discussions were complemented by meetings with key foreign ministry officials, as well as with Tsuyoshi Takagi, chairman of Japan’s largest labor union, the Japan Trade Union Confederation (JTUC-Rengo).

Before leaving Tokyo, the group met with Tokyo Vice Governor Yokichi Yokoyama to learn about

the relationship between local governments and the central government in Japan. They expanded their focus on local-level governance in Ibaraki and Aichi Prefectures during sessions with Aichi Prefectural Assembly Speaker Yasuhiro Uchida, Aichi Prefecture Vice Governor Makoto Nishimura, and area mayors and city council members. They also met with a wide range of other prefectural, local, and business leaders, including Inuyama City Council Member Anthony Bianchi, Japan's first American-born elected official; took part in a homestay; and visited a Toyota automobile plant.

Participants:

DAVID A. ADAMS, *Treasurer, County of Richland, South Carolina (Democrat)*

JENNIFER ALVAREZ, *Director of Legislative & Political Affairs, National Association of Letter Carriers, Washington DC (Democrat)*

JOSEPH BARTLETT, *Member, Maryland House of Delegates (Republican)*

JOSH BROWN, *Senior Director, Business Development, Corrections Corporation of America, Tennessee (Republican)*

MELINDA KATZ, *Delegation Escort, Member, New York City Council (Democrat)*

JUSTIN RHEE, *Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, USDA, Washington DC (Republican)*

JENNIFER M. SEELIG, *Member, Utah House of Representatives (Democrat)*

continued from page 26

Dr. Kissinger with the prime minister, the foreign minister, and other key leaders.

Another set of meetings with promising Diet members was held in mid-October 2006 with noted philanthropist George Soros. And in February 2008, JCIE arranged a three-day visit program for the prominent American political analyst Thomas Mann of the Brookings Institution. This included a special seminar on February 26 on the ongoing US presidential elections that was attended by 50 Diet members.



Henry Kissinger visits Japan

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, 183 participants have visited their counterparts' countries for briefings and discussions with political, business, nonprofit, and opinion leaders.

11th Japanese Delegation to Australia

The 11th Japanese Delegation to Australia, led by Representative Fumio Kishida, visited Brisbane, Canberra, and Sydney on August 6–13, 2006, to engage in dialogue with a broad cross-section of national and local leaders on such issues as international cooperation on common challenges and current trends in policymaking and civil society. The delegation met with a wide range of political and governmental leaders, including key figures in the Howard Cabinet and the prime minister's office, such as Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, Fisheries Minister Eric Abetz, and Special Minister of State Gary Nairn. The Diet group also held a series of meetings with national legislators, beginning with the heads of both the Upper and Lower Houses (Senate President Paul Calvert and Speaker David Hawker) and Senator Alan Ferguson, the chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade.

The delegation members also met with a wide range of foreign policy experts, business executives, NGO leaders, and local politicians. Prior to departing the capital, the delegation traveled to the Australian

National University to take part in a roundtable discussion with researchers at the Australia-Japan Research Center. In Sydney, they held sessions with members of the New South Wales legislature as well as with business and civil society leaders. Capping off their visit in Brisbane, they met with representatives of the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland and spoke with local legislators about regional agriculture and industry and bilateral trade relations.

Participants:

FUMIO KISHIDA (Delegation Leader), *Member, House of Representatives, LDP*

TOSHIAKI ENDO, *Member, House of Representatives, LDP*

GOSHI HOSONO, *Member, House of Representatives, DPJ*

JUN MATSUMOTO, *Member, House of Representatives, LDP*

SHINPEI MATSUSHITA, *Member, House of Councillors, Independent*

YUJI SAWA, *Member, House of Councillors, New Komeito Party*

16th Australian Delegation to Japan

The 16th Australian Delegation to Japan, led by MP Anne Burke, federal member for Chisholm, visited Tokyo, Nagoya, and Kyoto on March 24–30, 2007. In a year that marked the 50th anniversary of the Australia-Japan agreement, the delegation sought to deepen their understanding of Japan's politics, economy, and foreign policy, as well as to compare and share thoughts on bilateral relations between the two nations. The seven-person delegation met with leaders from business and civil society, as well as senior leadership from all of the three major parties, including Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary

Hakubun Shimomura and 12 other members of the Japanese Diet.

Taking part in roundtable discussions and meetings throughout the week, the delegates exchanged views on East Asia community building, education reform, aging populations and social security issues, as well as the national responses to changing socio-political dynamics such as the increasing role of civil society. The delegation also met with other senior government officials and experts, including officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and leading think tank experts. They rounded out their weeklong exchange in Japan with a visit to an automobile plant and the historic city of Kyoto.

Participants:

ANNA BURKE MP (Delegation Leader), *Federal Member for Chisholm*

LINDA KIRK, *Senator for South Australia*

JACK SNELLING MHA, *Speaker of the House of Assembly, State Member for Playford in the South Australian House of Assembly*

WILL HODGMAN MHA, *Leader of the Opposition, State Member for Franklin in the Tasmanian House of Assembly*

SEAN COSTELLO, *Senior Adviser, Office of the Hon. Dr. Brendan Nelson MP, Federal Minister for Defence*

ANDREW ELSBURY, *Researcher, Office of the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, Senator for Victoria*

PANDORA LIVANES, *Executive Officer, Australian Political Exchange Council*

domestic political dynamics under new administrations in both countries and to discuss the state of bilateral relations in the framework of a rapidly evolving Asia. In these meetings—as well as in those with government officials, business executives, and journalists—particular focus was also placed on climate change and trade, especially the treatment of agricultural products in the upcoming negotiations for an Australia-Japan economic partnership agreement.

Outside of Tokyo, the delegation members spoke with Hyogo Vice Governor Tomio Sato and other local government officials about the implications of local government reform and consolidation. They also were briefed at the Asian Disaster Reduction Center on multinational cooperation in disaster response, took part in a session on local-level environmental policy, and visited the historic city of Kyoto.

Participants:

PETER DUTTON MP (Delegation Leader), *Federal Member for Dickson*

CORY BERNARDI, *Senator for South Australia*

STIRLING HINCHLIFFE MP, *Member for Stafford in the Queensland Legislative Assembly*

MELISSA PARKE MP, *Federal Member for Fremantle*

JULIAN SHEEZEL, *State Director and CEO, Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division)*

GEOFF BARNETT, *Secretariat Manager, Australian Political Exchange Council*

17th Australian Delegation to Japan

Six members of the 17th Australian delegation visited Tokyo, Hyogo Prefecture, and Kyoto on March 1–7, 2008, for a series of wide-ranging discussions on shared domestic challenges and the future of Australia-Japan relations. While in Tokyo, they met with nearly 20 Diet members, including leaders from all three of the major parties, to compare notes on