

POLITICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

The promotion of close relations between Japanese leaders and their overseas counterparts through political exchange has been a centerpiece of JCIE's programs since its inception. In 1968, JCIE's first US-Japan Political Exchange Program brought eight US Congressional members to Tokyo for an unprecedented series of meetings and discussions with leading Japanese political and social figures.

Over the years, JCIE has expanded the breadth of its political exchange programs, including exchanges for young political leaders from Japan and the United States (since 1973), for senior US Congressional staff (since 1982), and for young Australian and Japanese political leaders (since 1991). In the ensuing years, over 1,000 political leaders have taken part in one or more of JCIE's exchanges, including most recently a JCIE Parliamentary Exchange Program delegation to Japan in early 2011, which was one of the largest private Congressional delegations traveling to Japan in recent years.

The increasing complexity and interconnectedness of the international and domestic environment has made the development of meaningful connections between international leaders all the more imperative, and JCIE has worked to reinvigorate the breadth and depth of US-Japan political exchange. For example, as bilateral relations between Japan and its partner countries have matured, JCIE has also increasingly placed an emphasis on discussion of issues of common concern during its exchanges, such as climate change, IT policy, and global health. As its network of program alumni has grown, JCIE has expanded its programs to include frequent study meetings and roundtables both in Japan and abroad on key policy issues of critical concern in order to keep this important network connected and engaged.



US-Japan Parliamentary Exchange Program

Established in 1968, the US-Japan Parliamentary Exchange Program is the longest-running exchange between members of the US Congress and the Japanese Diet. This nongovernmental, nonpartisan program has brought more than 270 members of the US Congress and Japanese Diet to each other's countries for a series of intensive dialogues with leaders from a broad range of fields. It is designed to enhance dialogue between American and Japanese political leaders on bilateral and global policy issues and to strengthen bilateral cooperation on issues of shared concern. In the past couple of years, this program has also played host to a variety of prominent US and Japanese politicians on individual visits overseas.

28th US Congressional Delegation to Japan

One of the largest delegations of Congressional members to go to Japan in recent years traveled to Tokyo on February 20–23, 2011, as part of the US-Japan Parliamentary Exchange Program. The delegation participated in the New Shimoda Conference, which convened nearly 80 senior Japanese and American leaders to discuss ways for Japan and the United States to work together more closely in making regional and global contributions.

During their time in Japan, the group participated in a series of high-level meetings with top Japanese policymakers, including discussions with 18 Japanese Diet members from both major political parties—the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) and the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)—such as Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara, LDP President Sadakazu Tanigaki, and Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Tetsuro Fukuyama. The delegation also met with officials from the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the US Embassy and discussed the state of US-Japan business relations with senior business leaders from Japanese companies and from American corporations operating in Japan. In order to exchange views on Asia Pacific regional issues, the group participated in discussions with Japanese foreign policy experts on topics such as US and Japanese relations with China, the US-Japan role in the global financial system, and the implications of Japanese politics for foreign policy.

Finally, JCIE organized tailored events for each participant based on their interests and expertise, such as meetings with Japan International Cooperation Agency President Sadako Ogata, stem cell experts, education ministry officials, and sister-city exchange program representatives.



2011 Congressional delegation outside the Japanese Diet

Participants List

SUSAN DAVIS (*D-California*), Member, House of Representatives; Ranking Member, House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel

DIANA DEGETTE (*D-Colorado*), *Member, House of Representatives; Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations; Chief Deputy Minority Whip, House Democratic Leadership*

MAZIE HIRONO (*D-Hawaii*), *Member, House of Representatives; Member, Education and the Workforce Committee; Member, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee*

NITA LOWEY (*D-New York*), *Member, House of Representatives; Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations*

TOM PETRI (*R-Wisconsin*), *Member, House of Representatives; Chairman, House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation*

JIM WEBB* (*D-Virginia*), *Member, Senate; Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs; Chairman, Senate Armed Forces Subcommittee on Personnel*

*February 22 New Shimoda Conference only

Japan Seminars and Meetings

In addition to bilateral exchange programs between the Congress and the Japanese Diet, JCIE conducts a variety of activities to promote substantive exchange between Japanese legislators and American leaders, such as a meeting arranged by JCIE for US Senator Jeff Bingaman on Japanese energy policy in October 2010. Other major events included the following.

Diet Roundtable with Henry Kissinger

On April 24, 2009, JCIE held a special session in Tokyo with leading Diet members and Henry Kissinger, former US Secretary of State, covering topics such as US-China relations, US-Japan relations, and political change in Japan.

Tokyo Conference with Former US President George W. Bush

On November 4, 2009, JCIE and the Seoul Forum on International Affairs co-hosted a luncheon and conference on the US-Korea-Japan trilateral relationship with former President George W. Bush as the keynote speaker. Participants discussed Korea-Japan relations as well as future prospects for cooperation between the three countries in East Asia.

Washington Seminars and Meetings

JCIE also works to encourage US Congressional members to engage in substantive discussions and activities related to US-Japan relations. This is done through a variety of initiatives, including the facilitation of meetings and briefings for Japanese politicians when they visit the United States.

Washington Visit Program for Japanese Minister of Internal Affairs

JCIE arranged a daylong program in Washington DC on September 23, 2009, for Minister of Internal Affairs Kazuhiro Haraguchi during his first visit to the United States after assuming his cabinet position. The program began with a meeting on US-Japan relations with leading DC policy experts. As Minister Haraguchi had a special interest in technology policy and US-Japan cooperation on technology, JCIE also



Minister of Internal Affairs Kazuhiro Haraguchi at a Washington DC roundtable in September 2009

arranged a special visit with Rick Boucher, chairman of the House of Representatives Energy Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet, as well as a discussion on American IT policy with senior US business executives.

Roundtable on the Congress, the Diet, and New Opportunities for US-Japan Partnership

On March 18, 2009, five Congressional members from both parties took part in a JCIE roundtable on how the Diet and Congress can work together more effectively on key issues such as national security, the environment, and global development. Participants also discussed ways to better facilitate and expand parliamentary exchange.

Participants

BRIAN BAIRD (*D-Washington*), Member, House of Representatives; Chair, House Science and Technology Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment

DIANA DEGETTE (*D-Colorado*), Member, House of Representatives; Vice-Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee; Chief Deputy Majority Whip, House Democratic Leadership

DAVE REICHERT (*R-Washington*), Member, House of Representatives

ED ROYCE (*R-California*), Member, House of Representatives; Ranking Member, House Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade

GREG WALDEN (*R-Oregon*), Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

TADASHI YAMAMOTO, President, JCIE

KEIZO TAKEMI, Senior Fellow, JCIE; Research Fellow, Harvard School of Public Health; former Senior Vice Minister for Health, Labour and Welfare

JAMES GANNON, Executive Director, JCIE/USA

Capitol Hill 40th Anniversary Reception

On April 14, 2010, over 60 alumni of JCIE's parliamentary and Congressional staff exchanges joined other government and policy leaders close to Japan for a Washington DC reception commemorating JCIE's 40th anniversary.

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, over 150 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.

21st Congressional Staff Delegation to Japan

On February 13–20, 2010, seven Congressional staff members participated in the 21st US Congressional Staff Exchange Program in Tokyo and Kanagawa, Japan. The trip came at a time when the US-Japan relationship was evolving after the election of new administrations in both countries, and much of the dialogue focused on how to revitalize US-Japan relations amid the shifting political landscape. Against the backdrop of the global financial crisis, US-Japan cooperation on financial and trade issues also emerged as a major theme of the meetings.

Over the course of their weeklong visit, the delegation met with high-level Diet members from both of Japan's leading political parties, including members of the new DPJ cabinet such as Motohisa Furukawa (Senior Vice Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy,

Science and Technology Policy, and Government Revitalization), Tetsuro Fukuyama (Senior Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs), and Hiroyuki Nagahama (Senior Vice Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare). They also sat down for in-depth discussions with Japanese ministry officials, US embassy representatives, and business leaders.

On the last day of their Tokyo program, the delegates participated as panelists in a public seminar on changing US politics, which was attended by over 80 high-level participants, including Diet members and staff, government officials, think tank experts, and business leaders. The delegation then departed for Kanagawa Prefecture, where they exchanged views with Kanagawa Governor Shigefumi Matsuzawa and met with security experts and military leaders at the National Defense Academy of Japan and the US Yokosuka Naval Base.



21st US Congressional Staff Exchange Program delegation meets Kanagawa Governor Shigefumi Matsuzawa

Participants

SETH BLOOM, *General Counsel, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights, Senate Judiciary Committee (Sen. Herb Kohl, D-WI)*

GREG DEAN, *Minority Chief Counsel and Pension Policy Director, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (Sen. Michael Enzi, R-WY)*

ASHLEY JONES, *Chief of Staff, Rep. John Barrow (D-GA)*

GEORGE R. ROGERS, *Policy Advisor and Counsel, House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-OH)*

KRISTEN MCKENZIE SMITH, *Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Denny Rehberg (R-MT)*

ARTHUR D. SYDNEY, *Chief of Staff, Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA)*

DESIREE WESTBY, *Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN)*

Congressional Staff Roundtable on the United States, Japan, and North Korea: An Insider's View

On February 1, 2011, JCIE and the United States Association of Former Members of Congress co-sponsored a roundtable for Congressional staff members titled "The United States, Japan, and North Korea: An Insider's View." The roundtable featured remarks by Hitoshi Tanaka, a JCIE senior fellow and former deputy foreign minister of Japan, who was one of the main intellectual architects of Japan's foreign policy under Prime Minister Koizumi. He spoke about his role in the secret negotiations with North Korea that paved the way for the Japan-DPRK Pyongyang Summit in 2002 and discussed potential joint steps that the United States and Japan can take to address North Korean relations and the nuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

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.

26th US Delegation to Japan

The 26th US delegation of the US-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange Program arrived in Japan on November 7, 2009, for a study tour taking them to several locations throughout Japan over the course of two weeks. The group began their Tokyo visit with a meeting with US Ambassador John Roos on new directions in US policy toward Japan under the Obama administration. Over the next several days, the delegates sat down with eight Diet members from both major Japanese political parties to discuss the changing Japanese political landscape. The discussions with

Japanese party leaders were complemented by meetings with Japanese business leaders—including a luncheon seminar hosted by Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) and representatives from the American Chamber of Commerce. The group also met with several senior officials from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, received a briefing on the role of the media in Japanese politics at the *Asahi Shimbun* headquarters, and spoke as part of a panel discussion on US politics.

The trip continued with short trips to Kanagawa, Hyogo, and Kyoto, where, among other activities, they met with members of the Kanagawa Prefectural Assembly, sat down with local activists and nonprofit leaders in Odawara, toured the Hirohata Works plant of Nippon Steel Corporation in Himeji, and paid a visit to Hyogo Prefecture Vice Governor Tomoyuki Yoshimoto and the Hyogo Prefectural Assembly. The trip finished in Kyoto, where the participants toured the city's historical and cultural heritage sites before returning to the United States.

Participants

EARL ADAMS JR., *Chief of Staff, Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Maryland (D)*

ANDREAS BORGEAS, *Member, Fresno City Council, California (R)*

JEFF EAGER, *Member, Bend City Council, Oregon (R)*

AMANDA GREEN, *Assistant General Counsel, United Steelworkers Union, Pennsylvania (D)*

JEFF KING, *Member, Kansas House of Representatives (R)*

KELDA ROYS, *Member, Wisconsin General Assembly (D)*

Delegation Escort

DONNA WIESNER KEENE, *Senior Fellow, Independent Women's Forum, Washington DC (R)*

27th US Delegation to Japan

Seven state- and local-level US political leaders visited Tokyo, Yamagata Prefecture, Aichi Prefecture, and Kyoto on September 25–October 8, 2010, on the 27th US Delegation to Japan. The delegation met with 10 leading Diet members from both major parties, including DPJ Administration Committee Chair Makoto Taki and DPJ International Department Director-General Chinami Nishimura, as well as LDP President Sadakazu Tanigaki and former LDP Secretary-General Koichi Kato. While in Tokyo, the group's meetings with party leaders were complemented with discussions on Japan's foreign policy agenda with Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials and with a journalist from *Nikkei Shimbun*. To gain a wide perspective on the Japanese economy and business climate, the group spoke with Japanese business leaders in a meeting hosted by Keidanren and visited the American Chamber of Commerce. The delegation also acted as panelists in a seminar at the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership on US public sentiment on domestic politics and foreign policy heading into the midterm elections in the United States.

After six days in Tokyo, the delegates traveled to Yamagata Prefecture, where they met with Governor Mieko Yoshimura, Yamagata's first female governor, and spoke with local Diet members and prefectural assembly members. The US delegation, which included two city mayors, also met with local leaders from the area and observed local campaigning by members of the LDP's Youth Division in Nanokamachi, Yamagata City. In Aichi Prefecture, the delegation met with a range of local leaders, including Nagoya City Mayor Takashi Kawamura, and toured a Toyota automotive plant. The delegation concluded their trip with a cultural tour of Kyoto.

Participants

BENJAMIN DAVID, *District Attorney, Fifth Judicial District, North Carolina (D)*
 EVAN LOW, *Mayor, City of Campbell, California (D)*
 RENEE SCHULTE, *Member, Iowa House of Representatives (R)*
 KIRK TALBOT, *Member, Louisiana House of Representatives (R)*
 LORI WARD, *Political Consultant, Dax Swatek & Associates, Alabama (R)*
 YVETTE WILLIAMS, *Manager, Political Programs, Johnson & Johnson (D)*

Delegation Escort

ANDY MCKENZIE, *Mayor, City of Wheeling, West Virginia (R)*



2010 US Young Political Leaders delegation meets with Yamagata Governor Mieko Yoshimura

22nd Japanese Delegation to the United States

Six Japanese Diet staff members and party staff members visited Washington DC, Maryland, and Hawaii on February 20–March 5, 2010, as part of the 22nd Japanese delegation of the US-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange Program. In Washington DC, the delegation met with US State Department officials, campaign finance officials, and lobbying firms in order to discuss specific issues such as the current US political climate, green technology and jobs, and US campaign financing. While in DC, they also toured the US Capitol Building and spoke with US Representative Frank Kratovil. During the visit, the delegation also had the opportunity to meet with some alumni of previous US Young Political Leaders Exchange delegations to Japan.

In Maryland, the delegates were hosted by Maryland State Representative John Cardin. They explored the US state-level political system and political parties through meetings with Maryland state officials, including Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. In Hawaii, the participants visited the state legislature, the University of Hawaii, and the US Pacific Command. They were hosted in Honolulu by State Representative K. Mark Takai and met with a wide range of local leaders, including Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle and Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann. They also visited the East-West Center, where they discussed the role of higher education in US-Japan relations and issues related to declining birthrates and paid a visit to the Pearl Harbor Historic Site.

Participants

NOBUKI KOMATSU, *Reporter, Political News Division, Komei Shimbun (New Komeito Party)*

MASAAKI KURANO, *Legislative Assistant to Goshi Hosono, Member of the House of Representatives (DPJ)*

TOMOHIRO MINAGAWA, *Assistant to Koichi Kato, Member of the House of Representatives, former Chief Cabinet Secretary, and former LDP Secretary-General*

FUYO NAKAMURA, *Member of the Staff, Public Relations Committee, DPJ Party Headquarters*

REIKA YANAGIMOTO, *Member of the Staff, Treasury Bureau, LDP Party Headquarters*

YASU HARU ZENKI, *Assistant to Motohisa Furukawa, Member of the House of Representatives and Senior Vice-Minister of the Cabinet Office (DPJ)*

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. The economies of Japan and Australia have been growing increasingly interdependent with each passing year, and a sound, cooperative relationship between both countries is important for the future growth of the region. The delegations include all political persuasions and consist of federal and local members of parliament and their staff members.

19th Australian Delegation to Japan

The 19th Australian delegation to Japan, led by Senator Scott Ryan, visited Tokyo, Kyoto, and Nagoya on February 27–March 5, 2010. Much of the discussion during the weeklong visit focused on the changing political landscape in Japan following the historic election in August 2009, and the resulting implications for bilateral relations between the two countries. During the course of their visit, the six members of the delegation spoke with a wide range of key players and experts, especially in relation to the recent political shifts in Japan as well as the impact of the global financial crisis.

The delegation met with nine leading Diet members from both of Japan's major political parties, including State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Tetsuro Fukuyama, and other senior government officials and experts. They also sat down with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss whaling and fishing policies as well as wider Asia Pacific relations, two issues of particular importance to the Australia-Japan relationship. Other topics discussed

included East Asia community building, business in Japan from the Australian perspective, and the role of the media in Japanese politics. The delegates finished their travels in Japan with a cultural visit to Kyoto as well as a trip to Nagoya, where the delegates met with Aichi Prefecture Governor Masaaki Kanda and discussed local Japanese politics with members of the Aichi Prefectural Assembly. Also in Nagoya, the delegates discussed Japanese energy consumption and conservation with Chubu Electric Power Company executives and made a site visit to an innovative energy facility.

Participants

SCOTT RYAN, *Delegation Leader; Senator for Victoria (Liberal Party of Australia)*

GEOFF BARNETT, *Executive Officer, Australian Political Exchange Council*

JARROD BLEIJIE, *State Member for Kawana, Parliament of Queensland (Liberal Party of Australia)*

JAMIE BRIGGS, *Federal Member for Mayo, South Australia (Liberal Party of Australia)*

COLIN BROOKS, *State Member for Bundoora, Parliament of Victoria (Labor Party)*

NICK CHAMPION, *Federal Member for Wakefield, South Australia (Labor Party)*

PENNY SHARPE, *Parliamentary Secretary Assisting the Minister for Transport; Member for the Legislative Council of the Parliament of New South Wales (Labor Party)*

20th Australian Delegation to Japan

The 20th Australian delegation visited Tokyo, Kobe, and Kyoto on March 5–12, 2011, to exchange views on the Australia-Japan relationship and to discuss

opportunities for greater cooperation on a range of issues. The group arrived safely back in Australia on March 12 despite the massive earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on March 11, 2011—a tragedy that further underscored the need for close cooperation between Japan and its allies.

Led by MP Amanda Rishworth, Federal Member for Kingston, the six-member delegation engaged in discussions in Tokyo with 20 Diet members from both of Japan’s major political parties. They discussed foreign policy issues common to both countries, such as security cooperation in Asia Pacific, as well as Japanese domestic issues such as the economic outlook and Japan’s aging population. In addition, the delegation met with Japanese business executives, ministry officials, and representatives from Japan’s leading research institutions. After Tokyo, the delegation traveled to Kobe and Kyoto, where they met with Hyogo Prefecture Governor Toshizo Ido and other prefectural government leaders. While in Kobe, the group visited the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution as well as a local high school.

Participants List

AMANDA RISHWORTH, *Delegation Leader; Federal Member for Kingston (Labor Party)*

MICHAELIA CASH, *Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for the Status of Women; Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration; Senator for Western Australia (Liberal Party of Australia)*

NATALIE HUTCHINS, *State Member for Keilor (Labor Party)*

STEPHEN JONES, *Federal Member for Throsby (Labor Party)*

STUART ROBERT, *Shadow Minister for Defence, Science, Technology and Personnel; Federal Member for Fadden (Liberal Party of Australia)*

DEB LEWIS, *Director, Australian Political Exchange Council*