
Profiles of Delegation Members

US Delegation

Peggy Blumenthal

Vice President for Educational Services
Institute of International Education, New York

Peggy Blumenthal has degrees in modern Chinese history (Harvard) and American studies (University of Hawaii). Her early work was on employment and community development issues at the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), the New York City Mayor's Urban Action Task Force, and the John D. Rockefeller 3rd Youth Task Force. In 1973 she joined the National Committee on US-China Relations, developing educational programs on China for US schools and community groups. Since then, she has continued to work on international education exchange issues for various NGOs and academic institutions: the Asia Society, Stanford University's Overseas Studies Program, the University of Hawaii's Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, and the Institute of International Education (IIE), where she currently serves as Vice President for Educational Services.

Ronne Hartfield

Executive Director for Museum Education
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago

Ronne Hartfield holds degrees from the University of Chicago in history, theology, and literature, and has been a leader in education through the arts in her 20-year career. She has been a Dean and Professor of Comparative Literature at the School of The Art Institute of Chicago, and served as the Executive Director of Urban Gateways, the largest private arts and education organization in the United States, which designs model programs to integrate the arts into basic education. Currently she is Executive Director for Museum Education at the Art Institute of Chicago, where she has initiated projects involving inner-city education, programs for the elderly, and programs focussed on multicultural education using the museum's collection of Asian, Latin American, and African art.

Ruth Hinerfeld

Former President

League of Women Voters of the United States, Larchmont, NY

Ruth Hinerfeld was president of the League of Women Voters of the United States from 1978 to 1982. Prior to that time, she was the League's National Action Chair, its International Relations Chair, and its United Nations Observer. She was elected to the League's national Board of Directors after having served in a number of positions on the Los Angeles and California League boards. She is currently a Vice Chair of the United Nations Association of the USA, and is also a Vice Chair of the Overseas Development Council. She has served on the boards of a number of other NGOs, including the US Committee for UNICEF. Ms. Hinerfeld received Presidential appointments to the White House Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations and to the US delegation to the 1980 World Conference on the Decade for Women. She is a graduate of Vassar College and the Harvard-Radcliffe Program in Business Administration.

Elizabeth Humstone

Director for Community Stewardship

The Countryside Institute, Burlington, VT

Elizabeth Humstone has been involved in town, city, and regional planning for over 20 years. She is a graduate of Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts and has a master's degree in city planning from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. She has served as a consultant for rural Vermont and New York communities, regional planning commissions, state agencies, and NPOs on land use, community development, and land conservation. She is the former director of the Mad River Growth Management Program and the Champlain Valley Project, a joint program of the Vermont Land Trust and the Lake Champlain Islands Trust. As the Director of the Countryside Institute's Community Stewardship and Integrated Rural Development Fund Programs, Ms. Humstone is involved with innovative approaches to conserving the rural countryside.

Irene Redondo-Churchward

Executive Director

Project Info Community Services, Los Angeles

Irene Redondo-Churchward holds a degree in human services from California State University, Fullerton. Ms. Redondo Churchward has been affiliated with Project Info Community Services (PICS) since 1976, where she is currently Executive Director. Through her work at PICS, she has overseen many programs including those for family communication skills, alcohol and drug abuse prevention, child abuse prevention, job training, and a senior citizens nutrition program. She has also overseen a media campaign to educate Latinas about alcohol related issues. She has served as a site visitor for the US Department of Education's "Excellence

in Schools Program” for schools in Arizona, Idaho, and Utah. In 1991 she was one of 26 Latinas chosen to participate in the National Hispana Leadership Institute.

Susan Virnig

Founder and Senior Consultant
Northwest Regional Facilitators, Spokane, WA

Susan Virnig holds a degree in Japanese language and culture from Macalester College, and spent one year at Waseda University in the early 1970s. In 1974, Susan and three of her colleagues created Northwest Regional Facilitators (NRF), a NPO which assists citizens in working cooperatively on a wide range of community development issues. Susan served as Director of the organization until 1990, and currently serves as Senior Consultant. Through her work at NRF, she has facilitated over 800 meetings ranging from ten-member planning committees to regional conferences of several hundred participants. In 1989, as President of the local YWCA, she helped establish a school for homeless children in Spokane, and still volunteers as a swimming instructor for homeless children.

Bernarda Wong

Executive Director
Chinese American Service League, Chicago

Bernarda Wong received her master’s degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis. She is founder and Executive Director of the Chinese American Service League, a nonprofit agency which provides social services, employment and vocational training, day care, and a wide range of support services to Chicago’s nearly 70,000 Chinese Americans. She is also the first Asian American to be appointed to the Chicago Public Library Board, and was the first Asian American board member of the United Way of Chicago. She was also previously President of the National Pacific Asian Center on Aging.

Japanese Delegation

Hideko Katsumata

Executive Secretary
Japan Center for International Exchange, Tokyo

After graduating from the University of the Sacred Heart in Tokyo, Hideko Katsumata trained at the Interpreter Training Center and worked for several international conferences including the US–Japan Kyoto Conference, the Lions Club World Convention, the World Conference of Genetics, etc. In 1969 she joined the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) where she began her career as a professional for the NPO. In 1985 she became Executive Secretary and coordinates overall program activities. In addition to her duties as Executive Secretary, Ms. Katsumata is responsible for administering major conferences which JCIE organizes, including the Trilateral Commission, the Shimoda Conferences, etc. She is

also in charge of promotion of corporate philanthropy in Japan and has conducted research on corporate philanthropy in the United States. She is a member of the Screening Committee of the Tokyo Women's Foundation for its grantmaking activities.

Yoshiko Hayakawa

Editor-in-Chief

Ishikawa no Tamago (Eggs in Ishikawa), Kanazawa

In 1988, Yoshiko Hayakawa started publishing *Ishikawa no Tamago*, a local community newspaper for foreign residents. This local newspaper is published with the help of Chinese, Malaysian, German, and American friends. To bridge the gap between the people of Ishikawa and foreign residents and to promote mutual understanding, the newspaper is bilingual and includes various topics and questions which are of interest to both foreigners and Japanese. Topics range from basic questions concerning the daily lives of Japanese to environmental issues. The circulation is 2,250. This number is far too small to form a viable commercial base, yet the paper is sustained by her and her colleagues' voluntary efforts. Mrs. Hayakawa is a graduate of Keio University and works as an interpreter/translator. She is also active as chair of the Hokuriku US-Japan Cultural Society, essayist, and commentator at a local television station.

Yoriko Imasato

Editor-in-Chief

Living Fukuoka, Nishi Nihon Shimbun, Fukuoka

After graduating from Seinan Gakuin University, Yoriko Imasato joined Planning Shukosha Co. and later became the editor-in-chief of its publication, *Campus Fukuoka*. She later joined the Public Relations Department of Seibu Gas Corporation and worked as an editor of its PR magazine *AND*. Currently, as editor-in-chief of *Living Fukuoka*, a local information newspaper (circulation 280,000) for citizens published by the Nishi Nihon Newspaper Co., she is involved in raising awareness among citizens, particularly women, on various social issues. She publishes compilations of her writings in her column "Aka-empitsu" (Red Pencil) which brings up problems in society.

Haruko Numata

Coordinator, Suginami Association for Better Lives in an Aging Society
Association to Provide Friendship Light, Tokyo

The Suginami Association for Better Lives in an Aging Society was established in 1972 by housewives who found themselves overwhelmed by the responsibility of taking care of their bed-ridden parents. These housewives made a collective call for action by both the public and private sectors. This movement has succeeded in establishing meal services, short-hour day care, consciousness raising on volunteerism, and even raising an endowment. The organization has continued its

development by expanding its activities to establish other organizations. *Yu-Ai no Kyokai* (Association to Provide Friendship Light) was established in 1977 and aims to extend services to senior citizens. In 1984 they founded the Association to Establish New Homes, which provides shelter, telephone services, apartments, and counseling services for senior citizens. Ms. Numata devotes her time to improving her community through her efforts as a coordinator of these organizations.

Yaeko Suzuki

Chair

We Love Asia 21, Yokohama

"To create a better community for social welfare through music" has been the guiding principle for Yaeko Suzuki's efforts as a volunteer since 1965. She started a charity concert in 1979 as a means to bring people together to think about improvements to the community, such as establishing day care centers and workshops for the disabled, etc. Her activities have expanded to involve Vietnamese refugees and other Asians to encourage residents to be more sensitive to and understanding of other cultures. The group has donated libraries and scholarships to self-help efforts in Asian countries. Another major accomplishment was a concert to unite the hearts of mothers and children of North and South Korea on one stage. "We Love Asia 21" in addition to promoting such activities, is currently making efforts to encourage senior citizens to take up organic farming.

Mitsuko Yamaguchi

Executive Director, Political Education Department

The Fusae Ichikawa Memorial Association/Women's Suffrage Institute, Tokyo

Mitsuko Yamaguchi is currently Executive Director of the Political Education Department of the Fusae Ichikawa Memorial Association/Women's Suffrage Institute. From 1959-68 she was Executive Assistant to the late Fusae Ichikawa, member of the House of Councilors who dedicated half a century of her life to the advancement of women's rights and participation in politics. Ms. Yamaguchi is also Director of the Liaison Group for the Implementation of Resolution for the International Women's Committee of the Nongovernmental Organizations of the United Nations, and a permanent member of the Japan Women's Voters Association. Her publications included *Politics and Women* (1984) and *Women's Participation in the Political Process and Political Education* (1987).

Kimie Yokoyama

President, Restaurant De Femme

Representative, Association of Workers Collectives, Yokohama

The Association of Workers Collectives is a network of 60 "workers collectives" in the Kanagawa area engaged in a wide variety of activities including restaurant management, care for the elderly, the manufacturing of soap from recycled cooking oil, and publishing newsletters, etc. Members of the collectives are volunteers,

and Kimie Yokoyama, while serving as a representative of the Association, started the restaurant "Des Femmes" with eight of her friends. The restaurant serves homemade food using fresh and natural ingredients produced by the cooperatives. Ms. Yokoyama travels throughout Japan, speaking to groups who wish to establish their own collectives.