

Emerging Experts Visiting Tokyo, Kumamoto, and Fukuoka to Explore the Future of U.S.-Japan Relations

～ U.S.-Japan Network for the Future Study Trip in Japan～

The U.S.-Japan Network for the Future program, jointly organized by The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation and the Japan Foundation (JF), seeks to support the next generations of public policy intellectuals working within the fields of Japan studies and/or policy issues pertinent to U.S.-Japan relations that lay the groundwork for a stable and prosperous world, a necessary component in solving the problems of the future.

From Monday, June 9 to Saturday, June 14, 14 selected participants from the seventh cohort and six advisors will travel to Tokyo, Kumamoto, and Fukuoka for a weeklong study visit to Japan.

During their study trip to Japan, the cohort will engage in discussions with a range of Japanese policymakers.

In Kumamoto, they will visit **Takashi Kimura, Governor of Kumamoto**, tour the Honda Kumamoto Factory, and explore Japan's semiconductor industry through briefings by officials from Kumamoto University.

In Fukuoka, the cohort will meet with **Soichiro Takashima, Mayor of Fukuoka**, and visit a public-private startup support facility to learn about local innovation initiatives.

Over the course of this two-year program, the cohort has participated in study trips and retreats in the U.S. and Japan to deepen their understanding and provide insights on a wide variety of policy issues related to the U.S.-Japan relationship while building professional networks in the United States and Japan.

Photos from previous Japan trip (2023)



Courtesy visit to Yuriko Koike, Governor of Tokyo



Discussion lecture

Press inquiries:

Kumakura (Ms.), Fukushima (Mr.), Blanding and Communication Dept. Public Relation Div.,
The Japan Foundation

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■ Program Outline

Title : U.S.-Japan Network for the Future Study Trip in Japan

Organizer : The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation (Supported by The Japan Foundation)

Date : Monday, June 9, 2025 – Saturday, June 14, 2025

June 9–14 Meeting and discussion in Tokyo with Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), startup companies, Embassy of the U.S. in Japan, academics.

June 12 Site visit to Honda Kumamoto Factory, briefing on Japan's semiconductor industry by officials from Kumamoto University, courtesy visit to Kumamoto Governor Takashi Kimura.

June 13 Visit to the U.S. Consulate in Fukuoka, courtesy visit to Fukuoka Mayor Soichiro Takashima. Visit to Fukuoka Growth Next.

June 14 Visit to the Kumamoto Center for Water Cycle, Marine Environment and Disaster Mitigation.

**We are currently coordinating media coverage at each visit location.
Individual interviews with participants are also possible.
For further details, kindly contact Public Relations Div., at press@jpf.go.jp.**

■ Advisory Committee

[U.S. Advisory Committee Members]

Dr. Susan Pharr	Edwin O. Reischauer Research Professor Emerita of Japanese Politics, Harvard University
Dr. Mireya Solís	Director, Center for Asia Policy Studies, The Brookings Institution
Dr. Phillip Lipsky	Chair, Japan Politics & Global Affairs, University of Toronto, and University of Tokyo
Dr. Kiyoteru Tsutsui	Henri H. and Tomoye Takahashi Professor in Japanese Studies, Stanford University

[Japan Advisory Group]

Dr. Koji Murata	Professor, Doshisha University
Dr. Kaoru Iokibe	Professor, University of Tokyo

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■ Cohort 7 Program (2024–2026)

Tyffani Barlow	Japan Country Director, United States Air Force, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces
Justin Chock	Senior Instructor, Political Science Department, U.S. Naval Academy
Jordan Hamzawi	Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Yuko Kakazu	Education, Outreach, and Broader Impacts Manager & Scientist, Thirty Meter Telescope International Observatory & National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (Dual Appointment)
Hirofumi Kawaguchi	Associate Professor of Political Science, Keio University
Kyla Kitamura	Analyst in International Trade and Finance, Congressional Research Service
Rina Komiya	Ph.D. candidate, Tokyo Metropolitan University; Program Adviser, Cabinet Office of Japan
Joe McReynolds	Senior Research Scientist, Peraton Labs
Tomoko Takahashi	Assistant Professor of International Relations, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University
Ayumi Teraoka	Postdoctoral Research Scholar, Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University
Yunchen Tian	Assistant Professor of Political Science, Saint Martin's University; 2024–2026 JF-Nichibunken Fellow
Jacob Vawter	Foreign Affairs Officer, U.S. Department of State
Scott Wilbur	Director for Japan Affairs, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
Timothy Yang	Associate Professor of History and Director of the Center for Asian Studies, University of Georgia

About the Japan Foundation

The Japan Foundation is Japan's only Institution dedicated to carrying out comprehensive international cultural exchange programs throughout the world. Through "Culture," "Language" and "Dialogue," we create opportunities to foster friendship, trust, and mutual understanding. Global Partnerships programs aim to contribute to the promotion of dialogue, human resource development and human networks at various



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levels, ranging from collaborative works on global issues to projects among citizens and youth.

Global Partnerships Programs by the JF

■ Grants and Fellowships

The Japan Foundation Southeast Asia Partnership Program (JFSEAP)

The Japan Foundation Indo-Pacific Partnership Program (JFIPP)

■ Programs on Co-creation

Invitation Program for Cultural Leaders

Dialogue through Literature Project “YOMU”

Symposia Co-organized with the Japanese-German Center Berlin

■ Programs on Mutual Understanding

Japan-China 21st Century Friendship Program

JOI Program (Japan Outreach Initiative)

ASEAN-Japan Youth Forum “Take Actions for Social Change (TASC)”

ASEAN-Japan Exchange Program for Secondary School Educators

For details of each project, please see the following page on the JF website:

<https://www.jpjf.go.jp/e/project/intel/exchange/index.html>

About The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation was created in 1983 to advance Maureen and Mike Mansfield’s life-long efforts to promote understanding and cooperation among nations and peoples of Asia and the United States. The Foundation sponsors exchanges, dialogues, and publications that create networks among U.S. and Asian leaders, explore the underlying issues influencing public policies, and increase awareness about the nations and peoples of Asia.

Website: <https://mansfieldfdn.org/>



THE MAUREEN AND MIKE
MANSFIELD FOUNDATION

Connecting People & Ideas to Advance Mutual Interests in U.S.-Asia Relations

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