

Exploring Leadership Adaptation Strategies in the Indo-Pacific: 14 Next-generation Researchers and Leaders from 11 Nations to Visit Okinawa, Tokyo, and Osaka

As part of the Japan Foundation Indo-Pacific Partnership Program (JFIPP), the Japan Foundation and the East-West Center will host a study tour in Japan from September 7 to 13, welcoming 14 next-generation researchers and leaders from Japan and 10 Indo-Pacific countries. The tour will focus on leadership and adaptation and marks the final phase of the yearlong Indo-Pacific Leadership Lab program (IPLL).

This IPLL program is co-organized by the Japan Foundation and the East-West Center (EWC), an education and research institution headquartered in Honolulu. The program provides research and networking opportunities for next-generation researchers and leaders throughout the year.

The fellows from 11 countries (Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, and the United States) previously completed weeklong workshops in Honolulu in December 2024 and in Fiji last April, where they shared insights regarding the threats to regions posed by environmental challenges and deepened their networks of experts from diverse backgrounds.



Honolulu workshop in December 2024



Fiji workshop in April 2025

In Okinawa, fellows will engage in discussions with the **Okinawa Prefectural Government** on environmental adaptation policies, visit the **Kumejima Deep Ocean Water Research Institute**, observe collaborative efforts led by the private sector, and meet with local researchers in Naha City.

In Tokyo, the itinerary includes meetings with the **Ministry of the Environment** and **NHK**, a visit the **Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel**, as well as discussions with researchers and professionals, followed by a reception hosted by the Japan

Press inquiries :

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Foundation with invited officials and stakeholders. Following the program in Tokyo, some members of the cohort will travel to the **Osaka Expo 2025** to explore cutting-edge technologies and global perspectives on environmental sustainability.

The upcoming study tour in Japan will also be joined by Celeste Conners, the newly appointed President of the East-West Center, KANIE Norichika, IPLL Program Advisor and Professor at Keio University, and Ketty Loeb, IPLL Program Mentor and Assistant Professor at University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

Program Title: The Japan Foundation Indo-Pacific Partnership Program (JFIPP) Network Fellowship (Leadership and Adaptation) Study Tour in Japan

Organizers: The East-West Center (United States) and the Japan Foundation

Main Itinerary:

Sunday, September 7 to Wednesday, September 10

Visit to Kumejima and Naha in Okinawa Prefecture: observation and exchange of views (planned destinations: University of the Ryukyus, Kumejima Municipal Office, Deep Ocean Water Research Institute, Rohto F Okinawa, GO Farm, Point Pyuru) and courtesy visit to the Okinawa Prefectural Government Office

Thursday, September 11

Study tour in Tokyo Metropolis (visits to relevant agencies: Ministry of the Environment, NHK, etc.)

Friday, September 12

Site visit to the Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel and rainwater harvesting sites in Sumida Ward

Evening: Farewell Reception at International House of Japan

Saturday, September 13

Visit to Expo 2025 in Osaka



Advisor: KANIE Norichika (Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University)

List of Fellows:

https://www.jpff.go.jp/e/project/intel/exchange/jfipp/network/fellows/leadership_lab_cohort01.html

Overview of Program:

https://www.jpff.go.jp/e/project/intel/exchange/jfipp/network/leadership_lab.html#fellows

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

About the **Japan Foundation Indo-Pacific Partnership Program**

The **Japan Foundation Indo-Pacific Partnership Program (JFIPP)** **was** launched by The Japan Foundation in FY2023.

The JFIPP Network Fellowship provides research and networking opportunities for next-generation leaders in the Indo-Pacific region who will help shape policy to resolve regional concerns. The program seeks to promote regional dialogue and cooperation on shared issues by providing opportunities to build long-lasting relationships and new platforms for intellectual cooperation.



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