

Program Plans for 2009–2010

I. Promotion of Intercultural Intellectual Dialogue

The I-House conducts programs which bring together people from different cultural/social backgrounds to engage in interdisciplinary, multilayered intellectual dialogue on various issues of today's complex society.

1. Asia Leadership Fellow Program

Jointly with the Japan Foundation, the I-House has organized the Asia Leadership Fellow Program (ALFP) since 1996, and a total of 75 fellows from 15 northeast, southeast, and south Asian countries have participated in the program to date. In 2009, the ALFP will invite seven Asian public intellectuals to stay together at the I-House for two months to exchange views on issues pertinent to the region as well as problems of global concern.

The general theme set for the 2009 program is “Asia in Dialogue: Visions and Actions for a Humane Society.” From September 14 through November 13, the fellows will reside mainly at the I-House and take part in workshops, resource seminars, field trips, a retreat with scholars, journalists and NGO/NPO leaders and a public forum.

2. I-House Ushiba Fellowships

Made possible by the endowment subsequent to the dissolution of the Ushiba Memorial Foundation, this fellowship invites to Japan distinguished contemporary thinkers and intellectuals for the purpose of bringing humankind closer together and transcending the North-South/East-West divides through the enhancement of international understanding. The Fellows scheduled to be invited in fiscal 2009 are as follows:

Hwang Suk-young	Novelist (Korea)
Yoichiro Nambu	Emeritus Professor, University of Chicago; Theoretical physicist (U.S.A.)
Arundhati Roy	Novelist (India)

II. Development and Training of Human Resources in the Field of Multicultural Exchange

The I-House will continue to cultivate the talents of people destined to be on the cutting edge of intercultural exchange, furthering its institutional ideals.

1. Educational Programs

(1) Nitobe Kokusai Juku

The I-House launched the Nitobe Juku in Fiscal 2008, supported by the Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation. The Nitobe Juku aims to train young professionals from various organizations and corporations to become public-minded leaders with a broad perspective who are able to function in an international environment.

The Nitobe Juku will be renamed the Nitobe Kokusai Juku from Fiscal 2009, with a stronger emphasis on practical training, including discussion skills in English in an international setting. The participants of the Nitobe Kokusai Juku will be limited to 15 persons under the age of 40, selected through an essay submitted on a specific theme and an interview. Twice a month from July through December 2009, a total of 10 guest lecturers/mentors will be invited for a one-hour lecture, to be followed by a 2.5-hour discussion session.

(2) Global Leaders Seminar

In this seminar, participants develop sophisticated English communication skills by participating in a roundtable discussion with a global leader. Participants gain confidence using English in a professional and formal setting as they practice skills such as moderating, discussing, introductions, toasts and more. This year's seminar will be specially designed for those who engage in nonprofit, public-interest activities at various organizations and institutions.

(3) IHJ Sharing Space Program for Artists

The House offers the use of the Iwasaki Koyata Memorial Hall for artists involved in creative international and intercultural art or music programs at a reduced rate.

2. Cooperation and Coordination with Overseas Institutions

(1) U.S.–Japan Creative Arts Fellowships

Since 1978, the I-House has facilitated annual fellowships for American artists to reside in Japan to broaden their careers and expand contacts with Japanese artists. This fellowship is sponsored by the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, the U.S. National Endowment for the Arts and the Agency for Cultural Affairs (Bunkacho). The Agency for Cultural Affairs provides visa sponsorship for the American artists in Japan, while the I-House serves as general advisor, coordinator and fiscal agent. The following five American artists were chosen for the 2009 fellowship:

Craig Anthony Arnold, *Writer*

Patricia Chao, *Writer*

Kevin James, *Composer*

Michele Kong, *Visual artist*

Jane Rigler, *Composer*

(2) Symposium on Building the Financial System of the 21st Century

The Program on International Financial Systems of Harvard Law School has been organizing annual symposiums on Building the Financial System of the 21st Century: An Agenda for Japan and the United States. Each symposium, to be held alternatively in Japan and the United States, brings together some hundred participants, half from Japan and half from the United States, composed of senior government officials, politicians and their advisors, heads of financial firms, lawyers and consultants, scholars, and a few media representatives to discuss matters affecting the function and stability of the global financial system. The symposium for 2009 is scheduled to take place October 23-25 in Armonk, New York, in the United States.

III. Generation and Dissemination of Information on Cultural Exchange and Transnational Intellectual Cooperation

The I-House conducts unique programs to share the fruits of intellectual dialogue and exchange on various issues common in the global community in order to promote

intercultural understanding both in Japan and abroad.

1. I-House Public Programs

(1) I-House Academy

Leading intellectuals who are visiting Japan, either as an I-House guest or under an I-House fellowship, as well as Japanese and resident experts, will be invited to give a public lecture every two to three months. The first speaker of the new fiscal year will be Dr. Harumi Befu, Professor Emeritus, Stanford University. Spearheading Japanese studies as an anthropologist in the United States and fostering as an educator a new generation of American scholars in area studies on Japan, Dr. Befu will give a talk entitled “Foreigners in Japan: A Case of Cultural Homogeneity vs. Civil Society” on May 13, 2009.

(2) I-House Lunchtime Lecture

The I-House has started a new lunchtime lecture series for a wider audience from 2008, where specialists in various fields will be invited to talk on timely themes. The first speaker for Fiscal 2009 will be Professor Manabu Sato, University of Tokyo, on June 23, 2009, with the lecture title “Learning from Education in Finland: Japanese Education in the World.” Three other lectures will be organized during Fiscal 2009.

(3) I-House Salon

An off-the-record lecture/discussion modeled after the former Foreign Relations Dinner Address Meeting. Distinguished I-House guests and researchers/professionals visiting Japan are invited to speak in a salon-like setting. The meetings are conducted in English with no Japanese translation.

As a continued series of Ambassador’s talks, the focus for Fiscal 2009 will be placed on regions from which no ambassador has yet been invited, namely, Latin America, Southeast and Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

(4) IHJ Japanese Music Series

This series introduces the traditional Japanese performing arts to a wide audience. Guest

performers include some of Japan's most respected musicians and performers, including Living National Treasures. I-House artistic director and Japanese music expert Christopher Blasdel guides and explains the programs both in English and Japanese. From last year, the I-House has begun making professional DVDs of the concerts to be distributed to various institutions around the world for the purpose of introducing the traditional Japanese performing arts. The following two concerts are planned for the 2009 series:

How to enjoy the Noh Theater —A View into Another World, October 23, 2009
Folk Songs and Music of the Japanese Islands, early Spring, 2010

(5) Japan@IHJ

In the spring of 2009, the I-House will launch a new forum, *Japan@IHJ*, with the help of a network of experts from academia, journalism, the arts and business, for disseminating/sharing information and knowledge on Japan and for enhancing cross-cultural dialogue going beyond national, occupational and disciplinary boundaries with a focus on “Japan” as a common interest. The forum will be organized on an occasional/ad hoc basis with about 30-50 participants.

(6) Other Meetings

The symposium “Honoring the Contributions and Career of Thomas L. Blakemore,” IHJ Artists’ Forums, and presentations by Nitobe fellows on their research overseas are being planned for Fiscal 2009.

2. Publications

(1) LTCB International Library

After the dissolution of the LTCB (Long-Term Credit Bank) Library Foundation, in August 2000 the I-House assumed the administrative responsibility of the Foundation to continue the work of introducing selected books on the Japanese economy, politics, society and culture by Japanese authors to a wide international readership by translating them into English.

The two titles to be published during Fiscal 2009 are: *Jo jo kakusa* (Disparities among Women in Japanese Society) by Toshiaki Tachibanaki (translated by Mary

Foster); and *Kaisen shinwa* (The Myths of Pearl Harbor: The Real Story of Japan's Failure to Declare War) by Takeo Iguchi (translated by David Noble). Two other titles, to be published in 2010, will be selected in Fiscal 2009.

(2) I-House Press

The I-House launched a commercial book imprint, the I-House Press, in 2006. The following two titles will be published during Fiscal 2009:

1. *The Edo Inheritance* by Tsunenari Tokugawa (translated by Iehiro Tokugawa)
2. *The First Industrious Nation* (tentative title) by Heita Kawakatsu

(3) Newsletter and Occasional Publications

1. *IHJ Bulletin* (in English, biannually)
2. *Kokusai Bunka Kaikan Kaiho* (Japanese edition of the *IHJ Bulletin*, biannually)
3. Occasional papers

IV. Others

1. Partnership with the Japan Society, New York

In order to reinvent its Japan-U.S. programs, the I-House has been further strengthening its long-standing partnership with the Japan Society, New York (JSNY). To facilitate this partnership, a liaison desk of the I-House was established within JSNY in April 2008, and a staff member of the JSNY was assigned to serve as the liaison officer. The Desk serves as a hub of the I-House in the United State and will also be in charge of promotion and sales of I-House Press publications at the JS Shop. The I-House and JSNY will mutually promote cross-organizational cooperation, including collaboration on programming and dissemination of each organization's publications and P.R. materials.

2. Japan–United States Friendship Commission

With funding from the Japan–United States Friendship Commission (JUSFC), the I-House has long been conducting administrative and facilitative services for exchanges

and visits to Japan by individuals and organizations in the realm of U.S. higher education, culture and public affairs for scholarly and professional purposes, including facilitation of the periodic visits to Japan of JUSFC and the U.S.-Japan Bridging Foundation, an affiliate of JUSFC.

V. Library and Reading Room

As a special library in Japanese Studies, the library maintains a well-developed collection of English-language works on Japan in the social sciences and humanities, including 25,000 volumes of books, 500 titles of periodicals, 8 newspapers and 24 titles of e-journals. Members, I-House residents and non-members with an introduction from I-House members or other libraries are entitled to such services as borrowing books, reference, interlibrary loan, and introduction to other libraries in Japan. The library is also striving to help create a network of Japanese Studies organizations in Japan and overseas, and to improve its study environment for patrons.