

Program Plans for 2013-2014

I. Encouragement of Intercultural Intellectual Dialogue

To better understand and articulate the various challenges faced by the global community in the 21st century, I-House organizes programs which bring together people from different cultural/social backgrounds and professions to engage in interdisciplinary, multilayered intellectual dialogue in the humanities, social and natural sciences.

A. Asia Leadership Fellow Program (ALFP)

In joint cooperation with the Japan Foundation, the I-House has organized the Asia Leadership Fellow Program (ALFP) since 1996, and a total of 95 fellows have participated in the program to date. In 2013, the ALFP will invite seven Asian public intellectuals to stay together at the I-House for a one-and-a-half-month period to exchange views on issues pertinent to the region as well as problems of global concern. Such intellectual dialogue is intended to contribute to building transnational and interdisciplinary intellectual networks and trust among fellows from different cultural backgrounds and disciplines.

The general theme set for the 2013 program is “The Future of Asia, the World and Humanity after Development and Growth.” From September 9 through November 8, the fellows will reside mainly at the I-House and take part in workshops, resource seminars, field trips and a retreat with scholars, journalists and NGO/NPO leaders based in Japan.

B. House Ushiba Fellowships

The I-House Ushiba Fellowships annually invite one or two global opinion leaders with distinguished accomplishments in fields such as academia, journalism, or foreign policy, individuals who can not only interpret the complexity of current global trends but also have insight into the foreseeable future and beyond. The fellows will engage in dialogue with their counterparts about various issues faced by the global society in the hope that such dialogue will deepen mutual understanding between Japan and other countries. During their stay, fellows will give public lectures and participate in seminars and workshops with their counterparts and resource persons.

During Fiscal 2013, the first visit to Japan by Italian philosopher Antonio Negri is scheduled. Mr. Negri’s visit will be co-hosted by I-House and the Science Council of Japan. During his stay (April 3-13), Mr. Negri will engage in two public symposiums. At the I-House, Mr. Negri will give a public lecture, followed by a dialogue session with Professor Kang Sang Jung of Seigakuin University. These public programs will be filmed by NHK, and it is hoped that the content will be broadcast in one of their educational programs.

This fellowship has been made possible by the endowment subsequent to the

dissolution of the Ushiba Memorial Foundation.

C. Japan-India Distinguished Visitors Program

In 2012, commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of Japan-India diplomatic relations, I-House and Japan Foundation jointly launched the Japan-India Distinguished Visitors Program. This program invites to Japan eminent Indian public figures who are proposing new values or innovative ideas to change the status quo of society. Fellows are invited for a period of 5-7 days to meet counterparts and leaders who are tackling similar issues in Japan in their area of expertise. The Fellows also engage in public seminars or lecture programs during their stay. During Fiscal 2013, two fellows will be invited under this program.

D. Symposium on Building the Financial System of the 21st Century

I-House and the Program on International Financial Systems (PIFS) of Harvard Law School co-organize an annual symposium “Building the Financial System of the 21st Century: An Agenda for Japan and the United States.” The symposium, held alternately in Japan and the United States, brings together approximately a 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. Each year, 120 or so participants gather for a two-day, off-the-record discussion of matters affecting the function and stability of the global financial system.

In 2013, the sixteenth symposium will be held in October in the United States.

II. Development and Training of Human Resources for Multicultural Exchange

The I-House continues to cultivate the talents of people destined to be the new leaders in international exchange.

A. Nitobe Kokusai Juku

The Nitobe Kokusai Juku is designed to train young professionals aged from their late twenties to forty from various organizations such as NPOs/NGOs, research institutions, public services, and corporations to become public-minded leaders equipped with a broad perspective and able to function in an international environment both in and outside the country. The Principal of the Nitobe Kokusai Juku is Akashi Yasushi (Chairman of the International House of Japan), and the Coordinator is Professor Watanabe Yasushi (Professor at the Faculty of Environmental Information, Keio University). The fifth Nitobe Kokusai Juku was completed in 2012 and the sixth term will be organized between June and December 2013, inviting prestigious lecturers. Seven out of the thirteen lectures will be open to the general public. Each session consists of a public lecture (90 minutes) and a closed discussion

(140 minutes) between the lecturer and the participants in the Juku.

The applicants for “*jukusei*” will be first screened based on application materials (application forms and essays written on a designated theme), then fifteen applicants will be selected through interviews.

The Nitobe Kokusai Juku is supported by the Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation and the MRA Foundation.

B. U.S.–Japan Creative Arts Fellowships (Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission)

Since 1978, the I-House has facilitated annual fellowships for American artists to reside in Japan for three months to broaden their careers and expand contacts with Japanese artists. The length of the fellowship was shortened from five to three months since 2012. This fellowship, the longest continuing program operated by the I-House, is sponsored by the Japan-US Friendship Commission with support from the U.S. National Endowment for the Arts. The Agency for Cultural Affairs (Bunkacho) provides visa sponsorship for the American artists in Japan, while the I-House serves as general advisor and coordinator. Artists’ works are shared with local audiences through USFC-sponsored Artists Forums which, organized by the I-house.

The following American artists were chosen for the 2013 fellowship:

- Karl Burkheimer (visual artist)
- John Jesurun (playwright, theater artist)
- Marie Mutsuki Mockett (writer)
- Bruce Rogers (writer)
- William Roper (composer)

C. “Liberal Arts” for Business Persons

It is said that a lot of business persons are wishing to study the liberal arts. This seminar will provide these business persons with an opportunity to learn deeply and comprehensively about some of the most important liberal arts themes, including history and culture. It will be mainly targeted at young business persons and employees of I-House corporate members.

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

Sharing the fruits of intellectual dialogue and exchange becomes a basis for promoting intercultural understanding. The I-House conducts unique programs serving to enhance Japan’s international intellectual contribution and to aid in the dissemination of reliable information, thereby contributing to the realization of a better global community.

A. House Public Programs

(1) I-House Academy

Under this program, leading intellectuals visiting Japan, either as an I-House guest or under an I-House fellowship, as well as Japanese and resident experts, have been invited to give public lectures, but from Fiscal 2013, symposiums with themes concerning Japan and the world are to be held. Thought-provoking symposiums focusing on international and comparative analysis inviting intellectuals from Japan as well as from abroad will be organized.

(2) House Lunchtime Lecture

The I-House Lunchtime Lecture series invites specialists in various fields to talk about timely issues, aiming at attracting a wider audience. Three to four lectures will be organized during Fiscal 2013.

(3) japan@ihj

With the help of network of experts in such areas as academia, journalism, the arts and business, with whom I-House has associations, japan@ihj aims to function as a place for disseminating/sharing information and knowledge on Japan. Seven to eight lectures will be organized during Fiscal 2013.

(4) Tokyo International Literary Festival

The Tokyo International Literary Festival was founded by the Nippon Foundation last year to promote Japanese literature abroad and Tokyo as a literary focus of the world coming abreast of New York, London and Paris. It invites authors from around the world to build connections between Japan and the rest of the world through literary works. The aim is to bring together leading novelists, poets, editors, and translators, and to encourage new dialogue about books from different countries and cultures. I-House will be co-organizing parts of the events with themes pertaining to the I-House mission of promoting understanding of Japan.

(5) Kodo

In order to introduce and share Japanese traditional culture with non-Japanese residents in Japan, the I-House will present a *taiko* concert in October by the world famous *taiko* group Kodo. Kodo, based in Sado Island, has toured around the world performing *taiko*, folk dance, song and music. The I-House performance will feature a core group of Kodo's senior members performing some of their most representative works.

B. Publications

(1) LTCB International Library

Since August 2000, the I-House has assumed administrative responsibility for continuing the work of the LTCB Foundation, under the guidance of the policy and selection committees, to introduce selected books on the Japanese economy, politics, society and culture by Japanese authors to a wider international readership by translating them into English. This program is financed by the revenue and part of the principal of the fund established by endowment and other assets of the LTCB Library Foundation subsequent to its dissolution in 2000.

In Fiscal 2013 the following two titles are to be published and 3,500 copies of each to be distributed by free gift to university libraries, institutions, public libraries, and cultural organizations around the world.

Izutsu Toshihiko: In Search of Wisdom [tentative] (Original Japanese title: *Izutsu Toshihiko: Eichi no tetsugaku*) by Wakamatsu Eisuke
Translator: Jean Connell Hoff.

Japan's Fourth-Generation Consumerism: The Coming Connection Society [tentative] (Original Japanese title: *Dai yon no shōhi: Tsunagari o umidasu shakai e*) by Miura Atsushi
Translator: Dana Lewis

The following title is also to be translated and edited in Fiscal 2013.

A New Reading of Odano Naotake's "Shinobazunoike-zu": The Akita Ranga School and the Cultural Context in Tokugawa Japan [tentative] (Original Japanese title: *Akita Ranga no kindai: Odano Naotake "Shinobazu no Ike-zu" o yomu*) by Imahashi Riko
Translator: Ruth S. McCreery

(2) I-House Press

The I-House launched a commercial book imprint, the I-House Press, in 2006. It publishes in English various works, including the fruits of the House's program activities as well as revised editions of selected works from the LTCB International Library series, for the purpose of promoting understanding of Japan abroad.

During Fiscal 2013, the following title is to be published:

The Power of the Weave: The Hidden Meanings of Cloth (Original Japanese title: *Nuno no chikara: Edo kara ima e*) by Tanaka Yūko
Translator: Geraldine Harcourt

(3) Newsletter and Occasional Publications

The I-House will publish *The Annual Report* and its Japanese version *Kokusai Bunka Kaikan no Ayumi*, which detail its activities in Fiscal 2012.

Also the I-House will publish its newsletters *IHJ Bulletin* and *Kaihō*, which serve as a record of its programs. These publications are sent to its members and related organizations/libraries both in Japan and abroad.

In Fiscal 2013, the I-House will launch a research project for the renewal of these publications. We will re-examine their contents and frequency so that they will serve more to publicize the I-House and also prepare for a future shift to e-publication.

IV. Research Projects

A. Foreign Policy Dinner Meeting

The Foreign Policy Dinner Meeting is hosted by Akashi Yasushi, Chairman of the I-House, and invites selected experts on foreign policy to engage in an informal, off-the-record discussion on various foreign policy-related issues. The participants, limited to a small number, are academics and researchers, former diplomats and international officials, journalists and commentators, those active in civil society organizations, and businesspersons. The meeting is held either in Japanese or English without any interpretation service. During Fiscal 2013, five to six meetings are expected to be held.

V. Library and Reading Room

In addition to the library's core duties such as book and journal lending, reference work, introducing newly acquired books and holding library events, the library is planning to organize the Japan Specialist Workshop for 2014 with the National Diet Library, which has been its counterpart on the project in the past years.