

Program Plans for 2014 - 2015

I. Encouragement of Intercultural Intellectual Dialogue

A. Asia Leadership Fellow Program (ALFP)

In joint cooperation with the Japan Foundation, I-House has organized the Asia Leadership Fellow Program (ALFP) since 1996, and a total of 102 fellows have participated in the program to date. In 2014, the ALFP will invite seven Asian public intellectuals to stay together at I-House for two months 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 2014 program is “The Future of Asia, the World and Humanity after Development and Growth.” From September 8 through October 31, the fellows will reside mainly at 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. I-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.

In Fiscal 2014, I-House will resume selecting one or two fellows each year in a new framework for the first time since the last selection in 2009.

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 2014, one or 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 2014, the seventeenth symposium will be held October 24-26 in Karuizawa, Japan.

II. Development and Training of Human Resources for Multicultural 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 I-House), and the Coordinator is Professor Watanabe Yasushi (Professor at the Faculty of Environmental Information, Keio University). The sixth Nitobe Kokusai Juku was completed in 2013 and the seventh term will be organized between June and December 2014, inviting prestigious lecturers. Seven out of the fourteen 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 “*jukusei*,” 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, 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. This

fellowship, the longest continuing program operated by I-House, is sponsored by the Japan-U.S. 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 I-House serves as general advisor and coordinator. Artists' works are shared with local audiences through JUSFC-sponsored Artists Forums organized by I-House.

The following five American artists were chosen for the 2014 fellowships:

- Patrick Donnelly, poet
- Patti Jo (PJ) Hirabayashi, *taiko* artist
- Akim Ndlovu, multidisciplinary artist
- Mina Teresa Son, film director/media artist
- Hans Tutschku, composer

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

A. House Public Programs

(1) I-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 2014.

(2) japan@ihj

With the help of a network of experts in such areas as academia, journalism, the arts and business with whom I-House has associations, japan@ihj functions as a place for disseminating/sharing information and knowledge on Japan. Four to six lectures will be organized during Fiscal 2014.

(3) Tokyo International Film Festival

The Tokyo International Literary Festival was founded by the Nippon Foundation in 2012 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.

(4) IHJ Concert

In order to introduce and share authentic Japanese culture with non-Japanese residents in Japan, I-House will present a performance of Japanese arts in the autumn using the Iwasaki Koyata Memorial Hall or the garden.

(5) Nichibunken-IHJ Forum

In Fiscal 2014 the House will start a new program with the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken), a center in Kyoto for researching Japanese culture and history through international collaboration and cooperation and supporting foreign researchers specializing in Japan. Under this Forum, the two organizations will jointly hold four lectures and seminars with Nichibunken researchers as lecturers (language: Japanese or English). Also, some of the fellows invited to I-House on other projects will be holding lectures with Nichibunken in Kyoto. Through this collaborative effort, I-House hopes to have more exposure in the Kansai region and vice versa. For fiscal 2014, three forums are planned to be held starting in September.

(6) Other programs

In addition to the regular lecture series mentioned above, I-House will organize ad hoc panel discussions on timely themes and lectures by public intellectuals visiting Japan. A panel discussion on the theme of Japan's "good-neighbor diplomacy" is scheduled to be held in late April or May.

B. Publications

(1) LTCB International Library

Since August 2000, 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 the endowment and other assets of the LTCB Library Foundation subsequent to its dissolution in 2000.

Two books are to be selected and translated annually, and 3,500 copies of each distributed by free gift to university libraries, institutions, public libraries, and cultural organizations around the world. The following works are to be carried out in Fiscal 2014.

[Distribution]

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

Toshihiko Izutsu and the Philosophy of WORD: In Search of the Spiritual Orient
(Original Japanese title: *Izutsu Toshihiko: Eichi no tetsugaku*) by Wakamatsu
Eisuke
Translator: Jean Connell Hoff

The Rise of Sharing: Fourth-stage Consumer Society in Japan (Original Japanese
title: *Daiyon no shohi: Tsunagari o umidasu shakai e*) by Miura Atsushi
Translator: Dana Lewis

[Translation, editing, and publication]

*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

Japan's Asian Diplomacy: The Legacy of Two Millennia [tentative] (Original
Japanese title: *Nihon no Ajia gaiko: Nisen'nen no keifu*) by Ogura Kazuo
Translator: David Noble

Laughter in Japanese Culture [tentative] (Original Japanese title: *Warai no
Nihon-bunka: "Okō" no mono wa doko e kieta no ka?*) by Higuchi Kazunori
Translator: Jean Connell Hoff

(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 2014, the following title is to be published:

Japan: The First Industrial Nation [tentative title; in a somewhat edited form of
the Japanese original] (Original Japanese title: *Nihon bunmei to kindai seiyo:
"Sakoku" saiko*) by Kawakatsu Heita
Translator: Jean Connell Hoff

[Note] This book was selected and a contract signed with the author before the dissolution of the LTCB International Library Foundation. When the Foundation was dissolved in 2000 the I-House received the funds to publish and distribute the two works still unpublished at the time, of which this was one.

(3) Newsletter and Occasional Publications

I-House will publish the *Annual Report* and its Japanese version *Kokusai Bunka Kaikan no Ayumi*, which detail its activities in Fiscal 2013, to be distributed among its members.

In Fiscal 2013, I-House launched a new print publication, the *I-House Quarterly*, to replace the *IHJ Bulletin* and *Kokusai Bunka Kaikan Kaihō*, which had long served as its in-house newsletters. The *I-House Quarterly* (A4 format, 16 pages) features reports on past programs, a calendar of upcoming events, and information from the banquet and restaurant sections. To attract potential members, particularly young people who do not yet know of I-House, we will keep improving the contents of the publication throughout Fiscal 2014.

I-House has also started providing selected program reports in text and video formats on its website. We will use the aforementioned print media as a first point of contact for readers to gain more information on the Web.

IV. Research Projects

A. Foreign Policy Dinner Meeting

The Foreign Policy Dinner Meeting is hosted by Akashi Yasushi, the chairman of 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 2014, five to six meetings are expected to be held.

B. Collaboration with the Mansfield Foundation

I-House and the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation signed a strategic partnership agreement in November 2013. As part of this partnership, the Tokyo office of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation will move to I-House. From Fiscal 2014 onward, the two organizations will also collaborate on program activities.

V. Library and Reading Room

As a special library on Japanese Studies, the library serves to connect Japan specialists in and outside the country with I-House. The collection contains 27,000 books, 430 periodicals, 18 electronic journals, and 6 newspapers, including English academic materials on Japan (mainly humanities and social science), special materials on international relations, and publications related to I-House. Services are mainly provided to I-House members, library members, guests at I-House, and users with an introduction from other libraries. Services include

reference service, referral service, lending materials, Inter Library Loan, and issuing an introduction letter for using other libraries.

In the fiscal year 2014, other than the services mentioned above, the library is planning to hold reading sessions (three times a year) and joint expositions of books (two times a year) to publicize the library not only to members but more widely to the general public.