

Program Plans for 2015 - 2016

I. Intercultural Intellectual Dialogues

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 109 fellows have participated in the program to date. In 2015, the ALFP will invite eight to nine 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 2015 program is “Seeking Our Commons in Asia: How Can We Create Visions for the Future?” From September 7 through October 30, 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 2015, I-House will invite Professor Tariq Ramadan, Professor, Oxford University. We will also select one or two fellows to be invited during Fiscal 2016.

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 the 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 week 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 2015, 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 2015, the eighteenth symposium will be held in the fall in the United States.

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 seventh Nitobe Kokusai Juku was completed in 2014 and the eighth term will be organized between June and December 2015, inviting prestigious lecturers. Six 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 Artists Program 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 National Endowment for the Arts in the U.S. The Agency for Cultural Affairs (Bunkacho) provides visa sponsorship for the American artists in Japan, while I-House serves as general advisor and coordinator. The Artists Forum series organized by I-House continues to serve as a platform for artists to share their work with local audiences. Moreover, 2015 marks the 40th anniversary of JUSFC, and as such, artists will be encouraged to collaborate and otherwise engage more deeply with local Japanese artists.

The following five American artists were chosen for the 2015 fellowships:

- Julian-Alexander Barnett, choreographer
- Katie Cercone, interdisciplinary visual artist
- George Ferrandi, visual & performance artist
- Paul Kikuchi, composer
- Monique Truong, novelist

III. Public Programs and Publications

A. I-House Public Programs

(1) Anniversary Program Marking 70 Years Postwar

I-House will hold a series of symposiums in 2015, which marks seven postwar decades, inviting speakers from various backgrounds and regions to review postwar Japan and think together about the future of Japan and the world. This program is planned to be co-organized by I-House, Japan-US Friendship Commission, and the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation.

(2) 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 2015.

(3) Programs to enhance understanding of Japan

a. 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 aims to function as a place for disseminating/sharing information and knowledge on Japan in English. From the fiscal year 2015, the participation fees will be set at JPY1000 for non-IHJ members (JPY500 for students and non-Japanese). Two to three lectures will be organized during Fiscal 2015.

b. IUC Lecture Series

In Fiscal 2014 I-House started a new program with the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies (IUC), a center in Yokohama established in 1963 providing Japanese language education at the advanced level to outstanding students with academic or professional career goals related to Japan, and the Nippon Foundation. Under this program, two lectures will be held at I-House inviting IUC alumni and experts in Japanese Studies to give public lectures in Japanese with the aim of networking for future experts of Japan and current leaders in the field. For fiscal 2015, two forums are planned to be held starting in May.

c. Nichibunken-IHJ Forum

In Fiscal 2014 I-House started 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 jointly will hold four lectures and seminars with Nichibunken researchers as lecturers (language: Japanese or English). In addition, 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 2015, four forums are planned to be held starting in April.

d. Delve into Japanese Culture @ I-House

I-House and the Kisako Intercultural Institute, which offers comprehensive Japanese instruction programs in Tokyo, launched a new program on Japanese culture in 2014. In this series, we introduce aspects of Japanese culture that can lead to new awareness both for non-Japanese and Japanese. Lectures will be held in English to increase the opportunities for our guests who stay at or visit I-House to deepen their understanding of Japanese culture. Two to three lectures will be organized in this series during Fiscal 2015.

(4) Others Programs

Tokyo International Literary 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.

In addition to the above, we will hold panel discussions dealing with timely themes, as well as lectures by speakers visiting Japan as the opportunity arises.

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

The following three books will be published in Fiscal 2015 and 3,500 copies of each are to be distributed around the world:

A New Reading of Odano Naotake's "Shinobazu Pond": The Akita Ranga School and the Cultural Context in Tokugawa Japan [tentative] by Imahashi Riko

Translator: Ruth S. McCreery

The Issue of Comfort Women: The Japanese Responsibility and the Quest for Reconciliation [tentative] by Kumagai Naoko

Translator: David Noble

Deification in Japan: A Historical Inquiry [tentative] by Sato Hiroo

Translator: David Noble

(2) I-House Press

I-House launched a commercial book imprint, the I-House Press, in 2006. It publishes in English various works, including the fruits of I-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 2015, the following titles are to be published:

Nitobe Kokusai Juku Kogiroku 4
Edited by Nitobe Kokusai Juku, International House of Japan

The Lancashire Cotton Industry and Its Rivals (tentative) by Kawakatsu Heita
[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

(3) Newsletter and Occasional Publications

In Fiscal 2015, I-House will continue to publish its newsletter, the *I-House Quarterly* (A4 format, 16 pages). The print publication features an interview, reports on past programs, a calendar of upcoming events, and information from the banquet and restaurant sections with the aim of compelling potential members, particularly young people who do not yet know of I-House, to visit its facility. We will keep improving the contents of the publication using reader feedback as a reference. Meanwhile we provide selected program reports in text and video formats on our website and transcripts/video recordings of programs on our members-only site. We will use the aforementioned print media as a first point of contact for readers to gain more information on the Web.

I-House will publish the *Annual Report* and its Japanese version *Kokusai Bunka Kaikan no Ayumi* which detail its activities in Fiscal 2014, to be distributed among its members.

IV. Research Projects

A. Foreign Policy Dinner Meeting

The Foreign Policy Dinner Meeting invites selected experts on foreign policy to engage in an informal, off-the-record discussion on various foreign policy-related issues. The meeting is held either in Japanese or English without any interpretation service.

During Fiscal 2015, four to five meetings are expected to be held.

B. Preparations for "I-House Archive" (tentative)

I-House holds a large number of materials such as photographs, official documents, and various records that should be archived, as a primary source on the history of postwar cultural exchange. In addition, oral history from individuals particularly informed about I-House history is also expected to be preserved. For the purpose of constructing a comprehensive archive in the future, opinions from specialists and researchers will be sought starting from the 2015 fiscal year.

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 Fiscal 2015, other than services mentioned above, the library is planning to hold reading sessions (five times a year) and joint expositions of books (two times a year, cosponsored by the Bibliothèque de la Maison franco-japonaise and the Library of the German Institute for Japanese Studies) to publicize the library not only to members but more widely to the general public.