

Program Plans for 2016 - 2017

I. 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 109 fellows have participated in the program to date. In 2016, the ALFP will invite eight 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 2016 program is “Seeking Our Commons in Asia: How Can We Create Visions for the Future?” From September 5 through October 28, 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 2016, I-House will invite Professor Tariq Ramadan, Professor, Oxford University, who was selected as a 2015 fellow but could not visit Japan then due to his schedule. We will also select one or two fellows to be invited during Fiscal 2016 and beyond.

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 aiming at strengthening the intellectual ties between Japan and India as well as creating a platform for dialogue and mutual understanding. 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 from various sectors including but not limited to business, politics, academics, art and culture, and science 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 2016, 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 2016, the nineteenth symposium will be held in the fall in Japan.

II. Development and Training of Human Resources for Multicultural Exchange

A. Nitobe Leadership Program (Nitobe Kokusai Juku)

The Nitobe Leadership Program is designed to train young professionals aged from their late twenties to forty from various organizations such as corporations, public services, NPOs/NGOs, and research institutions 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 Leadership Program is Akashi Yasushi (Chairman of I-House), and the Coordinator is Professor Watanabe Yasushi (Professor at the Faculty of Environmental Information, Keio University). The eighth Nitobe Leadership Program was completed in 2015 and the ninth term will be organized between June and December 2016, inviting prestigious lecturers. Five 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 Fellows.

The applicants for Fellows 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.

This program is supported by the Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation and the MRA Foundation.

B. U.S.–Japan Creative Artists Program

Since 1978, I-House has facilitated annual fellowships for five American artists (or artist teams) to reside in Japan to broaden their careers and expand contacts with Japanese artists. The duration of the fellowship is currently designated as three to five months. This fellowship, the longest continuing program operated by I-House, is sponsored by the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission with in-kind support from the National Endowment for the Arts in the United States, 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.

The following American artists were chosen for the 2016 fellowships:

LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs, *Poet*

Alex Dodge, *Visual Artist*

Bruce Douglas, Sue Mark [marksearch], *Visual Artists*

Graham Kolbeins, *Filmmaker*

Piper Shepard, *Visual Artist*

III. Public Programs and Publications

A. I-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 2016.

(2) 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 the disseminating and sharing of information and knowledge on Japan in English. The participation fees are JPY1000 for non-IHJ members (JPY500 for students and non-Japanese). Two to three lectures will be organized during Fiscal 2016.

b. IUC Lecture Series

I-House started a new program in Fiscal 2014 with the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies (IUC) and the Nippon Foundation. Based in Yokohama, IUC has provided Japanese language education at the advanced level to outstanding students with academic or professional career goals related to Japan since 1963. Under this program, lectures are held semiannually 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 on Japan and current leaders in the field. For fiscal 2016, 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 hold two lectures and seminars with Nichibunken researchers as lecturers (language: Japanese or English) at I-House. In addition, I-House members who are Japanese Studies scholars hold lectures at Nichibunken in Kyoto. Through this collaborative effort, I-House hopes to have more exposure in the Kansai region and vice versa. For fiscal 2016, three to four forums are planned to be held.

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, such as Japanese gardens, *kabuki*, and *washoku*, 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. Three to four lectures will be organized in this series during Fiscal 2016. This program charges guests 2,000 yen, but is free for those who are staying at I-House.

(3) Other Programs

a. 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 authors, poets, editors, and translators, and to encourage new dialogue about books from different countries and cultures. I-House co-organizes parts of the events with themes pertaining to the I-House mission of promoting understanding of Japan.

b. Architalk~Seeing the World through Architecture

I-House boasts a building constructed under the collaboration of three prominent modern Japanese architects, and from its inauguration has been receiving guests and members from the field of architecture. To expand this network, we will launch a new program in 2016, the tenth anniversary of the extensive renovation of the building, inviting speakers from Japan and abroad to think about contemporary issues such as the environment, disaster or food through architecture. In fiscal 2016, three lectures are planned to be held.

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 by Japanese authors on the Japanese economy, politics, society and culture 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 four books will be published in Fiscal 2016 and 3,500 copies of each are to be distributed around the world:

The Akita Ranga School and the Cultural Context in Edo Japan by Imahashi Riko
Translator: Ruth S. McCreery

The Comfort Women: Legal, Moral, and Political Perspectives by Kumagai Naoko
Translator: David Noble

How Like a God: Deification in Japanese Religion by Sato Hiroo
Translator: David Noble

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 and Editor: Jean Connell Hoff

(2) I-House Press

I-House launched a commercial book imprint, 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 2016, no new titles will be published, but all previously published titles will continue to be sold.

(3) Newsletter and Occasional Publications

In Fiscal 2016, I-House will continue to publish its newsletter, the *I-House Quarterly* (A4 format, 16 pages). The print publication features an interview/dialogue, 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 are providing 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 also publishes an *Annual Report* and its Japanese version *Kokusai Bunka Kaikan no Ayumi* which detail activities in Fiscal 2015, to be distributed among its members.

IV. Research Projects

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 2016, three to four meetings are expected to be held.

V. Library and Reading Room

In Fiscal 2016, in addition to regular library services, the library is planning to hold reading sessions (two 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.

The historical materials of I-House such as primary documents, photos and other records are important to the study of post-war international intellectual cultural exchange in Japan. They are presently unorganized in boxes. In Fiscal 2016, the Library will start an inventory of these valuable primary documents to grasp the overall contents and check the state of physical preservation, aiming at building an I-House archive in the future.