

# Program Plans for 2019 - 2020

## I. Network-building and Empowerment of Young Leaders

### 1. Asia Pacific Young Leaders Program (APYLP)

The Asia Pacific region has been accounting for a major component of the global economy. Against this background, young leaders from the region will have disproportionate influence on, and thus responsibility for, shaping the world. How deeply young leaders understand each other's country, and how they are able to envision a common future of peace and prosperity, will have a profound impact on the world. Through its Asia Pacific Young Leaders Program which was launched in Fiscal 2017, the I-House plans to establish a "home in Japan" for such young leaders, including alumni of I-House programs such as the Asia Leadership Fellow Program (ALFP) and the Nitobe Fellowship Program. The APYLP will provide both venues and opportunities where young leaders across various leadership programs in the Asia-Pacific, with a similar mission, can periodically gather to discuss and shape the future of the region, and in the process deepen their ties.

During Fiscal 2018, APYLP implemented three Joint Sessions co-organized at I-House with ALFP, Asia 21 of the Asia Society, and the Atsumi Scholarship of the Atsumi Foundation, inviting alumni of the respective programs on particular topics and themes. In 2019, the second year of the APYLP, we plan to organize seven Joint Sessions partnering with Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting Co., Ltd., Shahani Associates Ltd., and others in addition to Asia Society and SGRA, at I-House and in the United States or in another country in the Asia Pacific. A digital platform will be improved and extended for developing personal ties among APYLP fellows.

### 2. Asia Leadership Fellow Program (ALFP)

In joint cooperation with the Japan Foundation, I-House launched the Asia Leadership Fellow Program (ALFP) in 1996 as one of its core programs. From then on until 2018, the ALFP annually invited seven 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 was intended to contribute to building transnational and interdisciplinary intellectual networks and trust among fellows from different cultural backgrounds and disciplines. The 2018 Fellows were the last to participate in the program, for a total of 139 fellows having participated in the program.

Fiscal 2019 is going to be the final year for I-House and the Japan Foundation Asia Center to co-organize the ALFP. The program will focus on follow-up activities, including lecture series and e-magazines, involving some of the past fellows to share the fruits of the program over the last two decades with a wider audience.

### 3. Nitobe Leadership Program

The Nitobe Leadership Program will be relaunched with a new framework in June 2019 after a yearlong preliminary period in 2018. The initial program (Nitobe Kokusai Juku in Japanese) was a ten-year educational program starting from 2008. This program was designed by five steering committee members selected from the 143 Nitobe Leadership Fellows (former participants) to provide a platform for individuals under 40 years of age and enthusiastic in contributing to society, addressing and overcoming challenges with innovative ideas to solve issues which are becoming more diverse, complex, and difficult. A mentor system will also be introduced to support their

endeavors.

The first year, or 11th term including the initial ten-year program, will be organized between June and December 2019. Its program will consist of 13 sessions including study tour and intensive overnight sessions, with two to five sessions open to the general public. Sessions are mainly carried out on the weekends. Ten applicants will be selected each year through application materials (application forms and essays written on a designated theme) and interviews.

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

#### **4. U.S.–Japan Creative Artists Program (Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission and others)**

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, and 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 2019 fellowships:

Brian Anderson, *Industrial Designer*

Lee Conell, *Writer*

Robert Millis, *Sound Artist / Researcher*

Aya Rodriguez-Izumi, *Visual Artist*

Jen Shyu, *Composer / Vocalist / Multi-instrumentalist*

#### **5. IUC Lecture Series**

I-House launched this 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 American and Canadian students with academic or professional career goals related to Japan since 1963. Under this program, public lectures are held in Japanese at I-House inviting IUC alumni and other experts as lecturers, with the aim of sharing research findings with the general public and of networking for future experts on Japan and current leaders in the field. For fiscal 2019, one forum is planned to be held in May.

## **II. Dialogue with Intellectuals Changing the World**

### **1. 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 engage in dialogue with their counterparts about various issues faced by global society in the hope that such dialogue will deepen mutual understanding between Japan and other countries. During their stay, fellows give public lectures and participate in seminars and

workshops with their counterparts and resource persons.

In Fiscal 2019, I-House will select one or two fellows to be invited during Fiscal 2020 and beyond. This fellowship has been made possible by the endowment subsequent to the dissolution of the Ushiba Memorial Foundation.

## **2. Lectures by Global Leaders**

Through inviting leading figures in academia, politics, economics and culture from abroad, I-House will aim to become a hub for global intellectual exchange. Speakers will be state guests as well as awardees of global awards of various areas and expertise whose speech will be of significant meaning in the contemporary world.

## **III. Architecture/Design/City and Society**

### **1. Architecture Program (Architalk)**

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 launched 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 2019, three lectures are planned to be held.

### **2. “Asile Flottant” Restoration Project**

“Asile Flottant” was designed by Le Corbusier in 1929 through renovating a ship into a floating shelter for refugees at the request of the World Salvation Army. With the flood of the river Seine in February 2018, it has sunk and therefore this project is aimed to raise and restore. This project will greatly contribute to cultural exchange in the area of architecture between Japan and France. “Asile Flottant” was also an undertaking involving Maekawa Kunio, who became a disciple of Le Corbusier in 1929 and was one of the modern architects to design I-House, which means that it constitutes a historical testament to Japanese modern architecture.

An exhibition will be held after the ship’s restoration to disseminate widely its existence and meaning in Japan and France.

### **3. Alliances with other institutions**

Regional issues such as U.S.-Japan relations, Northeast Asian relations, and Asia-Pacific relations as well as theme-based issues such as sustainable development goals (SDGs), education, poverty, environment, democracy which humanity are facing, will be dealt with in alliance with other institutions in order to approach a wider audience.

## **IV. Tackling Global Issues**

### **1. Japan-India Distinguished Visitors Program**

In 2012, commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of Japan-India diplomatic relations, I-House launched the Japan-India Distinguished Visitors Program with the Japan Foundation, aiming at

strengthening the intellectual ties between Japan and India as well as creating a platform for dialogue and mutual understanding. From 2017, the program is being co-sponsored by Shahani Associates Limited.

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 2019, two fellows will be invited under this program, one of whom will also be participating in one of the Joint Sessions of APYLP (described above), thereby generating synergy among these programs. In addition, collaboration with Indian eminent intellectual exchange institutions such as the India International Centre will be undertaken for vitalizing both this program and APYLP.

## **2. Symposium on Building the Financial System of the 21st Century**

I-House and the Program on International Financial Systems (PIFS) of Harvard Law School have co-organized an annual symposium, “Building the Financial System of the 21st Century: An Agenda for Japan and the United States,” since 1998. The symposium, held alternately in Japan and the United States, brings together approximately 130 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, participants gather for a two-day, off-the-record discussion of matters affecting the function and stability of the global financial system.

The PIFS has become independent of Harvard Law School, but the Symposium will continue as a joint undertaking between the I-House and PIFS, an independent non-profit. Harvard Law School will remain supportive of PIFS by serving as a non-financial sponsor of the Symposium.

In 2019, the twenty-second symposium will be held in Odawara, Japan, on 4–6 October.

## **V. Other**

### **1. I-House Lecture**

The I-House Lecture series invites specialists in various fields to talk about timely issues and issues regarding Japanese society as seen through comparison between Japan and other countries from various perspectives, such as politics, economics, diplomacy, and culture.

Two lectures will be organized during Fiscal 2019, both in English. Those who are not I-House members will be charged for admission.

### **2. 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 for 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 2019, three forums are planned to be held.

### **3. The Life of Asakawa Kan'ichi and Its Implications for Contemporary Japan—A Symposium to Commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Asakawa's Death**

Asakawa Kan'ichi (1873–1948), who, upon graduation from Tokyo Senmon Gakko (currently Waseda University), studied at Dartmouth College and Yale University, became the first Japanese professor at Yale University. Aside from his scholarly achievements in the study of Japanese history, he was active in pursuing peace and harmony among nations. He raised the alarm over Japan's iron-handed diplomacy vis-à-vis Asian countries after its triumph in the Russo-Japanese War, and made every effort to curb Japan from going to war with the United States, such as maneuvering to arrange a letter by the US President addressed to the Japanese Emperor. Commemorating the 70th anniversary of Asakawa's death, a symposium was held in October 2018 to revisit his life and achievements, and discuss the implications for contemporary Japan. For fiscal 2019, proceedings of this Symposium will be published and distributed to related institutions and an e-published version will be available for free on the website

### **4. Newsletter and Occasional Publications**

In Fiscal 2018, I-House will continue publishing a newsletter, the *I-House Quarterly* (A4 format, 16 pages). This print publication features an interview/dialogue, report on past programs, a calendar of upcoming events, and information from the banquet and restaurant sections to compel potential members, particularly young people who do not yet know of I-House, to visit the facility.

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 2017, to be distributed among its members.

### **5. 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 2019, we will consider the possibility of publishing some of the most sought-after, out-of-print titles in e-book format, in addition to continuing the distribution of existing printed titles.

### **6. Promotional Activities Through the Web and Social Media**

Other promotional activities are being conducted in online publishing through our website, monthly e-news, and social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. In Fiscal 2019 I-House will strive to disseminate information in a timely fashion, leveraging tools that are most suitable for the target audience, while working with other organizations to promote mutual programs through our monthly e-news and other media.

Also in Fiscal 2019 I-House plans to review its overall communication strategies in order to promote its various activities more effectively and to maximize its social impact.

## **VI. Library and Reading Room**

### **1. Library Projects**

In Fiscal 2019, in addition to regular library services such as providing library materials and information, the library is planning to conduct programs as follows:

(1) The joint exposition of books (twice a year)

Such expositions are cosponsored with the Bibliothèque de la Maison franco-japonaise and the Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien Bibliothek in order to establish mutual networks and publicize Japanese studies libraries in Tokyo.

(2) Reading about Japan at I-House Library (three times a year)

In this series, specialists from respective fields are invited to read from the texts and explain their works on various subjects, which are selected from the library collection. This series has been effectively working to promote the library to a wider range of people.

### **2. I-House Archive Project**

The historical materials kept at the I-House—photos, official documents, and various records—are important primary sources for the history of postwar intellectual cultural exchange in Japan. The library is currently conducting a three-year archive project (Fiscal 2017–2019) for the purpose of enabling the utilization of those materials, and publishing a comprehensive basic catalog on the Internet.

In Fiscal 2019, under the guidance of the I-House Archives Committee, various issues (the storage space, the system to provide service to users, publicity, conservation of materials, digitalization or microfilming of severely deteriorated materials, method to make the catalog open to the public) are being addressed in conducting the project.

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