

Program Plans for 2020-2021

I. Network-building and Empowerment of Young Leaders

1. Asia Pacific Young Leaders Program (APYLP)

The Asia Pacific region now accounts for a major portion 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 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, programs having a similar mission, can periodically gather to discuss and shape the future of the region, and in the process deepen their ties.

During Fiscal 2019, APYLP implemented four Joint Sessions co-organized at I-House with ALFP, Asia 21 of the Asia Society, the Nitobe Leadership Program, and the Japan-India Distinguished Visitors Program, inviting alumni of the respective programs on particular topics and themes. In 2020, we plan to organize further Joint Sessions at I-House, partnering with the Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting Co., Ltd., Shahani Associates Ltd., and Asia Society, and continue to work toward the development of 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 taken part in the program.

During Fiscal 2018 and 2019, the program focused on follow-up activities, including a lecture series and an e-magazine, involving past fellows in order to share the fruits of the program over the last two decades with a wider audience.

As Fiscal 2020 is going to be the final year for I-House and the Japan Foundation Asia Center to co-organize the ALFP, a booklet tracing the history of the program from 1996 to 2019 will be published for the purpose of evaluating and reporting on the achievements of the program; it will be distributed to individuals and institutions connected through the ALFP network. The program's website will also be maintained for the public to access the e-magazine, as well as the booklet once it is published online.

3. Nitobe Leadership Program

The Nitobe Leadership Program, inherited from the initial Nitobe program which was a ten-year educational program starting from 2008, was launched in 2019. Designed by the members of the steering committee selected from among the Nitobe Leadership Fellows (former participants), it provides a platform for individuals under 40 years of age who are passionate about contributing to society, addressing and overcoming challenges with innovative ideas. Nitobe Leadership Fellows will

support their endeavors as mentors.

The second year, or the twelfth year including the initial ten-year program, will be organized between June and December 2020. It will consist of 12 sessions including a study tour and intensive overnight sessions, with three to five sessions open to the general public. Sessions are mainly carried out on weekends. Ten applicants will be selected through application materials (application forms and essays written on a designated theme) and interviews.

This program is supported by the MRA Foundation.

4. The Hasso

In 2020, I-House will launch “The Hasso,” a community of young leaders from the Indo-Pacific region who are designing innovative solutions to secure peace, prosperity and sustainability for the region. It is said that we will be facing unprecedented geopolitical, economic, and social issues over the next two decades. I-House, as a pioneer in international exchange in Asia, will provide a platform for promising leaders from a wide range of fields such as business, social entrepreneurship, technology, philosophy and religion, art and design, culture, policy, and academia to gather beyond the boundaries of position, generation, gender, nationality, and religion.

During Fiscal 2020, a breakfast dialogue will be held once a month for prominent leaders to unite, enjoy in-depth dialogue, and collaborate toward their goals together.

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 2020, I-House will select one or two fellows to be invited during the next few years. 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 speeches will be of significance 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 2020, this program will move to a second phase in which it will be further expanded by inviting prominent architects and designers from abroad to two symposiums to discuss items on the global agenda, such as refugees, the environment, or education, as seen through architecture and design.

2. Walk-n-Talk at I-House

In addition to its building constructed by three prominent modern Japanese architects—Kunio Maekawa, Junzo Sakakura, and Junzo Yoshimura— I-House is also recognized for its garden designed by the seventh-generation famed Kyoto landscape artist Ogawa Jihei (also known as Ueji). In 2020, we will regularly offer tours to create opportunities for guests and members to learn more about the history of its building, land, garden and the people involved in its founding, in order to think about the I-House’s *raison d’etre* in a global society and thus work for a peaceful future.

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 2020, 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 between these two programs. In addition, collaboration with eminent Indian 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 around 100-120 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 2020, the twenty-third symposium will be held in Armonk, New York, on 5–7 November.

3. Special Lecture Series for I-House Members

Today, the world is entering a period of great uncertainty due to the rise of nationalism and antforeignism, the backlash against globalization, and the rapid development of technology. Disruption and disparity have been widening even while many countries have been focusing on development, growth, and diversity. To encourage conversation and exchange in facing such challenges, I-House launched a special lecture series in 2019 inviting world-renowned House members from various fields as guest speakers. Following each talk, there is a reception for all participants to engage in discussion on the issues presented in the lecture and deepen friendships among one another.

Four or five lectures will be held during Fiscal 2020.

V. Culture & Arts/Humanities & Society

1. 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 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.

For the 2019-2020 fellowships, teams of artists were selected from the United States and Japan to work together on a project that reflects the themes of the Olympic Games: unity, collaboration and the long-time friendship between the United States and Japan. These collaborative projects will be supported by “Tokyo Tokyo Festival,” initiated by Arts Council Tokyo, Setagaya Ward, Showa Women’s University and Hino Motors among others.

The following are the American artists chosen for the 2020 fellowships:

Gene COLEMAN, *Composer*

Cameron MCKINNEY, *Choreographer/Dancer*

Sue MARK and Bruce DOUGLAS (marksearch), *Interdisciplinary Artists*

Jesse SCHLESINGER, *Visual Artist*

Benjamin VOLTA, *Visual Artist*

VI. Grant Programs

1. “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 flooding of the river Seine in

February 2018, it has sunk and therefore this project is for the ship's raising and restoration. 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. For fiscal 2020, I-House will help in fundraising for this restoration and in dissemination activities.

VII. Public Relations

1. Public Relations and Communications

In Fiscal 2020, I-House will continue disseminating information on its activities, especially its programs in the areas of intellectual exchange, global issues, and leadership development, to enhance its visibility as well as to contribute to society. In Fiscal 2019, instead of publishing our quarterly print newsletter, we revamped our monthly e-news to keep our members and nonmembers more frequently updated on upcoming events, report on past programs (texts and videos), and provide information from the Library and other facilities. In addition to our owned media, we will leverage the power of social media such as Youtube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to ensure more timely and interactive communications.

I-House will also publish the *Annual Report* and its Japanese version *Kokusai Bunka Kaikan no Ayumi* detailing activities in Fiscal 2019, to be available on its website.

2. Building Media Relations

While enhancing its owned media, I-House will take full advantage of the opportunity to receive coverage from top-tier media so that its activities will be introduced more broadly and effectively. We will strive to build a strong relationship with media professionals by increasing the points of contact through press releases, briefings, and other communications.

3. 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 2020, 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.

VI. Library and Reading Room

1. Library Projects

In Fiscal 2020, in addition to regular library services such as providing library materials and information, the library is planning to conduct programs as follows:

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. I-House Archive Project

The historical materials kept at the I-House—photos, audiovisual materials, and various records—are important primary sources for the history of postwar intellectual cultural exchange in Japan. The library has conducted 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 2020, while receiving advice from external experts, we will make preparations for publishing the basic catalog and some digitalized materials on the website from Fiscal 2021.

* * *