

Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan



Project Overview

A group of individuals who have consistently made efforts to convey the strengths and appeal of Japan have been dispatched to the US. The members are drawn from a variety of backgrounds, including a former ambassador, a trading company employee, a female entrepreneur, and a student. The group will meet and hold discussions with local communities and various organizations working to improve Japan-U.S. relations or local community (such as the America-Japan Society, universities, commercial and industrial associations, and Rotary clubs), providing an opportunity for an honest exchange of opinions on relations with Japan.

Members



Yasuo SAITO (Group Leader)

Mr. Saito formerly served as the Ambassador of Japan to Saudi Arabia, Russia, and France, and has also served as Consul General in Atlanta and as Japanese government representative to UNESCO, giving him a deep knowledge of diplomacy, economics, and culture. He is currently an adviser to numerous private companies, and serves as executive board member of the Japanese Olympic Committee.

Discussion themes

- Revival of the Japanese economy (Abenomics)
- Japan's security policy
- Prospects for the Tokyo Olympics



Hiroshi TSUKAMOTO

Mr. Tsukamoto is the former Deputy Director General for the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and has played a pivotal role in Japan's trade and energy policy.

Discussion themes

- Japan's energy strategy
- Japanese cutting edge technology



Miyuki KOBAYASHI

Ms. Kobayashi is a part-time instructor at a junior college. She formerly worked for KDDI, and has been visiting the U.S. as one of the leaders of a homestay program every year. She also introduces Japanese culture in Texas during summer breaks.

Discussion themes

- Introduction of Japanese culture. The uniqueness of Japanese communication forms.



Tetsuo KITAGAWA

Mr. Kitagawa formerly worked for Toyota and Isuzu. He worked for Toyota for over 40 years, and has visited local plants in the U.S. numerous times as the head of the Overseas PR Division.

Discussion themes

- The DNA (mentality) of "Monozukuri (creative design and manufacturing of Japan)" represented by Toyota



Takehiro NOMA

Mr. Noma is a university student. After experiencing the Great East Japan Earthquake in Sendai, he visited Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania as an intern for the US Japan Council "TOMODACHI Initiative."

Discussion themes

- The current situation of the revival from the Great East Japan Earthquake. Roles in the future Japan-U.S. relations as a student.