

Program Plans for 2018 - 2019

I. Intercultural Intellectual Dialogue

1. 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 131 fellows have participated in the program to date. In 2018, the ALFP will invite 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 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 2018 program is “Imagining Plural Asias: How Can We Enrich Interrelationships across Borders?” From September 10 through November 2, the fellows will reside mainly at I-House and take part in workshops, resource seminars, field trips and a retreat session with scholars, journalists and NGO/NPO leaders based in Japan. Since 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 also conduct follow-up activities involving some of the past fellows.

2. 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 2018, I-House will select one or two fellows to be invited during Fiscal 2018 and beyond. This fellowship has been made possible by the endowment subsequent to the dissolution of the Ushiba Memorial Foundation.

3. 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 2018, two fellows will be invited under this program, one of whom will also be participating in a quarterly session of APYLP (described below) thereby generating synergy among these programs.

4. 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 501(c)(3). Harvard Law School will remain supportive of PIFS by serving as a non-financial sponsor of the Symposium.

In 2018, the twenty-first symposium will be held in Washington, D.C., on 19–21 October.

II. Development and Training of Human Resources for Multicultural Exchange

Education Programs

1. Nitobe Leadership Program (Nitobe Kokusai Juku)

The Nitobe Leadership Program (Nitobe Kokusai Juku in Japanese), started in 2008, is designed to train young professionals aged from their late twenties to forty from diverse fields and backgrounds to become public-minded leaders, equipped with a broad perspective to function in an international environment both in and outside the country. So far, 143 individuals have joined this program as fellows and deepened their understanding of such themes as globalization and leadership through intensive discussions and field trips. The program marked its tenth year in 2017 in the midst of a rapidly changing world, both geopolitically and societally.

In 2018, the program will be redesigned the framework to meet today’s needs to foster a public-minded global leader. Six core members who are selected among the alumni network will lead the process of planning and organizing the next stage of the Nitobe Leadership Program. The applications for Fellows will reopen in 2019.

Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation and the MRA Foundation have generously supported the program for ten years and MRA Foundation continues its support during the preparation in 2018. This program will be supported by the both foundations from 2019 once the actual program starts.

Programs in Co-operation with Overseas Organizations

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 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 2018 fellowships:

Derek Gromadzki, *Writer*

Laurel Nakanishi, *Writer*

José Navarrete, *Performer*

Rachely Rotem & Phu Hoang, *Architects*

Jesse Schlesinger, *Visual Artist*

III. Public Programs

Lectures and Symposiums

[I-House Public Programs]

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.

Four lectures will be organized during Fiscal 2018 (in principle, two lectures in English and two in Japanese). This program charges guests 1,000 yen and is 500 yen for students and free for I-House members.

2. 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 2018, four lectures are planned to be held.

[Programs to enhance understanding of Japan]

1. 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, semiannual 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 2018, two forums are planned to be held starting in May.

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 2018, three forums are planned to be held.

3. Delve into Japanese Culture @ I-House

This is an English lecture series to increase the opportunities for mainly non-Japanese who live in Japan and our guests who stay at or visit I-House to deepen their understanding of Japanese culture.

From 2014 to 2016, I-House and the Kisako Intercultural Institute, which offers comprehensive Japanese instruction programs in Tokyo, jointly organized this series. By the end of Fiscal 2016, I-House and the Kisako Intercultural Institute had ended their co-organization, and from Fiscal 2017 this program series will be held with I-House as the main organizer. 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. I-House will have lectures three or four times a year; this program charges guests 1,000 yen and 500 yen for students, but is free for those who are staying at I-House and I-House members.

[Other Programs]

1. Asia Pacific Young Leaders Program (APYLP)

In this age when the existing political framework is being questioned and shaken globally, the Asia Pacific region will account for a major component of the global economy in the next two decades. 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, 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 and the Nitobe Fellowship Program. 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, three to four quarterly sessions will be co-organized at I-House with other institutions sharing the same vision inviting alumni of various leadership programs. In addition, panel discussions will be held dealing with timely themes, as well as lectures by speakers visiting Japan as the opportunity arises.

2. 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, this symposium will revisit his life and achievements, and discuss the implications for contemporary Japan.

IV. Grants to support Intercultural Projects

I-House will offer grants to support socially meaningful intercultural projects.

1. *Asile Flottant* Restoration Project

This is a project to raise the sunken boat *Asile Flottant* in Paris to the surface of the Seine, and restore it in commemoration of its history and for its use for various exhibitions and events. *Asile Flottant*, meaning “floating asylum,” was originally constructed in 1917 as a coal carrier, but in 1929 was repaired and renovated by Le Corbusier and Maekawa Kunio to be used as an asylum for female refugees. Derelict since 1995, a number of architects from Japan and France were involved in renovating it to be used again, but when the boat was about to be reopened, due to unprecedented flooding and an accident in early 2018 the boat sunk in the Seine. *Asile Flottant* was the only boat that Le Corbusier was involved in renovating.

Considering the great value of *Asile Flottant* as a modernist construction and historical site, and the Japanese–French collaboration that it symbolizes, the I-House will support this project by providing funds to the Architectural Design Association of Nippon, the primary agent on the Japanese side, which is responsible for planning and implementing the project in collaboration with its French counterpart. This project is also expected to play a unique role in celebrating 160 years of friendship between Japan and France in 2018.

V. Publications

1. LTCB International Library

Since 2000, I-House assumed administrative responsibility for continuing the work of the LTCB (Long-Term Credit Bank) Library 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 was 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 two titles were published in Fiscal 2017, and the distribution of 3,500 copies each will take place in Fiscal 2018 as free gift to university libraries, research institutions, public libraries and cultural organizations around the world.

With the completion of the distribution of these two titles, the LTCB International Library program will come to an end.

The Lancashire Cotton Industry and Its Rivals—International Competition in Cotton Goods in the Late Nineteenth Century: Britain versus India, China, and Japan by Heita Kawakatsu

Translator and Editor: Jean Connell Hoff

Return from Siberia: A Japanese Life in War and Peace, 1925–2015 by Oguma Eiji

Translator: David Noble

2. 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.

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 2018, the following title is to be published:

Nitobe Kokusai Juku Kogiroku 6

Edited by Nitobe Kokusai Juku, International House of Japan

4. 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 2018 I-House will redesign its website to make it compatible with smartphone viewing and strive to disseminate information in an even more timely manner. I-House will also continue to work with other organizations to promote mutual programs through monthly e-news and other media.

VI. Research Projects

1. 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 2018, three to four meetings are expected to be held.

VII. Library and Reading Room

1. Library Projects

In Fiscal 2018, 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.

(3) The James C. Abegglen Memorial Collection at the International House of Japan Library

In this project, publication of a catalog of the books donated to the library by the late Mr. James C. Abegglen (specialist on Japanese management; founder of the Tokyo office, the Boston Consulting Group), and a lecture and a party in commemoration of the publication are scheduled to be held.

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 2018, various issues (the storage space, system to provide service to users, publicity, conservation of materials, digitalization or microfilming of severely deteriorated materials) will be discussed and the future direction decided.

Revisions

As of October 25, 2018