

Program Plans for 2017 - 2018

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 124 fellows have participated in the program to date. In 2017, the ALFP will invite seven or 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 2017 program is “Seeking Our Commons in Asia: How Can We Create Visions for the Future?” From September 11 through November 2, 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 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 2017, 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.

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 2017, one fellow 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.

The year 2017 marks the twentieth anniversary of this symposium. A gala celebration will be held in the fall in Tokyo in honor of this milestone prior to the symposium that will be held in Odawara, Japan.

II. Development and Training of Human Resources for Multicultural Exchange

Educational Programs

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. So far, 127 individuals have joined this program as the Fellows. 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 final, tenth term will be organized between June and December 2017, 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.

Cooperation and Coordination with Overseas Institutions

A. 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, 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 2017 fellowships:

Elaine Buckholtz, *Visual Artist/Lighting Designer*

Jami Nakamura Lin, *Writer*

Kimi Maeda, *Theater Artist*
Quynh Vantu, *Architect*
Vanessa Voskuil, *Choreographer*

III. Public Programs and Publications

Lectures and Symposiums

[I-House Public Programs]

A. 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 a comparison between Japan and other countries from various perspectives, such as politics, economics, diplomacy, and culture.

Four lectures will be organized during Fiscal 2017. (In principle, two English lectures and two Japanese lectures). This program charges guests 1,000 yen and is 500 yen for students and free for I-House members.

[Programs to enhance understanding of Japan]

A. 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 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 2017, two forums are planned to be held starting in May.

B. 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 2017, three to four forums are planned to be held.

C. 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 are held in English to increase the opportunities for our guests who stay at or visit I-House to deepen their understanding of Japanese

culture.

At the end of Fiscal 2016, I-House and the Kisako Intercultural Institute ended the coorganization, and from Fiscal 2017 this program series will be held with I-House as the main organizer. I-House will hold lectures three or four times a year; this program charges guest 1,000 yen and 500 yen for students, but is free for those who are staying at I-House and for I-House members.

Other Programs

A. 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 2017, four lectures are planned to be held. In addition to the above, we will hold a tour of modernist architecture in Tokyo including I-House, as well as a panel discussion on modernist architecture and its relevance today.

B. 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 over the next two decades. Young leaders from the region will have disproportionate influence on, and thus responsibilities for, shaping the world. How deeply young leaders understand each other's countries, 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 a venue and opportunities where young leaders, across various young leaders 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 2017, a forum will be organized to kick off APYLP and to revisit the visionary work that John D. Rockefeller III and Matsumoto Shigeharu undertook in the post-World War II era, discussing the historical lessons from those efforts and their relevance to the present-day world as well as the mission of I-House.

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.

Publications

A. 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 two books will be published in Fiscal 2017 and 3,500 copies of each are to be distributed around the world:

Survivor: A Japanese Soldier's Journey Through War and Peace (tentative) by Oguma Eiji
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

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

B. 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 2017, the following title is to be published:

Nitobe Kokusai Juku Kogiroku 5
Edited by Nitobe Kokusai Juku, International House of Japan

C. Newsletter and Occasional Publications

In Fiscal 2017, I-House will continue publishing a newsletter, the *I-House Quarterly* (A4 format, 16 pages). The 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. We will work to improve the contents of the publication and explore ways to better reach out to our target readers.

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.

IV. Research Projects

A. 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 2017, three to four meetings are expected to be held.

V. Library and Reading Room

A. Reading Sessions / Joint Expositions of Books

In Fiscal 2017, 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 Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien Bibliothek) to publicize the library not only to members but more widely to the general public.

B. I-House Archive Project

The historical materials of I-House such as photos, primary documents, and other records are an important primary source for the history of postwar intellectual cultural exchange in Japan, but they are presently unorganized in boxes. For the purpose of enabling the utilization of those materials, and publishing a comprehensive basic catalog on the Internet, the library is planning an archive project in a three year plan (Fiscal 2017-2019).

In Fiscal 2017, as well as holding a committee meeting to discuss the project and offer advice, a condition survey and cleaning of materials, and cataloging of a basic catalog will be conducted. Also, preparations will be made for a project scheduled to be held in Fiscal 2018, to look back over postwar intellectual cultural exchange and to think about the importance of the archive.