



日本国際交流センター

JAPAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

US-Japan Parliamentary Exchange Program

Japanese Women Leaders Delegation to the United States

SEPTEMBER 2017

FOR THE FIRST time in its history, JCIE hosted a parliamentary delegation from Japan composed exclusively of women leaders. Five Diet members and one senior journalist traveled to Washington DC, New York City, and Tarrytown NY for a weeklong program focused on foreign policy, women’s empowerment, and the state of US-Japan relations. While in the United States, the delegation met with over 50 leaders (many of whom were women), including Congressional members, CEOs, nonprofit executives, and scholars. They also spoke at JCIE’s annual “Tadashi Yamamoto

Memorial Seminar,” hosted in partnership with the Council on Foreign Relations, and participated in a corporate roundtable at Japan Society. Their visit culminated in a two-day retreat, the US-Japan Women Leaders Dialogue, held at the Pocantico Center of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. There, they were joined by Internal Affairs Minister Seiko Noda and had intensive discussions on issues of shared concern in US-Japan relations, as well as ways to strengthen women’s voices in the political and economic spheres.



Delegates at the White House



Discussions on North Korea with Senator Cory Gardner

PARTICIPANTS

Aiko Doden, Senior Commentator on International Affairs, NHK Broadcasting; Special Affairs Commentator, NHK World

Kuniko Inoguchi, Member, House of Councillors (LDP); former Minister of State for Gender Equality

Takae Ito, Member, House of Councillors (Democratic Party)

Takae Ito, Member, House of Councillors (Komeito)

Hanako Jimi, Member, House of Councillors (LDP)

Toshiko Takeya, Member, House of Councillors (Komeito)

KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION

Strengthening US-Japan Relations Under President Trump

Delegation members were eager to learn more about the ways in which the new administration is approaching US foreign policy. A few were concerned, for example, by President Trump’s departure from traditional foreign policy-making mechanisms and sought to be reassured of the US’s commitment to global leadership, in contrast to the “America First” policies that were touted on the campaign trail. Both the Republicans and Democrats they met with emphasized the strong foundations that ensure the US-Japan alliance’s strength and longevity.

They also wished to learn more about the state of US-Japan economic ties, as many of the delegates felt that trade between the two countries had become more precarious. In one discussion, experts noted that with his career as a businessman, President Trump has been keen to frame trade relations as a zero-sum game, and using trade deficits as a marker, he has portrayed current US-Japan trade relations as a “bad deal” for American interests. With that in mind, delegates were told to expect continued resistance to multilateral trade agreements and a renegotiation of bilateral trade as well.

However, many experts affirmed the US’s commitment to the US-Japan alliance. A few mentioned President Trump and Prime Minister Abe’s early-established and friendly relationship, which stands in stark contrast to President Trump’s engagement with other world leaders. Prime Minister Abe, recognizing Japan’s dependence on the United States, has displayed an overt willingness to stand by President Trump’s side. And while the countries’ trade relations

have been called into question, experts predicted that trade between the two countries will remain strong.

US-Japan Cooperation on North Korea

With North Korea firing a ballistic missile over Hokkaido the week prior, there was a renewed appreciation evident during the delegation’s meetings of the importance of the US-Japan alliance in providing stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Scholars at the Brookings Institution noted that President Trump’s rhetoric and actions involving North Korea have been cause for anxiety in Japan and throughout Asia. And yet, many leaders testified that the alliance stands firm; the United States, through its relations with Japan, is committed to deterring North Korean aggression in the region. Shortly after the missile launch, for example, the United States, Japan, and South Korea collectively called upon the United Nations to impose stricter sanctions on the North Korea.

Senate East Asian Subcommittee Co-Chair Cory Gardner, in his meeting with the group, also stressed the importance of bilateral and trilateral relations among and between the United States, Japan, and South Korea. Additionally, Senator Gardner emphasized that Congress, too, supports action against North Korea, reiterating that President Trump does not act alone in crafting America’s foreign policy.

Additionally, several other Congressional members emphasized that it is in the interests of the United States, given the ever-rising tensions with North Korea, to sustain and strengthen the US-Japan alliance. This was proven by the eagerness shown by US



Sharing challenges that women face in government with Congresswoman Diana DeGette



At Emily’s List, with Executive Director Emily Cain, to learn about women in American politics

Congressional members to meet with their Japanese counterparts to discuss the shared challenge of North Korean aggression.

Lessons from US Corporations on Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives

Because the delegation was composed entirely of women, special attention was given to how the private sector can implement more inclusive policies and practices for women and other marginalized communities in the workplace. More than once, speakers not only made the moral case for a more equitable workplace, but also provided the economic rationale. This resonated with many in the Japanese delegation, who noted that Japan is facing labor shortages due to an aging population and a low birthrate, but that women’s ability to play a greater role in filling that gap is still hampered by the lack of childcare facilities. A number of organizations aim to address these issues worldwide. The delegation visited one such nonprofit, Catalyst, which works in the United States and abroad (with one of their global offices in Japan) to produce research and provide consultations on best practices for diverse, inclusive workplaces.

The delegation met with various corporate executives to discuss how women’s careers can be better supported. Estee Lauder co-founder Leonard Lauder and his son William Lauder, who serves as executive chairman, shared that their company approaches and prioritizes gender issues in the workplace as a means of care for their employees, as over 84 percent of their global workforce are women. They also visited the

Eileen Fisher, Inc. headquarters, discussing female entrepreneurship and young women’s empowerment with Eileen Fisher herself and the Eileen Fisher Leadership Institute team. Lastly, JCIE and Japan Society co-hosted a roundtable where representatives from Citi, MetLife, KPMG, and Mizuho discussed their respective approaches to diversity and inclusion at their places of work.

Women’s Political Leadership

Several of the Diet members in the delegation were recently elected to office, and so discussions about the process through which women enter politics were of particular interest to the group. To hear about how an American becomes elected to office, the group paid a visit to Emily’s List. While there, they also talked about the ways in which many women in America simultaneously felt defeated and inspired after Hillary Clinton’s loss to then-candidate Donald Trump, something the Diet members said also was felt by women politicians abroad.

There were also practical discussions about the ways in which women can achieve political office. One obstacle is the very act of convincing women to run in the first place. For example, Rutgers Professor Debbie Walsh—one of the country’s leading experts on women in politics—frankly stated that the challenge is not that women cannot win elections if they run, but rather that there are too few women running in the first place, as women often perceive themselves to be underqualified to hold office, even as men with lesser credentials successfully win elections. Additionally, the pressures



Eileen Fisher speaking to the delegation at her company’s headquarters



Posing with Estee Lauder Executive Chairman William Lauder

women face to serve as the primary caretakers in their families are considerably difficult to overcome—something felt with a particular strength in Japan due to the shortage of caretakers for the old and young.

However, many leaders emphasized that through the act of women supporting women, together they can work to dismantle the systems in place that are disadvantageous to women pursuing and holding political office. A much-valued aspect of the Diet members’ visit to the United States was the opportunity to have candid, off-the-record discussions with their American counterparts in government. They discussed the bipartisan work of the Congressional Women’s Caucus with its co-chair, Congresswoman Lois Frankel, and had productive discussions with three other Congresswomen about the shared challenges they face as women politicians.

The US Congress is doing just slightly better than the Diet in terms of gender parity, as women hold 21 percent of seats in the US Senate, compared with to women holding 20 percent of the seats in Japan’s Upper House, and 19.3 percent of the seats in the US House of Representatives, compared with just barely 10 percent in Japan’s Lower House. With this in mind, the delegation affirmed that both the US and Japan have a long road to gender equality in government.



The delegation ended their stay in the United States by participating in JCIE’s US-Japan Women Leader’s Dialogue, where a group of 25 women from the political, business, think tank, academic, media, and philanthropic sectors came together to discuss ways to advance women’s leadership in domestic politics and business, work-life balance, and broader issues of policy concern: the US-Japan alliance and promoting stability in the Asia Pacific, US-Japan cooperation in supporting the international order, and the shared challenges of globalization and economic populism.



Hon. Kuniko Inoguchi speaking at the US-Japan Women Leaders Dialogue



Receiving a briefing on 9/11 Families Association’s work on connecting victims of tragedies

PROGRAM

Monday, September 11

Emily's List and Women in American Politics

Emily Cain, Executive Director, Emily's List; former State Senator, Maine

Roundtable on US-Asia Relations

Richard Bush, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

Jung Pak, SK-Korea Foundation Chair in Korea Studies, Brookings Institution

Jonathan Pollack, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

Mireya Solis, Philip Knight Chair in Japan, Brookings Institution

Jonathan Stromseth, Lee Kuan Yew Chair in Southeast Asian Studies, Brookings Institution

“Japanese Business Perspectives on Washington Politics”

Satoshiro Akimoto, CEO, Washington Insights

Yoichi Mineo, Assistant General Manager, Marubeni America Corporation

Wataru Sawamura, Washington DC Bureau Chief, Asahi Shimbun

Maki Yasui, Chief Representative, Japan Bank for International Cooperation

Tuesday, September 12

Meeting with Senator Cory Gardner

Cory Gardner, Member, US Senate (R-CO); Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia, and International Cyber Security Policy

“The Trump Administration’s Agenda”

Ado Machida, Principal, Navigators Global; Director of Policy Implementation, Donald J. Trump Presidential Transition Team

“US Domestic Politics in the Trump Era”

William Galston, Ezra K. Zilka Chair and Senior Fellow, Governance Studies, the Brookings Institution

Meeting with Congresswoman Lois Frankel

Lois Frankel, Member, US House of Representatives (D-FL); Co-chair, Congressional Women's Caucus

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Jane Harman, Director, President and CEO, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; former Member, US-House of Representative (D-CA)

Shihoko Goto, Senior Associate for Northeast Asia, Asia Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Gwen Young, Director, Women in Policy Service Project & Global Women's Leadership Initiative, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Tadashi Yamamoto Memorial Seminar

Sheila Smith, Senior Fellow, Japan Studies, Council on Foreign Relations (host)

Wednesday, September 13

Discussion with Women Leaders in the US Congress

Suzanne Bonamici, Member, House of Representatives (D-OR)

Diana DeGette, Member, House of Representatives (D-CO)

Susan Davis, Member, House of Representatives (D-CA)

Center for Global Development (CGD) Lunch Briefing: “Incorporating Gender Approaches in Development Assistance”

Amanda Glassman, COO, CGD

Nancy Hwang, Senior Fellow, CGD

Charles Kenny, Senior Fellow, CGD

Nancy Lee, Visiting Fellow, CGD; former Deputy CEO, Millennium Challenge Corporation

Mead Over, Senior Fellow, CGD

Ayako Takemi, Visiting Researcher, CGD

Brookdale University Hospital's Maternal Healthcare & Healthy Families Initiative

Jennifer Dallas, Fatherhood Representative, Healthy Families, Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center

Sherdina Dews, Family Assessment Worker, Healthy Families, Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center

Jeanine Frumentti, Chief Nursing Officer, Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center; Adjunct Assistant Professor, Hunter College

Susan Hubbard, Midwife, Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center; Fellow, Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE/USA)

Sharon Marshall-Taylor, Program Manager, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Cyrus McCalla, Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine & Interim Chair, Obstetrics & Gynecology Service, Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center

Roxanne Munroe, Program Manager, Healthy Families, Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center

Mary-Powel Thomas, Family Assessment Worker, Healthy Families, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Tracy Webber, Director of MCH Nursing & Midwifery, Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center

Thursday, September 14

Visit to National 9/11 Memorial

Site Visit to 9/11 Tribute Museum & Briefing on 9/11 Families Association's Work on Connecting Victims of Tragedies

Brenda Berkman, former Lieutenant, NY Fire Department

Meriam Lobel, Curator, 9/11 Tribute Museum

Site Visit to Catalyst: Discussion on Women's Equity in the Corporate Sector

Jennifer Thorpe-Moscon, Director of Research, Catalyst

Emily Wakeling, Executive Director of Global Relations,
Catalyst

Japan Society/JCIE Roundtable: “Corporate Diversity Initiatives”

Luis Abad, Principal, Washington National Tax, Trade, and Customs Services; Partner Champion for Diversity and Inclusion, KPMG (speaker)

Christopher Bottiglieri, Managing Director, International Franchise Management, Citibank North America

Cheryl L. Gilberg, Managing Director, Head of Corporate Communications and Marketing, Mizuho Bank

Kimberly March, Diversity and Talent Program Manager, Citi (speaker)

Elizabeth Nieto, Global Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, MetLife (speaker)

Tomoko Okuno, Deputy Director, Business and Policy Program, Japan Society

Li Wang, Director, International Franchise Management, Citi

Dinner hosted by Ambassador Reiichiro Takahashi

Ambassador Reiichiro Takahashi, Consul General of Japan in New York

Masashi Mizobuchi, Deputy Consul General of Japan in New York

Friday, September 15 _____

“Women’s Evolving Role in US Politics”

Debbie Walsh, Director, Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University

Estee Lauder’s Corporate Diversity Program

Leonard Lauder, Chairman Emeritus, Estee Lauder Companies

William Lauder, Executive Chairman, Estee Lauder Companies

Maria Cristina “MC” Gonzalez Noguera, Senior Vice President, Global Public Affairs, Estee Lauder Companies; former Director of Communications to the First Lady, the White House

Marilu Marshall, Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer, Estee Lauder Companies

Eileen Fisher Leadership Institute

Eileen Fisher, Founder and Chairwoman, Eileen Fisher Inc.

Amy Hall, Director of Social Consciousness, Eileen Fisher Inc.

Antoinette Klatzy, Executive Director and Co-Creator, Eileen Fisher Leadership Institute

Opening Dinner for US-Japan Women Leaders Dialogue

Saturday, September 16 _____

US-Japan Women Leaders Dialogue

Sunday, September 17 _____

US-Japan Women Leaders Dialogue