



Building the TOMODACHI Generation

Engaging U.S. and Japanese University Students in Social Problem-Solving



Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye, President, U.S.-Japan Council meeting with TWC students



Japanese students in front of Capitol Hill

Introduction

Building the TOMODACHI Generation is a ground-breaking, two-week program designed for Japanese students with an interest in leadership training, cross-cultural exchange and entrepreneurial approaches to addressing social challenges.

The program is a partnership between The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars (TWC) in Washington, D.C. and the U.S.-Japan Research Institute (USJI), and is administered by TWC. It is supported by the TOMODACHI Initiative. The program engages 14 Japanese students and 10 U.S. students. It is an outstanding opportunity to:

- Learn about the power of cross-sector collaboration—partnerships between the private sector, nonprofit organizations and foundations that accomplish social goals but also provide value for sponsors/partners.
- Visit world-renowned sites in the U.S. capital.
- Meet and dialogue with leaders of business, government and acclaimed non-profit organizations (NGOs).
- Learn about community rebuilding strategies in the U.S.
- Work on a social problem-solving team with your U.S. counterparts.
- Learn the professional skills to become a leader in the global community.
- Participate in a unique leadership retreat designed to foster communication, trust and understanding between our two countries.

Program Outline

Week 1 programming focuses on the history of the civil society mode—providing a framework for understanding the impact and mission of NGOs and cross-sector collaborations, and the affect these partnerships have on advancing the common good.

Students will learn about the infrastructure needed to support a strong civil society, including tax and legal issues, social and belief systems and policies that enhance corporate and foundation participation. They will explore ways in which the U.S. and other countries leverage these collaborations to achieve long-term, social goals. Site visits to leading NGOs and their collaborative partners and landmark sites in the U.S. capital are included. The first week of learning is followed by a three-day “retreat,” which begins by engaging the Japanese and U.S. students in a full-day of activities focused on leadership development, communication and trust-building. Students then are divided into small, international teams. Guided by professionals, each team will develop a civil society project that addresses a specific aspect of the long-term challenges faced by residents of the Tohoku region. A final project presentation will take place at the 2014 “USJI Week” in Washington, D.C. and will be judged by leaders of USJI and the U.S.-Japan Council, who will select the top project.

Week 2 programming focuses on leadership development and cross-cultural understanding to prepare U.S. and Japanese students for success in a global society. Students will have the opportunity to take part in cross-cultural networking training and attend events with U.S. and Japanese leaders. They will meet and dialogue with accomplished professionals from both countries on issues of leadership in a global society, and work collaboratively throughout the week to hone their civil society projects. The final day of the program includes a short graduation ceremony at which each student will receive a certificate of program completion.

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*Program Dates:
February 15, 2014–
March 1, 2014*



About The Washington Center

The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars is an independent, nonprofit organization serving hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States and other countries by providing selected students with challenging opportunities to train and learn in Washington, D.C. The largest program of its kind, The Washington Center has more than 50,000 alumni who agree that their TWC experience helped them develop job skills, discover their passion, make invaluable professional and personal connections, gain access, set a plan for the future, and strengthen their desire to give back to their communities. Many of the alumni are in leadership positions in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors of the U.S. and around the world. To learn more: <http://www.twc.edu>

Scholarship Coverage

Students will receive a scholarship that covers the application fee, program and housing fees, health insurance, and an airfare allowance. Each student will share one bedroom with another student in a conveniently located hotel. Most transportation and meals during the program will be covered. Participants should plan to spend approximately \$50 USD per week on snacks, personal items and entertainment.

Eligibility Requirements

- The applicant must be a full-time undergraduate or graduate student.
- Students from all majors may apply.
- The applicant must be enrolled in the university during the program. Applicants who will be study-abroad students during the time of the program are not eligible.
- Demonstrated desire to contribute to reconstruction of the Tohoku region.
- The applicant must have Japanese citizenship.
- The applicant must have a current passport.

How to Apply

Documents to submit:

- TWC Program Application, and Statement of Purpose in English
- Resume or C.V. in English
- Transcript with GPA in English
- Copy of Certificate Demonstrating Proficiency in English
- Letters of Recommendation (optional: recommended if the letters show the applicant's connection to relief efforts in Tohoku)

Note: The letters of recommendation are optional. The purpose of these letters is to demonstrate a student's suitability by highlighting their past or future volunteer activities related to the revival of the Tohoku Region.

About TOMODACHI

TOMODACHI is a public-private partnership, led by the United States Government and the U.S.-Japan Council and supported by the Japanese Government, that supports Japan's recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake and invests in the next generation of Japanese and Americans in ways that strengthen cultural and economic ties and deepen the friendship between the United States and Japan over the long-term. The program is funded by TOMODACHI's Fund for Exchanges, generously supported by Toyota Motor Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation, and Hitachi, Ltd.

About The U.S.-Japan Research Institute (USJI)

Established in 2009, the U.S.-Japan Research Institute (USJI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Washington, D.C., jointly operated by Doshisha University, Keio University, Kyoto University, Kyushu University, Ritsumeikan University, University of Tokyo, University of Tsukuba, and Waseda University. Our missions are centered on the development of the bilateral relationship between the United States and Japan, and include: conducting policy analysis and academic research; fostering the future generation of decision makers; and building a strong U.S.-Japanese local community. In order to achieve these missions, USJI holds events through the year, including seminars and lectures related to U.S.-Japan relations. USJI also strive to develop the future generation of policymakers in the bilateral relationship between the United States and Japan. To learn more: <http://www.us-jpri.org/index.html>

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