



2024 JAPANESE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DELEGATION TO JAPAN
21st DELEGATION
March 1 – 9, 2024

Sponsored by: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Organized by: U.S.-Japan Council

The 2024 Delegation will include senior Japanese Americans who are top leaders in their professions, have had moderate to extensive experience in U.S.-Japan relations, and will be committed to furthering the U.S.-Japan relationship upon their return. The 2024 program seeks senior leaders in the field of climate change, sustainability, and energy, emerging technologies, communications and media and from local, state or regional government including appointed and elected officials. Priority will be given to candidates from areas not represented in previous delegations, with a strong commitment to collaborate with Japanese Americans nationwide. The 2024 Delegation will be the first delegation to be selected after COVID-19 and seeks to select a diverse delegation of prominent Japanese American leaders nationally.

OVERVIEW

The Japanese American Leadership Delegation (JALD) program provides the opportunity for a select group of Japanese American leaders from across the U.S. to travel to Japan to engage with Japanese leaders in the business, government, academic, non-profit and cultural sectors. The trip also allows Japanese leaders to gain a greater understanding of multicultural America through the experiences of a diverse group of Japanese Americans. Upon their return, delegates collaborate with JALD alumni, the local consulates, the U.S.-Japan Council and local and national community organizations to continue strengthening ties between the U.S. and Japan.

The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) represented in the United States by the Embassy of Japan in Washington, D.C. and seventeen consulate general/consular offices is the sponsor of the program. The U.S.-Japan Council provides administration and organization for this program. The program began in 2000 and 227 delegates have participated to date.

GOALS OF THE DELEGATION PROGRAM

1. **Improve understanding and strengthen long term relations between Japanese Americans and Japan.**
2. **Develop and implement ongoing strategies to expand the role of Japanese Americans in advancing U.S.-Japan relations.**
3. **Develop a network of Japanese American leaders that will continue to advance long term U.S.-Japan relations, at the regional, national and international levels.**

BACKGROUND

The relationship between the U.S. and Japan is considered by many as the most important bilateral relationship in the world, and Japanese Americans are uniquely positioned to help shape it. The connections between Japanese and Japanese Americans are complex. While World War II played a major role in severing ties between Japanese Americans and Japan, today's opportunities for collaboration and mutual benefit are great and demand a renewed commitment to involving Japanese Americans in U.S.-Japan relations. In their May 2022 Joint Statement, Prime Minister Kishida and President Biden "paid tribute to the history, contributions and cultural heritage of Japanese Americans and concurred to engage next generation Japanese American leaders in the future Japan-U.S. cooperation." ([Joint Statement of the United States and Japan](#))

The Japanese American Leadership Delegation provides Japanese American leaders with the opportunity to become acquainted or further engaged with Japan and participate in discussions related to the role that Japanese Americans can play in addressing key issues that face both countries, now and in the future.

The first delegation was invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) to visit Japan in 2000. It included third and fourth generation Japanese Americans selected from various professional fields including the educational, cultural, philanthropic, legal and political sectors. Since the initial trip, delegations of Japanese American leaders from throughout the United States have visited Japan every year since 2002, except during the pandemic years (2020-2022).

Participants in this program have created an alumni network to ensure that the commitment to strengthening U.S.-Japan relations is maintained. A commitment to follow-up after the trip is a required part of the program.

2024 SCHEDULE

- The trip to Japan including travel will be from March 1 (Fri) to March 9 (Sat), 2024 (except Guam: departing March 2)
- Orientation – Jan 29 (Mon) – 30 (Tues), 2024 in Los Angeles – This is mandatory for all delegates who will travel to Japan. Non-participation in the orientation will disqualify an individual from traveling with the delegation.

- The itinerary will include travel to Tokyo and Osaka (and one additional city in Kansai).
- Transportation, hotel and meals will be provided.
- Delegates are required to attend all meetings and events during the trip.

As a rule, delegates are not permitted to extend their stay. In exceptional cases, however, they may extend their stays by up to five nights at the conclusion of the official program at their own expense and at the approval of MOFA. Requests will be considered only if the extension supports the general goals of the program. As a rule, spouses and family members are not permitted to accompany delegates during the official trip.

CRITERIA & SELECTION OF THE 2024 DELEGATION

For the 2024 delegation, members will include senior leaders and executives with moderate to extensive experience in U.S.-Japan relations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will approve the final ten Japanese American leaders for the 2024 delegation. Decisions will be based upon recommendations from the local Japanese consulates and Japanese embassy and recommendations from an advisory committee of selected former delegates. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has placed priority on selecting leaders from geographic areas of the country with little or no presentation in prior delegations. The 2024 delegation will include leaders who have a demonstrated interest and commitment to strengthening U.S.-Japan relations, have interest or experience in the Japanese American community, and will be committed to future efforts to strengthen linkages between the United States and Japan. Selection for the 2024 delegation will give greater consideration to individuals with extensive experience in the following sectors:

- Climate change, sustainability, and energy
- Local, state, regional or federal government, including appointed and elected officials
- Business, finance and philanthropy, with an emphasis on senior executive positions
- Communications and media
- Emerging technologies, including educators in respective fields

Selection Criteria will include:

- Successful and senior leadership in one's profession
- High level of interest or experience in U.S.-Japan relations
- Commitment to strengthening U.S.-Japan relations in the future
- Interest in expanding the role of Japanese Americans in U.S.-Japan relations
- Representation from geographic areas not included in prior delegations

Three members of the delegation will be selected to speak at a symposium in the Kansai region co-sponsored by the Japan Foundation and the U.S.-Japan Council.

In making the final recommendations for the delegation, criteria will also include:

- Regional representation
- Diversity of professional backgrounds
- Gender balance
- Diversity of experience in Japan including first time visitors and those with moderate to extensive experience. (Note: Those who previously participated in an invitation program to Japan sponsored by MOFA will not be eligible for consideration.)
- In principle, delegates should be 40 to 55 years of age to enable longer-term opportunities to build U.S.-Japan relations in their respective professional and community activities. In reflecting the goals of the program, priority will be given to sansei, yonsei and gosei, including Japanese Americans of multi-racial backgrounds.

Notwithstanding, candidates who do not meet all of the above criteria may still be considered if they demonstrate extraordinary qualifications.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS/NOMINATIONS

Deadline for receipt of applications: Sept 15, 2023

1. Applications should be submitted by email to the local consulate office based upon the applicant's residence (see attached for list of consulate offices). For residents of Washington, D.C., applications should be submitted to the Embassy of Japan.

2. A duplicate copy should also be sent to the U.S.-Japan Council by e-mail to amurata@usjapancouncil.org.

RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Embassy of Japan/Consulate General of Japan in your region
(See attached for list of Embassy of Japan and Consulate Offices)
- Consulate General of Japan in Seattle
Mr. Hiro Tojo, hiroaki.tojo@se.mofa.go.jp, (206) 682-9107 x114
- U.S.-Japan Council
Ms. Wendy Abe, wabe@usjapancouncil.org, (808) 271-0817 or
Ms. Allison Murata, amurata@usjapancouncil.org, (202) 750-4030

OVERVIEW OF SPONSOR & PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan is one of the eleven ministries of the Government of Japan's Executive Branch, the Prime Minister's Cabinet. The Ministry oversees a network of embassies and consulates throughout the world, managing Japan's foreign relations. The North American Affairs Bureau sponsors a number of programs which facilitate the strengthening of Japan-U.S. relations, with the First North America Division overseeing Japanese American affairs.

U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL

The U.S.-Japan Council is a 501(c) 3 non-profit educational organization that contributes to strengthening U.S.-Japan relations by bringing together diverse leadership, engaging stakeholders and exploring issues that benefit communities, businesses and government entities on both sides of the Pacific. By promoting people-to-people relationships, the Japanese American-led organization cultivates an international network, and collaborates with other organizations and institutions to develop programs that allow leaders to engage with their counterparts in the United States and Japan. The Council also develops the next generation of leaders committed to a vibrant and dynamic U.S.-Japan relationship.