

AJS COMMITTEE REPORTS

(May 1, 2009 ~April 30, 2010)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Susumu Yanagisawa

Committee Members: Toshie Komatsu, Haruo Yamamoto, Katherine Giles-Diaz (acting member for Mr. Ronald Post of U.S. Embassy), Keiko Packard, Ken Shibusawa, Hiroshi Matsuzaki and Takashi Watanabe

The Committee held meetings every month to generate a better program plan ahead. Regular monthly luncheons are our main program and in addition, various programs were carried out including Forums, After 6:00 Club, outing programs, concert/movies and special dinner and luncheon programs.

1) Regular Monthly Luncheons

During fiscal 2009 AJS held 6 regular luncheons which covered various topics relating to both U.S. and Japan. Mr. Yoshiaki Fujimori, President of GE Japan talked about the nature of Global Leadership and GE's world wide business strategy in June. In July, AJS invited Mr. Hisanori Isomura, nicknamed as Mr. NHK, who spoke about the image of both U.S. and Japan in Europe.

Anti-Global warming technologies are today's essential subject. In August Mr. Harufumi Mochizuki, Vice-Minister of METI and in November Mr. Hiroshi Fujiwara, President of Internet Research Institute, Inc were our luncheon speakers who talked about Japan's enthusiastic and innovative strategy together with business potentials for the environmental energy saving technology.

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of Japan-U.S. Security Treaty in February 2010, AJS started a series of lectures on this topic. In February AJS invited Mr. Shigeru Ishiba, Member, House of Representative and former Minister of Defense who talked about the importance of this treaty. In April Professor Paul F. McCarthy of Surugadai University talked about difficulties when he translated Shiba Ryotaro's "Sakanoue-no-kumo" into English.

2) Special Luncheon and Dinner Program

As a part of lecture series to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, AJS invited in December Dr. John Hamre, President & CEO of CSIS(Center for Strategic and International Studies)who spoke about the importance of Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the difficulty in understanding Prime Minister Hatoyama's thinking and behavior on the Futenma issue. In March, AJS asked Mr. Ukeru Magosaki, former Professor of the National Defense Academy and advisor to the Hatoyama Cabinet to analyze the Okinawa issues which were discussed in different angles from Mr. Ishiba's. These three speakers, Dr. Hamre, Mr. Ishiba and Mr. Magosaki were received well as timely.

3) AJS Forum & U.S-Japan Youth Forum

In November, AJS held two forums. On Monday 16th, AJS welcomed Dr. George Packard who talked about his newly published book titled "Edwin O. Reischauer and the American Discovery of Japan". This book is a biography of Ambassador Reischauer as well as a view of the Showa era of Japanese history.

On Friday Nov.27th and Saturday Nov. 28th, AJS held "the 5th U.S.-Japan Youth Forum" jointly held with JASC Japan and Fulbright Japan. This year's theme was "Youth Challenge to Social Innovation" with the subtitle of "The Dynamics of Leadership in the Changing Society"

The Forum was carried out totally by the students. Moderator and 6 panelists were all students and young social entrepreneurs, two each from U.S. and Japan and one each from U.K and Korea. Enthusiasm for Social Innovation by young people made the forum quite interesting and informative. The Forum was honored by the guest participation of Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado again this year on Friday.

4) After 6:00 Club

The Club was held twice during fiscal 2009. In June Professor Marsha Krakower of the University of Sacred Heart talked about how English language was changed by recent IT technology. In November, AJS invited Professor Jun Iio of the Seisaku Kenkyu Daigakuin Daigaku who discussed the agenda of the new DPJ Government.

5) Social and Cross Cultural Program

AJS New Years Party was held on Tuesday January 12th at the American Ambassador's residence same as before. 278 members and guests participated with the presence of Mrs. Roos and DCM Mr. Zumwalt. Unfortunately Ambassador Roos could not join due to urgent diplomatic meeting held in Hawaii. The Embassy kindly invited "Woodwind Quintet" band from Camp Zama which performed the National anthems and back ground music for us.

Special outing program to visit the U.S. Naval Base in Yokosuka was held on Wednesday, April 14th. The tour was conducted aboard The U.S. nuclear powered Carrier "George Washington" and included a visit to Mikasa Memorial Park next to the base. About 40 members and guests participated.

Commemorating the 150 Year Anniversary of Yokohama Port Opening, 25 members and guests visited Hotel New Grand and enjoyed a special lunch. Room 315 was the historical room of the hotel where General Douglas MacArthur stayed and used for his first office in 1945. The Bar "Sea Dragon" was another famous place which Yujiro Ishihara(actor) and Jiro Osaragi(novelist) loved.

An American five-men voice ensemble "Hudson Shad" performed at I-House on Monday May 25th. An audience of over 100 enjoyed their lovely performance from classical opera to popular songs. This program was introduced by the American Center.

On Friday April 23rd a special movie was shown at Apple Store in Ginza. The movie was directed by Mr. Toru Ichikawa titled "Sakura Sakura", the life story of Dr. Jokichi Takamine, a famous chemist, innovator and one of the founders of our society.

6) NAAJS (National Association of America-Japan Societies) Meeting

NAAJS annual meeting was held on Wednesday, November 25th at FCCJ right after AJS's Nov. Luncheon. The representatives of 10 NAAJS member societies participated.

A detailed schedule of the 7th International Symposium of the Japan-America Societies in Akita was authorized and approved by the attendants.

As mentioned above and also shown in "2009 Calendar of Events", total of 21 events were held by the Society during fiscal 2009. The program committee believes that the frequency of the program is appropriate and quite sufficient and we did our best to improve the quality of the program. With the starting of new governments both in Japan and in U.S., there are many important bilateral issues such as treaty of national security involving Okinawa. Year 2010 was the 50 years anniversary of Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the committee generated "50th Anniversary Series" which will continue on to fiscal 2010. The Committee tries to invite well-known speakers in particular fields. Dr. Hamre of CSIS was a good example. It will also continue to invite high-ranking officers and famous speakers from the American Embassy as well. During 2009 we had the embassy staff from Program Developing Office who regularly participated in our monthly meeting. The committee will continue to develop human connection network to find and invite influential American/Japanese speakers for our events. Outing programs such as the visit to U.S. military base and facilities will be continued in fiscal 2010 as they are enthusiastically welcomed by our members. The committee always welcomes members' requests and ideas of the events for further improvement.

EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

Co-chairpersons: David H. Satterwhite, Shigeru Tabe

Committee Members: Eiko Suzuki, Chitoo Bunno, Emiko Magoshi, Koji Ozawa, Eiko Furuta(as of November, 2009)

Young Americans and young Japanese are big assets to the Society so as to promote better mutual understanding and cooperate with each other. The Committee, which considers it to be remarkably important to provide them with as many opportunities as possible to have much contact with different cultures, believes that they will be encouraged to pay respect to our two nations, which is bound to keep themselves in a special friendly relationship between them. The Committee, based on these viewpoints, planned and finished the following Educational and Exchange programs in the 2009 fiscal year.

1) U.S. Study Small Grants Program

"The 3rd U.S. Study Small Grants Program" was carried out by being financially supported by the American Embassy in Tokyo. This program is intended to encourage and help Japanese graduate students, who major in American history, culture, politics, literature, religion, ethnology, etc., respectively, to write either their master's theses or dissertations.

The Society received twenty-seven application forms. By process of the special selection committee's evaluating the applicants' papers as well as phone interviewing each candidate, twenty grantees were selected who will be able to afford a certain period of time away to visit the U.S. within the space of the 2009 fiscal year to do research for their specifically chosen themes. Note that the special selection committee consisted of both the Committee members and the officials from the Embassy.

The Committee and the Embassy held "American Studies Conference 2009," as the first trial, at the I-House with a total of over 100 participants on September 9th. During the conference, the Society invited Mr. Tadashi Yamamoto, President of Japan Center for International Exchange as the key note speaker, who talked about the subject entitled "The

Changing Dynamics of the U.S.-Japan Exchanges - Imagination and Energy of Youth.” And, additionally, twelve graduate students gave presentations in English during two concurrent sessions moderated by Associate Professor Yujin Yaguchi of the University of Tokyo and Dr. Nahum Chandler of Tama University.

2) 2009 AJS Scholarship for IUC

(IUC: Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies)

Every year AJS has provided scholarship for some studious IUC students through our educational fund. Following the previous years, AJS sponsored Mr. George Stey, a student of Ohio State University, who had been studying advanced Japanese in the Center. The selection is carefully made by the Educational Exchange Committee members for the students recommended by IUC.

3) 2009 Japan-America Student Conference(JASC)

In accordance with the request of JASC, AJS supports the conference which will be held in Japan and in the U.S., reciprocally, every year. The support will be managed by AJS Educational fund.

4) Japan Bowl 2009

Japan Bowl has been organized by Japan-America Society of Washington, D.C. for seventeen consecutive years. This program is designed to encourage American high-school students to widen and deepen the scope of their knowledge about Japan by a kind of quiz competition. The event is held in Washington, D.C. during the cherry blossom festival in April.

The winning team will be invited to visit Japan and stay for two weeks during their summer vacation and AJS supports their schedule in Tokyo. The program has been kindly supported by Toshiba International Foundation for these years.

5) U.S.-Japan Youth Forum

As mentioned in (3) of the Program Committee report, the Youth Forum contributes a lot to college students, who are expected to be able to recognize each other and think deeply of current hot issues to discuss. The members of the Educational Exchange Committee also join the forum, which is supported by several corporate donations.

The Committee members would like to ask you to understand and support our educational activities. In addition, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your generous donation throughout the year 2009, especially at the New Year’s reception, which is supposed to be applied to the AJS Educational Fund.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Co-chairpersons: Thomas Jordan, Mie Teno

Committee Members: Yoshitami Arai, Richard Cropp, Shojiro Makino(passed away in September), Kazuo Ninomiya, Shizuko Tani, Toshiaki Taguchi, Ken Taki

Since an increase in membership is essential for re-vitalizing the Society and membership dues are the most important revenue source for the Society. The Membership Committee would like to encourage all of the current members to persuade new potential members to

join.

Although the AJS welcomed three(3) new corporate members during fiscal year 2009, we lost five(5) corporations which make it a total of 94 companies at the end of fiscal year, reduced by 5 corporate members representing 8 units from last year. Decreasing corporate memberships are the reflections of the current world wide economic crisis which started in 2008.

Contrary of corporate memberships, Individual memberships were up by eight(8) which is the first time during recent 10 years. While 25 individuals resigned, we gained 33 new members, for a net increase of 8.

The Membership Committee made all possible efforts to maintain the current memberships and to obtain new members. However the Committee is still facing difficulty in meeting our budget. For the year 2010, the budget is made something feasible and we have to at least keep this number to achieve the income target.

To invite young individual members, the committee made the following internal rule change since last year that works well. The Executive Director of the Society together with at least one member of the Committee will interview applicants who do not have the necessary recommendations from current AJS members.

For 2010, the committee will invite ex-members of the National Associations of the Japan-America Societies(NAJAS) in the U. S. who returned to Tokyo. The committee also invites young students who were the recipients and participants of "U.S Study Small Grant Program 2009".

Finally the committee once again asks AJS members to encourage all of the current members to persuade new potential members to join us.

For this purpose, the benefits of being a AJS member is again shown as follows;

- 1) You can join the various programs that meet your interest such as lectures, social gatherings, debates, concerts, outing programs, golf tournaments and more all throughout the year.
- 2) You may create personal relations with the American and Japanese members who are experts in the various fields including Business, the American Embassy, ACCJ, Universities, MOFA and Inter-University Center which may reinforce your American connection.
- 3) The America-Japan Society, Inc. has over 90 years of history and is well known in public because of fine reputation. Being the member of AJS will be very prestigious.
- 4) You may obtain up-to-date knowledge about Japan-America relations through our lecture programs.
- 5) Your annual membership fee goes to AJS education and scholarship programs and you may contribute to the young American education program who will be the bridge between Japan and U.S. in the future.
- 6) You may use and contact to 36 Japanese Societies in U.S. and 32 America-Japan Societies in Japan.
- 7) The corporate member can register up to five individuals in each company who will make their own connection and gain American business experience for your company that may be a big asset to your company's business.

The membership application form is now available on AJS website at:
<http://www.ajstokyo.org>

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Sakuko Utada
(AJS office) Takashi Watanabe, Yuka Mabuni

This committee has suspended its activities since last year, due to cost saving for the publication of the AJS Bulletin. However for the convenience of the members who can not attend the events, AJS provides the information and the records of the events with photographs on our website.

Please access to our website and see our programs and activities at:

<http://www.ajstokyo.org>

We are looking forward to welcoming volunteers who are asked to prepare the summary of luncheon, forum and other lecture event which will be put on our website. Each lecture is recorded on to tape which can be used for this purpose.

SPORTS COMMITTEE

Co-chairpersons: Robert E. Melson, Shigeyuki Kobayashi

Committee Members: G. R. Baker (Advisor), Satoshi Kubo, Mihoko M. Malian,
Masayoshi Miyamoto, Masayoshi Yamano

The records of 2009 AJS Golfing

President Eisenhower Cup	May 21 at Sakuragaoka CC Number of participants: 15 Winner: Mr. Robert E. Melson
President Kishi Cup	October 22 at Fuji CC Number of participants: 9 Winner: Mr. Takashi Watanabe
Ambassador Grew Cup	December 8 at Hodogaya CC Number of participants: 9 Winner: Mr. Akira Nagata

2010 AJS Golf Schedule

President Eisenhower Cup:	Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at Sakuragaoka CC
President Kishi Cup:	Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at Fuji CC
Ambassador Grew Cup:	Thursday, December 9, 2010 at Hodogaya CC

Special Publication Project Committee

Chairperson: Akiko Kuno,
Committee Member: Takashi Watanabe

Since its establishment in 1917, the Society has played a unique and significant role in enhancing mutual understanding and meaningful communication between the peoples of

Japan and the U.S. through cultural and educational exchange activities. Reflecting its historical background, the Society has become the main stage for outstanding speakers from both countries who made timely presentations on such issues as diplomacy, politics, economics, culture and education. Some of their speeches were so influential that they gave important impact on the actual Japan-U.S. relationship.

The Society has kept not only all manuscripts of these speeches in English, but also albums of rare photos, private letters and recorded tapes in its special archives for more than 90 years. It is quite meaningful to evaluate the contents of these speeches by academia specializing in the Japan-U.S. relations and to publish these A class documents to the public when the Japan-U.S. relationship is very essential to maintain the peace and stability of the global community.

The project team was formed in February, 2009 as follow:

Makoto Iokibe	President, National Defense Academy
Fumiaki Kubo	Professor, the University of Tokyo
Takuya Sasaki	Professor, Rikkyo University
Toshihiro Minohara	Professor, Kobe University
Susumu Sato	Professor, Nishougakusha University
Akiko Iimori	Lecturer, Tokiwa University
Masaya Inoue	Associate Professor, Kagawa University
Amiko Nobori	Research Associate, National Graduate Institute for Policy Study
Ayako Kusunoki	Research Fellow, Kansai-Gakuin University
Nobuhiko Tamaki	Boston University in U.S.A.
Yasuaki Chijiwa	Research Fellow, Institute of National Defense
Junichiro Shiratori	Fellow, Keio University
Akiko Kuno	Chairperson, AJS Special Publication Project Committee
Takashi Watanabe	AJS Executive Director (Project secretariat)

From April 2009, research and evaluation meetings on the documents reserved in the Society's archives were conducted by the project team members ten times in the AJS office and completed in May, 2010. In March, 2010, Chuo Koron Shinsha, one of the leading publishers in Japan agreed to publish the book at the end of 2011.

It is worthy to mention that the Society has received financial supports from various foundations which evaluated this project highly otherwise realization of the project would not have been possible under the present difficult financial situation of the Society.