



Think Tank and University Networks Task Force Report

Task Force Mission

- Strengthen networks between US and Japanese institutions
- Monitor progress of ongoing intellectual exchange programs (e.g. CGP/JF Programs, US-Japan Research Institute)

Task Force Members

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Activities Since CULCON XXIII

1. Think Tank and University Networks Task Force Meeting, June, 2009

A record of the meeting is attached.

2. Launch of the US-Japan Research Institute

The five-university consortium (Todai, Kyodai, Keio, Waseda and Ritsumeikan) in Washington, DC made a successful launch with its first research project late in 2009, on the state of the Japanese economy in the economic crisis and a second project in February 2010 entitled, "How will key policies of the Hatoyama Administration Impact U.S.-Japan relations."

3. Meeting of Japan Center Directors

The December 2009 meeting at Berkeley of Japan Center directors at US and Canadian universities funded by the Japan Foundation provided an excellent snapshot of the state of Japanese studies in North America. There is strong networking and information sharing well established among them. Strong ties between public and academic intellectuals in Japan and the United States such as these Center directors represent have been absolute bedrock for maintaining stability and balance in the Japan-US relationship.

The era of special pleading for Japanese studies at North American universities has ended. Center directors were confident that they could compete effectively inside their own institutions for available resources. There was concern expressed, however, about the plentiful availability of funding from Chinese sources for Chinese studies. These funds could convince high-level administrators to convert vacant position formerly dedicated to Japan slots to Chinese ones. They also mean that funding for research on Chinese concerns makes such research more plentiful, effectively dampening the voice of interest in Japan.

4. Launch of the US-Japan Network for the Future by the Mansfield Center.

5. Other Activities

A. Sasakawa Peace Foundation, US-Japan Exchange Program

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation started in 2008 an exchange program between Japan and the United States, which includes an Opinion Leaders' Dialogue, an exchange with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and Nurturing the Future Leaders Program.

B. Keidanren, Keizai Kouhou Center, Exchange Program to invite US opinion leaders, to invite researchers at US think tanks

C. Keizai Koho Center (Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs)

In its series of dialogue programs, Keizai Koho Center actively invites scholars, journalists, specialists and future leaders in US think tanks to Japan.

D. Nanzan University, Nagoya American Studies Summer Seminar

Nanzan University, in its five-year project started in 2007, has hosted the Nagoya American Studies Summer Seminars, in which not only American professors but also graduate students are invited to talk with Japanese counterparts.

6. Planning for Roundtable at CULCON XXIV

In conjunction with the plenary session in June 2010 in Washington, DC, CULCON is organizing an in-house Roundtable discussion as a preview of a possible major symposium

to be organized in Washington in 2011 on the theme “Bringing Japan-US Relations Back into the Public Arena: the Roles of Public Diplomacy and the Private Sphere.”

The Roundtable will feature four presenters – two Japanese and two Americans – and a moderator. The goal of the presenters will be to inspect the origins of CULCON 50 years ago and to see how its mission and purposes in promoting cultural and educational relations between Japan and the United States were formed and influenced by larger dynamics then in play. The second half of the roundtable will focus on current dynamics now in play, how they differ from 50 years ago, and how this new situation will influence the future direction of CULCON. The 2011 symposium, if agreed upon, would celebrate the 50th anniversary of CULCON.

Recommendations

1. Activities that would improve the field in general and should be acknowledged by CULCON

A. University

CULCON should encourage the ongoing efforts by many American colleges and universities, and by organizations such as the Bridging Project Clearinghouse and the US-Japan Bridging Foundation to increase the number of American undergraduates studying in Japan.

CULCON should encourage the continued collaboration among Japanese universities with the US counterparts through projects such as the US-Japan Research Institute.

CULCON should also encourage more Japanese undergraduates to study in the United States.

B. Funding

CULCON should encourage Japanese funding sources to continue to provide adequate funding to maintain resources already in place in Japanese studies in North America, and promote important researches.

C. Public Policy Intellectuals

CULCON should encourage initiatives to nurture a new generation of public policy intellectuals in the US interested in Japan, such as the program CGP supports at CSIS, or the US-Japan Network for the Future at the Mansfield Center.

CULCON should also encourage schools of public policy at the major universities of Japan to strengthen the programs to invite policy experts from abroad, especially from the US, so that there would be deeper intellectual exchanges and that there would be stronger networks of policy intellectuals between in and across Japan and the US.

E. Mutual Understanding

CULCON should encourage initiatives for politicians, high-ranking officials, journalist, and policy intellectuals in both countries to understand the other side with much more depth and sophistication.

2. Concrete projects for CULCON to undertake

- A. CULCON should help organize a project to recruit more Japanese undergraduates to study in the United States.
 - B. CULCON should organize a high-visibility Symposium in Washington, DC in 2011, commemorating the 50th anniversary of CULCON, on the theme (tentative) “Bringing Japan-US Relations Back into the Public Arena: the Roles of Public Diplomacy and the Private Sphere.”
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Attachments

- 1. Think Tank and University Networks Task Force Meeting (June, 2009)
- 2. Priority Themes and Recommendations