

What Government Leaders Say About the JASC...

The Japan-America Student Conference provides young people of both nations with opportunities to heighten their awareness as global citizens. Their enthusiasm toward dealing with the difficult issues of the 21st century gives us hope that we will be able to make the world a better place.

The Honorable Howard Baker
U.S. Ambassador to Japan

In this time of global challenges, the Japan-America Student Conference stands out as a shining example of how close interaction between youths of different cultures can build a solid foundation for future friendship and cooperation.

His Excellency Ryozo Kato
Ambassador of Japan to the U.S.

...I had had little opportunity, in this post-war period, to meet and exchange views informally with Japanese people. The JASC provided that opportunity, and from it came many valuable new perspectives on Japanese culture and society. It was also at that time that my interest was awakened in Japanese artistic and aesthetic traditions, an appreciation which remains with me to this day.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (JASC 1951)
to the 50th (1998) Japan-America Student Conference

As one whose own first involvement in Japan-U.S. relations was under the auspices of the Japan-America Student Conference in 1939, I can tell you honestly that it was one of the formative events of my lifetime. Having stood in your shoes more than fifty years ago, I sincerely hope that you will take full advantage of your participation in the JASC.

Former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa (JASC 1939 & 1940)
to the 44th (1992) and 45th (1993) Japan-America Student Conferences

I became a different person from my experiences at the Japan-America Student Conference, more interested in public and national and international affairs and in grasping every chance to participate in new and challenging activities.

Ms. Betty Vitousek
First Circuit Judge, State of Hawaii Judiciary
Delegate to the 6th & 7th (1939 & 1940) Japan-America Student Conferences

Thirty intense days of travel and dialogue with each other foster better understanding and trust between the cultures, and, more importantly, friendship that endure for decades.

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
United States Senator from Hawaii

I would like to congratulate the Japan-America Student Conference, which for over sixty years has allowed young Japanese and Americans to meet, share ideas, exchange opinions, and learn more about one another's cultures on a personal level.

His Imperial Highness Prince Takamado (deceased)
to the 47th (1995) Japan-America Student Conference

The Japan-America Student Conference is a salient example of what I have often repeated: that if economics and trade are the sinews of the U.S.-Japan relationship, cultural exchange is its heart.

The Honorable Mike Mansfield (deceased)
Former U.S. Ambassador to Japan

The annual Japan-America Student Conference is one of the most meaningful and worthwhile programs of intellectual and cultural contact between Japan and the United States.

The Honorable Edwin Reischauer (deceased)
Former U.S. Ambassador to Japan

What Business Leaders Say About the JASC...

JASC is a very special communication and education channel between future leaders in Japan and the United States. Given the importance of the relationship between these two countries, the role of JASC is indeed vital in helping to ensure that we continue to engage each other from positions of understanding and tolerance--not an easy thing given the fast pace of change.

Mr. Thomas Bodley
Vice President, American Express International
Delegate to the 29th, 30th & 31st (1977, 1978 & 1979) Japan-America Student Conferences

The JASC is a richly rewarding experience on several levels – promoting friendship between American and Japanese students, enhancing understanding of each other's country, and nurturing curiosity that may lead to careers in international affairs.

Mr. Glen Fukushima
Chairman, Cadence Design Systems, Japan
Delegate to the 22nd & 23rd (1970 & 1971) Japan-America Student Conferences

Student exchanges ought to be mandatory for every citizen of the world. They bring maturity and perspective that are critical to the health of all society. The JASC is one of the very best exchanges, bridging two very rich, different cultures.

Ms. Kristy Holch
President, InfoTrends Research Group, Inc.
Delegate to the 38th (1986) Japan-America Student Conference

Mutual understanding is not necessarily praising the other's country. It's recognizing the differences, respecting them, and finding a way to deal with them.

Mr. Namiji Itabashi (deceased)
Founder & Former Chairman, International Education Center, Tokyo
Founder, Japan-America Student Conference
Delegate to the 1st (1934) Japan-America Student Conference

The two precious summers I spent in JASC formed lifetime experience, memories, and most importantly, friendships that have greatly influenced the way I think. In fact, the JASC experience is a big asset as I lead a business career in global business management.

Mr. Samuel Kim
Vice President & General Manager, Procter & Gamble Korea
Delegate to the 35th & 36th (1983 & 1984) Japan-America Student Conferences

Many people crossing over the bridge of JASC have found out the way of communications and experienced that they can do something if they feel it possible in the future. I like the philosophy of JASC that seeing is believing, doing is bringing in something new.

Mr. Yosuke Kobayashi
President, Pioneer Entertainment (USA) LP
Delegate to the 20th & 21st (1968 & 1969) Japan-America Student Conferences

The JASC is a vital link in the Japan-U.S. relationship, and a rich pool of future leaders for our countries and for the world.

Mr. Yotaro Kobayashi
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd., Japan

The most important bilateral relationship between Japan and the U.S. must be based on a meeting of minds. Such an effort should start when people are young, and the JASC has proved to be a most effective vehicle to this end.

Mr. Minoru Makihara
Chairman, Mitsubishi Corporation
Delegate to the 8th & 9th (1947 & 1948) Japan-America Student Conferences

I can think of no better way to build a true appreciation for the Japanese people and culture than through the Japan-America Student Conference. I have many good friendships and business relationships as a result of the Conference. There is no question that the Conference has strengthened the bonds between the U.S. and Japan.

Mr. John Rogers
President & Chief Executive Officer, INVESCO Inc.
Delegate to the 35th (1983) Japan-America Student Conference

The Japan-America Student Conference has long made a valuable contribution to improving mutual understanding between our two countries. With American business in Japan burgeoning in response to the opening of the market – especially to foreign direct investment – the Conference has taken on even more value-added in preparing young people for careers in trans-Pacific business.

Mr. Donald Westmore
Executive Director, American Chamber of Commerce in Japan
JASC National Advisory Committee



What Academic Leaders Say About the JASC...

JASC contributes both to enduring friendships and to deep understanding of the other country. Princeton students have benefited enormously from the program over the years. At a time when Japan's presence seems to be fading on the American mental horizon, the transpacific activities of JASC are particularly important.

Dr. Martin Collcutt
Chair, East Asian Studies Department, Princeton University
JASC National Advisory Committee

JASC is one of the most effective and powerful ways for Japanese and Americans to learn about each other--and the world--in the context of intensive daily interchanges, conversations, and travels. Being a member of JASC as a student profoundly shaped my understandings of Japan and of myself as an American. I can't recommend it highly enough for students wanting a serious chance to talk with each other across and through the national-cultural differences that divide Japan and the United States.

Dr. Marilyn Ivy
Professor, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University
Delegate to the 27th (1975) Japan-America Student Conference

JASC is utterly unique in building interactions around the problems and issues of the day, so that the participants move quickly beyond making friendships of a lifetime to building lasting mutual understanding on strong academic foundations. The field trips and site visits are carefully selected to match the theme and roundtables chosen for the year, and the result is an intellectual synergy for American and Japanese participants that would be very hard to achieve in any other way.

Dr. Margaret McKean
Professor, Duke University, Department of Political Science, Asian-Pacific Studies Institute
JASC National Advisory Committee

JASC enables our future leaders on both sides of the Pacific to learn about each other, and thereby promotes mutual understanding, provides a more informed basis for interaction, and changes the world for the better one person at a time.

Dr. Peter Nosco
Professor, Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia
Delegate to the 23rd & 24th (1971 & 1972) Japan-America Student Conferences & JASC National Advisory Committee

Over the years many of my students have participated in JASC and found it a valuable experience for the challenges and opportunities it offers. They have always been enthusiastic about the quality of the programs and the participants. I recommend JASC to my most promising students.

Dr. Kenneth Pyle
Professor, Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington
JASC National Advisory Committee

JASC provides students with a great chance to learn by doing, teaching, exploring, and developing a personal commitment to the subjects they study. The discussion tables are a model of collaborative learning. It's a wonderful opportunity for students--only later do they realize how powerful its impact has been!

Dr. Miryam Sas
Professor, Comparative Literature & Japanese, University of California, Berkeley
Delegate to the 39th & 40th (1987 & 1988) Japan-America Student Conferences

I regard the activities of the Conference as of major importance, since U.S.-Japan relations need to acquire a greater in-depth understanding and the type of intimacy that contacts between our younger generations can provide.

Dr. Robert Scalapino
Robson Research Professor of Government Emeritus, University of California, Berkeley
JASC National Advisory Committee

JASC provides an excellent opportunity for Americans and Japanese to share ideas and opinions and to get to know each other on a deep and personal level. "Mutual understanding" may not solve all of our conflicts and disagreements, but it is better than relying on mutual preconceived images.

Dr. Robert Uriu
Professor, Department of Political Science, University of California, Irvine
Delegate to the 34th (1982) Japan-America Student Conference

Japan and the United States are likely to go through some serious ups and downs in the early part of this century as China rises and the Japanese and American economies go through some bumps. We need all the glue we can to keep the countries working together, and one of the best kinds of glue is that which results from close relations of young people on both sides of the Pacific, as in the JASC.

Dr. Ezra Vogel
Professor, East Asian Studies, Harvard University
JASC National Advisory Committee
