Greetings from American Executive Committee Chair Danny Jeon

As I reflect upon the 67th JASC, I realized how valuable my experiences were. If it were not for JASC, I would not have had the chance to fully understand the dynamics and importance of US-Japan alliance, or an opportunity to foster invaluable and everlasting friendships across the Pacific. As both Prime Minister Abe and President Obama have referred JASC as an “indispensable” bilateral exchange program, it is such an honor to serve as the AEC Chair for the 68th JASC to advance the spirit and legacy that has continued since 1954.

The year 2015 was a year of reflecting past; it marked the 70th Anniversary of the dropping of atomic bombs at Hiroshima, as well as the end of World War II in the Pacific. With the theme, “Coming Together to Confront Past, Present, and Future,” 67th JASC led the delegates to reflect upon the past to embrace the present and future that Japan and US faces. With the 2015 coming to an end, the members of Executive Committee and I wanted to shift the attention to discussing and shaping the rapidly changing future, a future that both US and Japan must cooperatively envision. With this in mind, we are proud to present the theme of 68th JASC, “Addressing Our Changing Future from Self and Community to the World.”

We hope that with this theme, the delegates of 68th JASC will have the chance to discover, develop, and share their or her outlooks on the future in the context of US-Japan relations. Through this interaction, we aim to create 68th JASC as an effective forum to not only as an opportunity to learn but also as a means to formulate the concept of “self and community” that can imagine and envision a better future for our world. The official 68th JASC program will run from August 3rd to August 24th. The sites for this year include Boston, Washington DC, Montana, and San Francisco. We have selected these four sites to effectively convey the holistic experience of what America is to both Japanese and American delegates. At these unique sites, the 68th Roundtable Discussion, which is a crucial academic and learning component of JASC, will be covering the following topics: The Future of Education and Cybersecurity, Usages, Democracy and Ideal Governance, Globalization and Economic Development, Science and the Future, Identity, Nation, and Self, Cultural Shifts in the Modernizing World, and Law, Society, and Our Changing Future. We believe that all of these topics are integral to not only US-Japan relations, but for the world that is experiencing mind-shaking changes. The delegates will have this opportunity to engage enriching academic discussions through intense roundtable discussions led by each American and Japanese coordinator.

With the 68th JASC, I strongly encourage all of you to apply for the 2018 JASC. We are confident that by participating in JASC, you will carry on the legacy and spirit of JASC to acquire enriching experiences, obtain unforgettable memories, and create valuable friendships that span across the Pacific.

The American Executive Committee

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Applications and Further Details

Application Deadline:
March 1st, 2016

For the application form and more details and information, visit us at
http://scdc.org/jasc/2016/

The 68th Japan-America Student Conference

Addressing our Changing Future:
From Self and Community to the World

2016 Pamphlet
August 1-24, 2016
What is JASC?

The Japan-America Student Conference (JASC) is a student-led exchange program, initiated in 1934 by university students concerned by the breakdown of bilateral relations prior to the Second World War. Today, an equal number of students from the U.S. and Japan are competitively selected each year to spend one summer month together, studying and analyzing Japan-U.S. relations, while visiting four diverse regions in the host country. JASC alternates its host country each year, emphasizing the personal connections between the two distinct cultures, gathered together in one place. The 68th conference will take place in the United States, visiting Washington D.C., Boston, Missoula, and San Francisco. Participants will separate into Roundtable discussion groups in which they will exchange thoughts and perspectives on the respective topics. Alongside an intensively packed program, participants will make friends, connections, and memories that may very well last a lifetime.

68th JASC Sites

Boston, Massachusetts
Theme: Educational institution; Founding of the United States; Urban Development in the Past, Present, and Future.

Washington D.C.
Theme: U.S.-Japan Security Alliance; Official U.S.-Japan Relations; Workings of American Politics

Missoula, Montana
Theme: Nature and Sustainability; Rural America; Manifest Destiny; Native American Heritage

San Francisco, California
Theme: Technological Innovations and Start-Up Culture; Racial Diversity; Minority Rights

Cultural Shifts in the Modernizing World

Our culture is witnessing rapid changes due to trends in globalization that encompass both technological and social transformations. While these developments have made our lives more efficient and convenient, there are some consequences that we cannot take lightly. For example, innovations such as the Internet have subtly zone out our outdoor play cultures and fuel cultural stereotypes. Is modernization actually positive for us? How should we react to a rapidly changing culture? Should such developments be moderated to preserve some of the traditional aspects of culture? This roundtable engages with these issues of identity in the setting of our interconnecting world.

Globalization and Economic Development

With our globalizing world, our economies have become more interdependent and intrinsically linked. Macro-developments, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, provide us with new ways to reconsider this. While these developments are designed to promote economic activities, not all of these designs achieve the positive effects. Instead, some are hurting the growth of poorer nations and causing serious socioeconomic inequality. How do we move forward in such an intricately connected world economy? This roundtable addresses the possibilities of the United States and Japan as economic powershouses in responding to the age of interdependence.

Future of Education and Cyberspace Usage

As technological progress changes our education, the potential for new educational approaches is expanding. With new tools like online course and mobile applications, education without cyberspace is becoming unimaginable. Despite these factors, education in cyberspace faces challenges. Easier access to overwhelming amount of information may widen the scope of our knowledge, but it also complicates the risk of reducing the depth. The advancement of technology may also threaten some of the fundamental values that only a face-to-face interaction conveys. With these points in mind, this roundtable aims to discuss some of the challenges modern day education with an emphasis on technology usage.

Developing the Future through Science

Since the beginning of the human civilization, scientific discoveries have advanced our society in a positive way, such as discovering cures for diseases. However, these scientific and technological discoveries also pose serious negative impacts. For instance, nuclear power has become an efficient source of electricity, but it also has resulted in nuclear weapons. Moreover, recent scientific discoveries are now facing some of ethical issues, from genome modification to artificial intelligence. Facing both the positive and negative impacts of scientific advancements, this roundtable aims to assess the value and the role of science.

Roundtables

Democracy and Ideal Governance

From philosophers to scholars, humans’ attempt to answer the question of ideal governance has not yet been successful. Although liberal democracy is the most preferred form of government, many are critical of its flaws. As liberal democracies, United States and Japan are facing similar flaws, such as political dominance by the wealthy and decreasing political participation. How can we improve the current liberal democratic system along with the quest for ideal governance? Or is there a better alternative? With these insights in mind, this roundtable aims to examine the current liberal democracy, and seek other ways to progress towards the ideal governace.

Identity: Self and Nation

Globalization and immigration have made constructing an identity, the conception of one’s own individuality, challenging in the 21st century. Consequently, identity has emerged as a key concept to define self and nation. For example, the United States has its demographic foundations formed by immigrants. Contrarily, Japan harbors a racial homogeneity, but it must confront a new generation of immigrants and “returnees.” How has the history of each nation shaped its citizens’ characters? What instances of societal discrimination occur in both countries? In this roundtable, we will not only discuss racial identity, but also other aspects that forms one’s self and national identity.

Law, Society, and our Changing Future

Since its creation, law has raised important issues on justice, societal order, and equality. In our current legal system, some aspects of law have posed a level of restriction toward some groups. By raising LBTGQIA+ communities and socio-economically disadvantaged groups continue their fight for legal rights and proper enforcement of their existing rights. Moreover, the gap between law’s intent and its enforcement is another problem, which is apparent through police brutality and political lobbying. Can law and its enforcement system be improved to create a better law-based society? This roundtable aims to discuss the role and influence of law to explore possible solutions for a better law-based society.

Friends, Networks, and an 80-year N-carnation

Through JASC, delegates will not only make lasting friendships, but also gain access to our extensive and successful alumni community that expands globally. With over 82 years of history, the JASC experience and narrative goes beyond the actual conference. Many JASC participants find themselves carrying the lessons and the experiences obtained from JASC into their future endeavors.