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Japan Study Tour & Japan Lesson Plans:
<http://en.kkc.or.jp/programs/stj/>
Contact us at: fellowship@kkc.or.jp

Online Application for the 2019 Japan Study Tour is now Open!

We are happy to announce that KKC is offering the fellowship program again in the summer of 2019.

All the details about the fellowship and the online application form are available at:

<http://www.us-japan.org/programs/kkc/k2019/index.html>

Please read it carefully and follow the instructions to apply online **by February 1st, 2019!**

Link to the application form :

<https://najas.wufoo.com/forms/g1e7cnbx1yctvs3/>

Please note that we accept online applications only.

Please note that:

- Recommendation letters and employment verification letters must be on the organization's letter head.
- All letters should be signed physically.
- Scan all the letters separately in PDF to upload onto the form.

Please feel free to share this information to your fellow teachers or anyone who is interested in the fellowship.

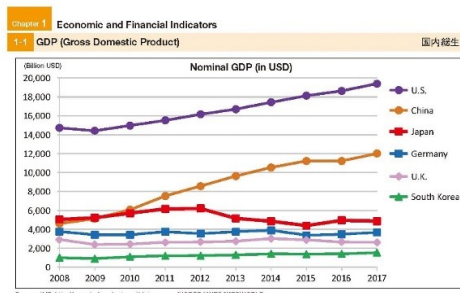
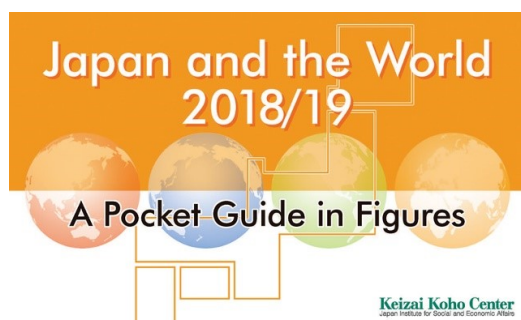
If you have any problem or questions, please contact us!

We look forward to seeing ten new Fellows this summer!



Japan and the World 2018/19 A Pocket Guide in Figures

- The Keizai Koho Center (KKC) has published a pocket-sized, English-language statistical booklet filled with the latest international data which will guide you to understand the global business environment.
- This issue consists of **69 items in five chapters**, including economic growth rates, trade balances, exchange rates, foreign direct investments and their destinations and number of foreign tourists of major countries such as Japan, U.S., China, U.K., Germany and South Korea.
The data are shown with colorful graphs and tables indicate numerical values, making it useful for various business and research purposes.
- **Get it at the Official Gazette Co-operation of Japan!** The data of the previous edition (2017/18) is also downloadable for free at <http://en.kkc.or.jp/uploads/research/jw/Japan201718.pdf>



DOWNLOAD PREVIOUS
DATA FOR FREE

New Encounters and Reunions at NCSS Chicago

KKC attended the 98th National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference held in Chicago on November 30-December 1, 2018. It was our great pleasure to see more than 200 social studies teachers, including nostalgic reunions with our alumni.

At our exhibition booth in the conference hall, we first meet teachers that are interested in participating in the KKC Japan Fellowship. Interested teachers can ask questions about the trip and sign up to be notified of the application. If you missed us this year, please stop by next time; we are usually in International Alley. This year we asked four alumni who took part in our recent programs to present their experience to the audience at an information session. **Mr. Andrew Hartman from Middleton High School, Wisconsin**, presented that after returning from Japan in 2017, he organized a tour back to Japan in the summer of 2018, taking more than 20 students from his class to reproduce his extraordinary experience.



Special Thanks to Andrew (2017 Fellow), Alyssa (2018), Lynda (2010), Derek (2015)

Mr. Derek Frieling, a 2015 Fellow and always a great KKC supporter, mentioned that his favorite part of the program was the homestay with his Japanese host family. He still keeps in touch with them and expressed that meeting people face to face is always the best way to understand foreign people and their culture.

KKC also held its annual reception in the evening of November 30th. This year, representatives from the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Japan Chamber of Commerce Chicago, Japan America Society of Chicago, The Japan Foundation New York and the German Goethe Institute attended as a guests with alumni and prospective applicants.

What Built Edo: Coercion, Classes, Commercialism and Conservation Lesson Plan by Victoria Deniston Reed, 2018 Fellow



The lesson plan started with students reading college textbooks about the consolidation of state authority culminating in the Tokugawa Shogunate. Given the chronological parameters of AP World History, it was logical for students to begin this activity at approximately the midpoint of the academic year. By that time, the students were somewhat relieved to learn that the homework involved watching two short videos. On the second day, students used their knowledge and supplemental texts in the classroom to create a brochure describing the Alternate Residence System for the daimyo, class structures, commercial endeavors, and conservation practices in seventeenth century Japan. By the third day, after supplementing their information with independent research, students engaged in a discussion

n of the intertwined characteristics of class distinctions and economic activity in

Tokugawa Japan, particularly in Edo. They were also eager to try on the silk robe from Japan and the kimono that I brought to class. Some had enough sewing experience to be appropriately impressed by the fact that cutting the fabric for a kimono is a process designed to waste almost no material.

Frankly, the student reaction to the lesson was more enthusiastic than I had expected. They were keen to discuss Azby Brown's presentations and arguments concerning conservation activities. The discussions went well in both the small group and the full classroom settings. I was also impressed by how well they discussed economic systems and conditions under which trade can thrive. Some of the comments were quite sophisticated. The large class discussion followed a tangent I had not anticipated, which involved contributions from many students about the ways of saving and reusing resources their own grandparents and great-grandparents practiced. Most of the examples had to do with reusing fabric for quilts, rag rugs, etc., but some brought up that their grandparents would never have one-use plastic items; the elders regularly washed and reused plastic baggies and cups designed to be disposable. It was an excellent reminder for me to keep including the history of daily life in lessons. The students make immediate connections with it, and some of the materials for class can include artifacts, or at least photos of artifacts, that are fairly easy to obtain.



Visiting Mendon High School, Pittsford NY

Hiroto Arita, Senior Fellow, KKC



After visiting Tokyo, Fellows are required to give lessons in their classes based on the experiences and findings they earned from the Japan Study Tour. A member from the KKC Tokyo office visits KKC alumni every year to observe their Japan-related activities at their school. This year, I had the chance to visit Mr. John Yager, a 2018 Fellow from Mendon High School in Pittsford, New York. It was the first time in my life to visit an American high school, just like the Fellows who visited Japanese schools for the first time. Mendon High School is similar to Japanese public high schools with approximately 1,000 students. On the day of my visit, **John gave a World/AP History lesson about Japan five times, with a slideshow full of the pictures he took during the fellowship. He taught about Japanese society from its historic, cultural, and religious background,**

explaining that traditions and various new and foreign cultures coexist. I noticed various differences in the student life of American schools - the most impressive difference was that students were proactive, making the class interactive. Students asked questions or commented any time they wanted to, whereas in Japan, classes are often a one-way lecture by the teacher. Between classes, John was kind enough to introduce me to Ms. Melissa Julian, the principal of MHS, and other social studies teachers. On behalf of KKC, I would like to thank John for arranging my visit to MHS.

Fellows' lessons, activities in their communities, and articles in regional or school newspapers help to enhance US-Japan mutual understanding.



Alumni Update William Smyth, 1993 Fellow

I participated in a Keizai Koho Center trip to Japan during the summer of 1993. The experience was revolutionary. I had never been to Japan, only Europe, and I had little idea what life in Japan was like.

We started in Tokyo but quickly made our way to the south to visit Oita, Beppu, Nagasaki, and Arita. Then we traveled north to Kyoto, Osaka, and Kobe. We eventually returned to Tokyo to complete our trip. Every business, factory, school, and cultural experience was fascinating. **None of us had ever seen such interesting places or talked with such interesting people.**

Our home stays were special too. Some of us were in Osaka while some of us were in Kobe. **My host family, the Nakashimas, were so incredible that I am still communicating with them 25 years later. I visited them again in 2016 when one of my daughters and I returned to Japan for a two-week visit.**

My wife, children, and I cannot get enough of Japan. We read about it, talk about it, and are planning another return trip to re-live the places I saw in 1993. We are especially interested in Japanese schools and culture, particularly gardens and the Japanese way of life. The concept of mindfulness of others appeals to us, and we try to practice that concept every day in America. **Of the dozen or so trips I've taken to places around the world, this experience ranks as the very best. It was so well thought out, so well planned, and so beautifully executed. No detail was left to chance. Every place we visited and everything we did was chosen for a particular reason.**

Recently, I wrote a book titled *Every Student's Dream: The International School for the Arts*. It's a work of fiction based on real schools I have known throughout the world. The head of school is Dr. Kenzo Kobe-san, named for my KKC host family's father Kenzo Nakashima and my home stay's town Kobe. My students have enjoyed the book. They see themselves woven into the many stories although none of their names are specifically mentioned. I have encouraged my students to visit Japan. So far, several have gone to teach English, to introduce jazz music, or just to travel and enjoy the wonderful people.

My hope is that many other students will want to go as I teach lessons and talk about this incredible country.



40th Anniversary of the Keizai Koho Center



On November 16, 2018, KKC, Keidanren Strategic International Initiative, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a leading U.S. think-tank, held a dialogue on prevailing themes in U.S.-Japan relations, in Washington D.C. **The event included political leaders, leading scholars and business representatives from both countries and concluded with a reception to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Keizai Koho Center.**

Speakers from Japan included Yasuo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan; Hiromichi Iwasa, Chairman and CEO, Mitsui Fudosan; and Shigeru Hayakawa, Vice Chairman, Toyota Motor Corporation.



The event was livestreamed on the CSIS website and can still be viewed online at:
<https://www.csis.org/events/business-and-policy-views-changing-us-japan-relations-0>

For more information, please visit our website at: <http://en.kkc.or.jp/>

Japan Update Imperial Succession: New Emperor Takes the Throne May 1st

Hiroto Arita, Senior Fellow, KKC

The year 2019, or Heisei 31st in the Japanese calendar, will be an important year for the Japanese people. The Imperial succession and the related ceremonies will take place starting this spring.

On August 8th, 2016, the Heisei Emperor had expressed his intention to retire and abdicate his throne to his first son, Crown Prince Naruhito. The current rule of the royal family does not allow the Emperor to retire, and the era name will only change at his demise. At the age of 80, the Heisei Emperor felt it difficult to preserve his ceremonial duties and traditions and asked the Government to legislate his way to retire. Most citizens and government officials supported him, and the Abe cabinet held repeated meetings and national assembly committees to grant his request.

The Heisei Emperor will retire on April 30th. A series of coronation ceremonies for the Crown Prince will take place from May 1st to the end of October. The new Imperial era name will be announced on April 1st.

Heisei (平成) was quoted from a Chinese classical literature *Shiji*, meaning “may peace prevail in the universe”. In his birthday remarks on December 23rd, 2018, the Heisei Emperor emotionally expressed his relief that looking back at his 30 years of reign, it is coming to an end without any war in Japan, thanks to the sacrifices and tireless efforts of the generations after World War II.

The Heisei Emperor and Empress Michiko are respected by Japanese citizens. They always kept themselves close to the people by visiting as many old battlefields, bereaved families, and natural disaster-stricken areas as they could. The distance they travelled throughout their reign is 624 thousand kilometers, or 15 laps around the globe.



*Imperial Family New Year Greeting 2019
at Imperial Palace in Tokyo*