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Contact us at: fellowship@kkc.or.jp

Japan Study Tour:
<http://en.kkc.or.jp/programs/stj/>

Japan Lesson Plans can be downloaded from here:



NCSS 100th Anniversary Conference

February 5-6, 2022

Keizai Koho Center will be hosting a virtual booth at the 100th anniversary of the National Council for the Social Studies in February, 2022.

We are planning to arrange a Japan Session and details will be announced on our website and Facebook page once it is confirmed.

Please join us and learn about Japan at the NCSS 100th Anniversary Conference!

About the KKC Study Tour to Japan 2022

The details of KKC Study Tour to Japan 2022 will be announced on our website and Facebook page in late January 2022. We hope to see you soon!

KKC Online Study Tour to Japan 2021

June 15-30, 2021

The 2021 KKC Fellowship Program for North American Social Studies Teachers was held online. The online program consisted of four sessions. The first session was a meeting with Mr. Ichiro Fujisaki, former Ambassador of Japan to The United States (2008-2012), President of the America-Japan Society and President of Nakasone Peace Institute. They had an exciting discussion with the Ambassador on a wide range of issues covering trade and foreign policy, the Tokyo Olympics, Japan's response to COVID, as well as labor and employment issues.



Online Meeting with Mr. Ichiro Fujisaki, former Ambassador of Japan to The United States, President of the America-Japan Society and President of Nakasone Peace Institute.

Click the link below to read more about the KKC Online Study Tour to Japan 2021.
[**KKC Online Study Tour to Japan 2021**](#)

Comments from the Participants of the KKC Online Study Tour to Japan 2021

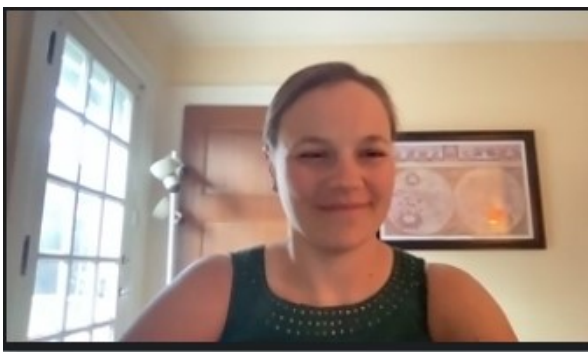


Daniel Kelly, 2021 Fellow

First, I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make a program possible for us this summer. I know that a virtual program was not the original plan but in the context of the global pandemic, it allowed us to gain insights that would not have been gained otherwise.

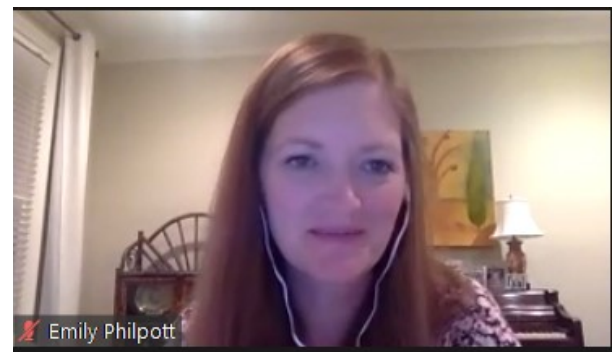
Second, the length and itinerary were very well suited to a virtual program. For me it worked well to have a session and then some time to reflect and process the learning before our next session.

Third, the quality of presenters was outstanding. It was clear that the people putting together the sessions put time and effort into securing exceptional people. One additional session that I would have enjoyed could have been a session on jobs and labor. It might have explored the concepts of the Salaryman, social welfare benefits (government's role in providing a safety net), the looming issue of the aging workforce, foreign guest workers, etc. Another topic that was discussed briefly in several different sessions was the concept of immigration and the homogeneity of the population and workforce. Another potential topic could be the urban/rural divide in Japan (socially, economically and politically).



Leslie Hosgood, 2021 Fellow

I admire the work the KKC staff put into this unique virtual program. I understand the challenges when it comes to organizing something like this. Nothing can replace the experience of being in Japanese schools, cities, and buildings, but the KKC did a great job trying to replicate some of the highlights of an in person program. I do wish there were more opportunities to connect with and collaborate with teachers of similar subject areas – that is one thing I love about in person study tours.



Emily Philpott, 2021 Fellow

Thank you for pivoting to a virtual model and working through the logistics of connected people from different time zones and at times who speak different languages. Having a translator in Zoom was extremely helpful. I also appreciated the opportunity to engage with most of the guest presenters in a Q and A time. While I missed the comradery and relationship building that comes with interacting in person, I feel like this still gave us a taste of what the fellowship experience is all about and I learned a lot of Japan in the process.

The 2021 Japanese General Election of the House of Representatives



Visit to the Diet Building in 2016

Fumio Kishida, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan from 2012 to 2017 was elected as the new leader of Japan's main ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and became Japan's 100th prime minister on October 4, 2021. On October 31, 2021 the Japanese general election of the House of Representatives was held for the first time in four years and the LDP and its coalition partner Komeito were re-elected. The LDP won 261 seats and was able to keep a majority of the 465-seats in the Lower House. In overall, the rate of female election

candidates was 17.7% (186 of the 1,051 candidates) and Japan will aim to raise the rate to 35% by 2025. The voter turnout reached 55.93%, 2.25% points higher than the previous election in 2017, although still very low.

General elections were held for the first time in Japan on July 1, 1890 (Meiji era) and this year's election was the 49th House of Representatives general election.

(by KKC Staff Rie Sakagoshi)

Dream Jobs of Japanese Children

A YouTuber is the most popular dream job for Japanese children, according to a survey conducted by *Benesse Corporation* asking elementary school children what they want to be when they grow up.

A cartoonist was chosen second, an entertainer came third and game creator was ranked fourth. A number of creative jobs were ranked in the top 10 of the list.

The survey said that the results can be attributed to the situation that children now have more opportunities to become familiar with entertainment through streaming services and social media as they spend more time at home amid Covid-19. The survey was conducted in November 2021, covering a total of 16,531 elementary school children from third-grade to six-grade and the result was announced on December 2.

SURVEY QUESTION:

What do you want to be in the future?

1. YouTuber
2. Cartoonist
3. Entertainer
4. Game Creator/Computer Programmer
5. Pastry Chef
6. Kindergarten Teacher
7. School Teacher
8. Fashion Designer
9. Doctor
10. Writer/Novelist

**Survey by Benesse Corporation*

(by KKC Staff Akemi Handa)

The Next Stage for a Maverick Baseball Player



Masafumi Akimoto, Senior Fellow, KKC

Do you know who was the first Japanese-born MLB player who had a game-winning hit?

It's Tsuyoshi SHINJO, not Ichiro SUZUKI. (They are first Japanese-born MLB position players.)

Do you know who is the first Japanese-born MLB player who appeared in the World Series?

It's Tsuyoshi SHINJO, not Hideki MATSUI. In 2004, SHINJO left MLB and joined the unpopular Japanese professional baseball team called Nippon-Ham Fighters, which just moved from Tokyo to Hokkaido. He promised to let the team become the

Champion in front of a full house of fans of the northern island and it came true in 2006 by the efforts of him, Yu DARVISH and other teammates. He retired that year and enjoyed his celebrity life in Bali, Indonesia.

But suddenly, in 2020, SHINJO declared to be a baseball player again at the age of 48. He came back to Japan and took part in a tryout. Though he didn't make it as a player, last month he became a manager of the Nippon-Ham Fighters to save the weakened team since Shohei OHTANI left.

Once he won the highest prize money on the Japanese version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" by rolling a pencil dice. His fans, including me, know he has a lot of luck. We believe he will let the team become the Champion again.

Japan Times article about SHINJO:

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/sports/2021/11/05/baseball/japanese-baseball/shinjo-to-manage/>

Nerikiri Sweets

This summer, I had the chance of making "nerikiri", a type of Japanese sweet bean cake with my daughters.

Some traditional and authentic shops in Japan offer trial lessons to make nerikiri. The shop that we went to is located just by the Kamogawa river in Kyoto and has a history of making nerikiri for 150 years. Founded in the Edo period, its traditional method of making nerikiri has been passed on for generations.

Nerikiri are beautiful and delicate Japanese confectionery that are often offered at tea ceremonies. Each are small in size and molded into colorful shapes and objects that represent the season. In our trial class, we each made a "hozuki (ground cherry)", "kikyo (bellflower)" and "kigi-no-tsuyu (hydrangea topped with morning dew)". Actually, all the ingredients such as the white bean paste and "gyuhi (sweetened rice dough)" were already prepared and we molded the ingredients into seasonal shapes that represented late



"kigi-no-tsuyu" (hydrangea topped with morning dew) served with matcha green tea"

summer, using a cloth and wooden spatula. A strainer was also useful in making the tiny hydrangea flower petals.

After our two-hour lesson, we found our sweets to be stunningly artistic and too precious to eat!

(by KKC Staff Ikuyo Watanabe)