

Stanford Japan Program at Shorenstein APARC

The Stanford Japan Program was formally established in November 2011, renewing the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center's commitment to this important field. As an integral component of the Center, SJP facilitates multidisciplinary, social science-oriented research on contemporary Japan, emphasizing both academic scholarship and policy-relevant research. The program aims to become a central platform for Stanford students and the broader community for understanding and engaging with Japan.

Research and Program Activities

Program activities include the Japan Colloquium Series, conferences to further cutting-edge research and address critical contemporary policy issues, and public seminars. The goal of Japan Program is to become an eminent platform to foster intellectual exchange among scholars, experts, top-tier professionals, politicians, and students.

Message from the Director



July and August were busy months for the Stanford Japan Program. The university was not in session, but we have been busy running a couple of important events and also planning for future projects.

At the end of July, our program welcomed Governors from six prefectures of Fukuoka, Hiroshima, Oita, Okayama, Saga, and Shizuoka for a conference at Stanford as a part of the US-Japan Council's (USJC) Governors' Meeting (see page 3 for more details.)

A highlight of the conference was the presentation by Mariano-Florentino Cuellar, Director of the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), and Elizabeth Gardner, Director of the [Stanford International Policy Implementation Laboratory](#) (SIPIL), which has been created in FSI as an organization to help advance collaboration between Stanford researchers and students on one hand and foreign government,

NGOs, and international organizations on the other hand on problem solving policy projects. This type of evidence based policy design and implementation has been applied mainly by development economists in many parts of the world, but the approach itself can be applied to solve problems in advanced economies, such as the U.S. and Japan.

Our Japan Program is planning some policy implementation projects in Japan in collaboration with SIPIL. I hope to report on the initial progress in our newsletter in the near future. We are also hoping to work with the six Governors for potential policy implementation projects in their prefectures.

Right after the conference of the Governors' Meeting, I traveled to Japan and met several potential collaborators on policy implementation projects. I also attended the NBER (National Bureau of Economic Research) [Japan Project](#)

in this issue

Message from the Director [P.1](#)

Stanford Summer Juku 2014 [P.2](#)

Governors' Meeting in Silicon Valley [P.3](#)

Recent & Upcoming Events [P.4](#)

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[Meeting](#), which I co-organized and the Stanford Japan Program pitched in financial assistance. This is a meeting that attracts top economists from (mainly) the U.S., Australia and Japan who work on economic issues related to Japan. The meeting was originally started by my long-time collaborator, Anil Kashyap (The University of Chicago Booth School of Business), and has been held annually for close to 20 years. In this year's meeting, we had Mr. Yasuchika Hasegawa (Chairman and CEO of Takeda Pharmaceutical) as the lunch time speaker. He shared with us his views on the Japanese economy as well as his experience in turning Takeda into a global company. It was a nice opportunity for us economic researchers to discuss policy issues with a prominent business leader in Japan. I would like to create a similar opportunity here at the Stanford Japan Program in the future.

During the NBER Japan Meeting, Abenomics, especially its growth strategy, often came up as an important issue for discussion. Many of us welcomed the relatively more focused approach of the updated growth strategy (compared with the last year's version). Almost

all identified the policies to encourage advancement of women in the labor market, especially in the management positions, as one of the most promising one to promote Japan's growth. We can observe some initial signs of the changes in this area. For example, the participation rate of women between 25 years old and 40 years old (when many women in Japan leaves the workforce to form families and raise children) increased from 68% in 2012 to 69.5% in 2013. The proportion of female managers in medium to large companies increased from 6.9% (June 2012) to 7.5% (June 2013). I would like to continue watching the policies and their results.

From August 11 to 14, we held the second annual Summer Juku on the Japanese Political Economy. This year, we had 15 papers presented. The participants enjoyed the discussion on the most up to date research on the Japanese politics and economy in a relaxed setting. We will post a full report on the Summer Juku soon on our website.

- Takeo Hoshi

Second Annual Stanford Summer Juku



From August 11-14, the Stanford Japan Program welcomed scholars of political science and economics to Encina Hall for the second annual Stanford Summer Juku on the Japanese Political Economy. The meeting was held with a same format as last year: the first two days focused on research in political science/political economy and international relations, and the latter two days focused on research in business and economics.

About 50 scholars joined us this year including many returning participants from last summer. Each session was filled with in-depth discussions where participants fully engaged in exchanging information, giving feedback, and discussing ideas for their research projects.

A full report will be published in the forthcoming months.

[“The format of the sessions had a lot of time for discussants relative to the paper presentation. This is more than what I am used to from other conferences, but it is good for getting critical feedback.”](#)

-Conference Participant

2014 Governors' Meeting in Silicon Valley

U.S.-Japan Economic Collaboration at the State-Prefectural Level



The Stanford Japan Program at Shorenstein APARC co-hosted a delegation of government officials from six Japanese prefectures and business leaders from California on July 28 at Arrillaga Alumni Center. The event was part of a two-day conference and initiative, led by the U.S.-Japan Council, to promote bilateral economic collaboration between the two countries.

The plenary session opened with remarks by **Daniel Okimoto**, Chairman of the USJC Board of Councilors and Director Emeritus of Shorenstein APARC, as well as Stanford Japan Program's director **Takeo Hoshi**. **Mariano-Florentino Cuellar**, Director of Freeman Spogli Institute of International Studies (FSI) and **Elizabeth Garner**, Associate Director for Partnerships and Special Projects at FSI, presented FSI's new institution called the International Policy Implementation Lab.



Following the presentation, **Gov. Hiroshi Ogawa** of Fukuoka, **Gov. Hidehiko Yuzaki** of Hiroshima, **Gov. Katsusada Hirose** of Oita, **Gov. Ryuta Ibaragi** of Okayama, **Gov. Yasushi Furukawa** of Saga, and **Gov. Heita Kawakatsu** of Shizuoka engaged in a panel discussion where the governors shared their prefectures' economic strengths and their visions on regional economic collaboration with United States in various areas.

The session was followed by a networking reception in the Ford Garden where guests were able to taste the sake from each prefecture.



Online:

[The Japan Times \(in English\)](#)

[Jiji \(in Japanese\)](#)

[U.S.-Japan Council article \(in English\)](#)

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Upcoming Events

- **October 2 - US-Asia Technology Management Center Seminar Series**

“New Approaches to Venture Incubation and Acceleration: Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Growth in Asia”

Instructor: Richard Dasher - Director, US-Asia Technology Management Center

Gates Computer Science Building B01 - 353 Serra Mall, Stanford, CA 94305

http://asia.stanford.edu/?page_id=5619

- **October 8- S-APARC Japan Colloquium Series**

“60 Years History of Japan’s Development Cooperation to the World and its Future”

Speaker: Akihiko Tanaka - President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Philippines Conference Room - Encina Hall 3rd Floor

- **November 11- S-APARC Japan Colloquium Series**

Speaker: Ambassador John Roos - Former U.S. Ambassador to Japan

- **November 24 - S-APARC Japan Colloquium Series**

Speaker: Lt. Gen. Salvatore Angelella - Commander, U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force