

IUC Spring 2014 Newsletter

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Greetings from the Executive Director

The golden anniversary of the IUC in 2013 shone a bright light on the illustrious past, present, and future of a precious institution. Our 50th anniversary symposiums at **Stanford** and **Yokohama** showcased the depth of Japan expertise that has always been the hallmark of IUC training. Thanks to **our sponsors**, these events reinvigorated public awareness of the indispensable role played by advanced Japanese language education in promoting an international understanding of Japan that truly bridges linguistic and cultural divides.



In addition to the outpouring of support from individuals, foundations, and corporations (all gratefully acknowledged in the **IUC Honor Roll**), I was deeply moved by the response of current IUC students. During my visit to the Center last December to participate in 50th anniversary events in Yokohama and Tokyo, many students told me how inspired they were to meet so many distinguished IUC senpai in person, and how honored they were to be a part of the golden anniversary celebrations.

What a privilege it is to serve both a distinguished alumni community and an annual crop of new students whose high aspirations are so clearly connected to the accomplishments of their forebears!

Honored to build the next 50 years of the IUC with you,

Indra Levy

Executive Director (IUC Stanford)

Save the Date! IUC Reception at the AAS in Philadelphia

If you will be in Philadelphia on **Saturday, March 29**, please join us for an IUC reception at the **Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, from 8:30 p.m. in Grand Ballroom Salon K**. All IUC alumni and friends are welcome!

Recap: IUC 50th Anniversary Symposium & Reception at Yokohama

With major funding support from the Japan Foundation and vital logistics support from the City of Yokohama, the symposium was held at the historic Yokohama Port Opening Memorial Hall on December 7, 2013. Conducted entirely in Japanese, this event offered eloquent testimony to the benefits of the IUC education.

Addressing a packed audience of 400 people, **Mayor Fumiko Hayashi** (right) offered congratulatory remarks that reflected the City of Yokohama's longstanding support of the IUC. Kurt Tong ('86), Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, offered congratulations on behalf of Ambassador Caroline Kennedy before participating in the panel discussion himself. Opening and closing remarks were given by IUC Executive Director Indra Levy and Resident Director Jim Baxter, respectively, with Seth Sulkin ('91) presiding as MC.



Eminent economist Takenori Inoki presented a fascinating keynote speech on the social significance of foreign language study. Citing examples of English language study in Meiji Japan, Professor Inoki emphasized the critical role of advanced language acquisition in the exchange of ideas, especially between countries that are linguistically and culturally distant from each other.

The main panel, moderated by IUC Associate Director Soichi Aoki, featured Center alumni Robert Campbell, Michael Dylan Foster, Peter Jaeger, Jennifer Mertens, and Kurt Tong. Together they offered a rich discussion of the role that Japanese language fluency has played in their professional lives. Whether in academia, business, or diplomacy, all emphasized the importance of listening skills while displaying their talents for speaking in Japanese. Their lively discussion amply demonstrated the level of thought made possible by fluency in two very different languages. In addition to stimulating public interest in the work of the Center itself, they inspired many in the audience to consider what the IUC has to offer as a model for an English-language immersion program for Japanese students.

The post-symposium reception was an equally lively affair. Congratulatory remarks were offered by Ichiro Fujisaki, Ambassador of Japan to the U.S. 2008-12 and current President of the America Japan Society, and Masayo Shiozawa, Japan Foundation Director of the Americas Section, Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Department. Makoto Sekiyama, Director of the City of Yokohama's Office of Foreign Affairs, delivered the toast. Finally, a delightful musical performance by IUC student and cellist Wayne Baylor and violinist Riyoko Matsui provided an element of grace that goes beyond words, and yet reminded us of what can be achieved through the kind of communication fostered by the IUC.

Recap: IUC 50th Anniversary Student Mixer in Tokyo

The IUC is deeply thankful to supporter Fusako Mikado for organizing this wonderful opportunity for IUC students to meet with Japanese university students at the Hotel Le Port Kojimachi on December 5, 2013. Japanese students from six universities participated (Keio, Obirin, Meiji, Bunkyo, Kanagawa Shika, and Ritsumeikan), and the level of their engagement with IUC students utterly dispelled the image of the shy Japanese youth. Celebratory remarks were offered by Shigefumi Matsuzaka, the former Governor of Kanagawa and a friend of the IUC who is now a member of the House of Councillors, and Kurt Tong (IUC '85), Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. IUC Executive Director Indra Levy welcomed guests, and Resident Director Jim Baxter offered a toast. The event was also graced by a delightful performance by violinist Riyoko Matsui.



Alumni Spotlight: The IUC '75 Class Gift

The IUC class of 1975 will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2015, and we are delighted to announce that they have put together a very generous gift to the IUC to commemorate the occasion. We asked the co-sponsors of this initiative, John O'Donnell and Jeremy Silverman, to tell us about the inspiration for the gift, and what it means to them and their classmates.



1975 Class Photo

O'Donnell and Silverman have been close friends since they lived in adjoining apartments in Setagaya during their year at the IUC, then based in Tokyo. "The impetus for organizing a class gift was a series of conversations with our classmates at the 50th Anniversary Symposium at Stanford last September," said Silverman. "Though some of us have wound up pursuing careers in which the Japanese language isn't central, we all agreed that our time at IUC was one of the happiest and most stimulating of our lives," he explained.

O'Donnell added, "We were a close-knit group and many have remained lifelong friends -- or even spouses! The representation from our class at the Symposium was one of the highest. Sadly, seven of our classmates have already passed away. Several of us at the Symposium offered to support the idea of a class gift in their honor, so Jeremy and I decided to spearhead the campaign."

To date, almost 70% of the Class of 1975 have contributed to the class gift, or pledged to do so before the fortieth anniversary of graduation. Donations and pledges total nearly \$80,000. O'Donnell and Silverman have been moved by this generosity. "The Symposium reminded us of the importance of the IUC as an institution," says Silverman. "And of the relationships we forged there," adds O'Donnell.

IUC Alumni Blogs from Japan

Our thanks to Kurt Tong (IUC '85), Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, for spotlighting the IUC in a recent blogpost. Check it out [here](#).

If you have a blog about Japan, let us know! We'll post it on our Facebook page and include it in the next newsletter.

IUC Professional Tutorials

The IUC is pleased to offer custom-designed tutorials in advanced Japanese for scholars and professionals, for which we welcome applications throughout the year. Learn more [here](#).

New! Summer 2014 Intensive Kanbun

Dates: Friday, June 20, 2014 - Thursday, July 10, 2014

A three-week intensive course in reading kanbun, perfect for graduate students and scholars who need to master the fundamentals of this written language in order to conduct research in various disciplines. Applications are due April 30, 2014.

Learn more [here](#).

Help the IUC Stay in Touch

The IUC is now in touch with almost 95% of all living alumni, and we want to keep it up. If your contact information changes, kindly send a note to iuc@iucjapan.org. Also, if you can help us to get in touch with any of our [missing alums](#), please send a note to jwinstein@yahoo.com. Thanks!



Fondly remembered classmates Richard Hanson (1951-2007) and Eric Rutledge (1950-2013). Eric served as Director of the IUC from 2001-03.

Thanks to Our Sponsors

The IUC gratefully acknowledges the generous support provided for IUC 50th Anniversary events. The symposium and reception at Stanford was sponsored by the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, with support from Japan Airlines and Morrison & Foerster LLP.

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See the **IUC Honor Roll** for a complete list of our supporters,
then join them with your own **gift to the IUC!**