



MERIDIAN DIPLOMACY FORUM ON JAPAN

BUSINESS | TECHNOLOGY | DEFENSE | BASEBALL | TRADE | CULTURE

June 6, 2018 | Washington, DC | Meridian International Center

MERIDIAN INTERNATIONAL CENTER

MERIDIAN INTERNATIONAL CENTER IS A NONPROFIT, GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERED IN WASHINGTON, DC

OUR VISION

We envision a more secure and prosperous world characterized by mutual understanding, innovation, economic growth, and inclusion. The path to realizing this vision is through more effective and connected public and private sector leadership at all levels.

OUR MISSION

To create innovative exchange, education, cultural, and policy programs that advance three goals:

- Strengthen U.S. engagement with the world through the power of exchange.
- Prepare public and private sector leaders for a complex global future.
- Provide a neutral forum for international collaboration across sectors.

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MERIDIAN DIPLOMACY FORUM ON JAPAN

The annual Meridian Diplomacy Forum convenes government and business leaders with academic experts and cultural visionaries to examine the position of soft power alongside trade and security in international relations. This year the Diplomacy Forum will highlight U.S.-Japan relations, one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world. The foundation of the modern U.S.-Japan relationship that began in the late 20th century has been built on the open exchange of ideas, culture, and technology that have led to significant economic gains and opportunities. Many of the hallmarks of American culture today – from entertainment and sports to technology and infrastructure – are results of that bilateral exchange and influenced by Japanese trends. At the same time, each country retains distinctly unique cultural identities and political structures. Through featured speakers and panel discussions, today's Diplomacy Forum will address: the state of this bilateral relationship; our security and defense partnership; leadership in the areas of robotics and artificial intelligence; Japanese business culture; and, the power of baseball diplomacy.

The Diplomacy Forum on Japan is made possible thanks to the participation of our speakers and the support of our partners. Meridian also extends gratitude to the Embassy of Japan and the Japan Institute for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (JSIE) for their generous contributions.



THE MERIDIAN DIPLOMACY FORUM
IS PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



THE ASIA GROUP

WELCOME REMARKS

Ambassador Stuart W. Holliday, President and CEO, Meridian International Center

FIRESIDE CHAT

Kevin Tsujihara, Chairman and CEO, Warner Bros. Entertainment

In conversation with Claire Shipman, Journalist and Best-Selling Author

FIRESIDE CHAT: THE STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS

His Excellency Shinsuke Sugiyama, Ambassador of Japan to the United States

In conversation with Ambassador Stuart W. Holliday

SPECIAL VIDEO MESSAGE

Congressman Joaquin Castro (D-TX), Co-Chair, U.S.-Japan Caucus, U.S. House of Representatives

FEATURED SPEAKER: THE ALLURE OF JAPANESE BUSINESS CULTURE

Dan Amos, Chairman and CEO, Aflac

PANEL: EMBRACING MR. ROBOTO: HOW EACH NATION IS APPROACHING INNOVATIONS IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE ACCOMPANYING PUBLIC SENTIMENT

Moderator: Dr. Lynne E. Parker, Interim Dean, Tickle College of Engineering, University of Tennessee

Dr. Kerstin Sophie Haring, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Warfighter Effectiveness Research Center, U.S. Air Force Academy

Dr. Takanori Shibata, Chief Senior Research Scientist, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan

SPECIAL VIDEO MESSAGE

The Honorable William Hagerty, U.S. Ambassador to Japan

PANEL: U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY AND DEFENSE PARTNERSHIP

Moderator: Lindsey Ford, Director for Political-Security Affairs and Richard Holbrooke Fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute

Julie Chung, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Japan, U.S. Department of State

Admiral Gary Roughead, Robert and Marion Oster Distinguished Military Fellow, Hoover Institution

Ken Spurlock, Air and Missile Defense Systems Senior Manager, Raytheon Missile Systems

PANEL: PACIFIC PITCH: U.S.-JAPAN BASEBALL TIES AND THE POWER OF SPORTS DIPLOMACY

Moderator: Mori Taheripour, Faculty, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Sayuri Guthrie Shimizu, Dunlevie Family Professor of History, Rice University

Takehiro Shimada, Minister for Communications and Cultural Affairs, Embassy of Japan

Nick Sussman, Director of Baseball and Softball Operations, Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy

CLOSING REMARKS

Ambassador Stuart W. Holliday



DAN AMOS

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Aflac

 @Aflac

Dan Amos is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Aflac Incorporated, a Fortune 500 company that insures more than 50 million people in the United States and Japan. In Japan, Aflac insures one out of every four households. Mr. Amos is the second-longest tenured CEO in the Fortune 200 behind only Warren Buffet. During his 27 years as CEO of Aflac, revenues have grown from \$2.7 billion to \$21.7 billion as of Dec. 31, 2017. Mr. Amos is responsible for launching the popular Aflac Duck marketing campaign, making Aflac a top national brand named by FORTUNE magazine in 2018 as one of the World's Most Admired Companies for

the 17th year. Aflac has appeared on FORTUNE'S list of the 100 Best Companies to Work For 20 consecutive times and on Ethisphere's list of The World's Most Ethical Companies for 12 consecutive years. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, Mr. Amos was named by the Harvard Business Review as one of the 100 Best Performing CEOs in the World. He has also received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Award and the Anti-Defamation League's Torch of Liberty Award. Mr. Amos holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia in Risk Management.



JULIE CHUNG

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Japan,
U.S. Department of State

 @juliechungso

Julie Chung is currently the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Japan in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. She assumed her position as Director of the Office of Japanese Affairs in August 2017. A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, she has served previously as Deputy Chief of Mission in Cambodia and Economic Counselor in Thailand. From 2009-2010, Ms. Chung served as the Chief of Staff for Transition in Baghdad coordinating civilian-military foreign assistance. While working on the Korea Desk in Washington, she

traveled to Pyongyang multiple times and coordinated programs with the Korean Energy Development Organization. As an Economic officer in Tokyo, she worked closely with the private sector to advocate for the civil aviation and automobile industries. She has also served in Bogota, Hanoi, and Guangzhou. She received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of California San Diego and an M.A. in International Affairs from Columbia University. Her foreign languages include Japanese, Korean, Khmer, and Spanish.



LINDSEY W. FORD

Director for Political-Security Affairs and Richard Holbrooke Fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute

[@Lindseywford](#)

Lindsey W. Ford has a decade of experience as a leading expert on Asian security and defense issues. Prior to joining the Asia Society Policy Institute in 2015, she served as a presidential appointee in the Pentagon from 2009-2015. During that time, Ms. Ford served in a variety of roles within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, including serving as a Special Assistant to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel for the 2014 U.S.-ASEAN Defense Forum. Most recently, Ms. Ford served as the Senior Adviser to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and

Pacific Security Affairs, where she managed a team of advisers providing leadership on regional strategic planning, maritime security, multilateral security affairs, and force management. Ms. Ford was also a leading architect of the Asia rebalance strategy work for the Department of Defense's 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance Review as well as the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review and oversaw the development of the Department's first Asia-Pacific Maritime Security Strategy in August 2015. Prior to her time at the Pentagon, Ms. Ford worked as a researcher for the Center for a New American Security, where she authored reports on U.S.-China relations, the U.S.-Republic of Korea security alliance, and the history of Democratic People's Republic of Korea nuclear negotiations. She has also served as a consultant to organizations including the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Congressional Research Service. She is a frequent commentator on Asian security and defense issues, and her analysis has been featured by outlets including NPR, the BBC, CNBC, MSNBC, Bloomberg, Foreign Policy, and the Asia Times. Ms. Ford completed a Master of Public Affairs and a Master of Arts in Asian Studies at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, and studied abroad at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China.



DR. KERSTIN SOPHIE HARING

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Warfighter Effectiveness Research Center, U.S. Air Force Academy

[@AF_Academy](#)

Dr. Kerstin Sophie Haring is a post-doctoral research fellow one of the leading researchers at the Warfighter Effectiveness Research Center (WERC), Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership (DFBL) at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA). She is seeking to enhance shared situational awareness in human-machine teaming and increase the effectiveness of collaborations in Human Robot Interactions. Her research evaluates trust and teaming with robots, seeks to understand the mechanisms enabling mixed human-machine collaborations,

investigates the effects of introducing technology in military and civilian teams, as well as real world applications of modern technology in mixed human-machine teams. Dr. Haring completed her Ph.D. in Advanced Interdisciplinary Sciences, Cognitive Science, and Human Robot Interaction at the University of Tokyo in Japan and her Master in Computer Science at the University of Freiburg in Germany.



AMBASSADOR STUART W. HOLLIDAY

President and CEO, Meridian International Center

[@AMBSHolliday](#)

Ambassador Stuart W. Holliday is President and CEO of Meridian International Center, a leading non-partisan institution that seeks to advance global security and prosperity through effective leadership and diplomacy. Ambassador Stuart Holliday served as U.S. Ambassador for Special Political Affairs at the United Nations (2003-2005), where his primary duties involved representing the United States on issues in the U.N. Security Council. This included responsibility for U.S. policy on U.N. Peacekeeping, Sanctions, and Counterterrorism programs. Prior to serving at the United Nations, Holliday was Coordinator (Assistant

Secretary) of the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. From 2000 to 2001, he was Special Assistant to the President and Associate Director of Presidential Personnel at the White House advising the President on appointments to the State Department, the Defense Department, the Veterans Department, FEMA, NASA, OPIC, Peace Corps, USAID and Ambassadorships. Following the attacks of September 11, Holliday was tasked by the President's Chief of Staff to work with government agencies to staff the first Office of Homeland Security at the White House. From 1998 to 2000, he served as Assistant (deputy) Policy Director to then Governor of Texas. In this capacity he had specific responsibility for economic development, international trade, technology and military issues. Holliday served on active and reserve duty as an Officer in the United States Navy (Intelligence) from 1988 until 1995 and was recalled to active duty for Operation Desert Storm. He is a recipient of the Joint Service Commendation Medal and other awards. He obtained his B.S.F.S. (International Affairs) from Georgetown University and his M.A. (International Affairs) from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



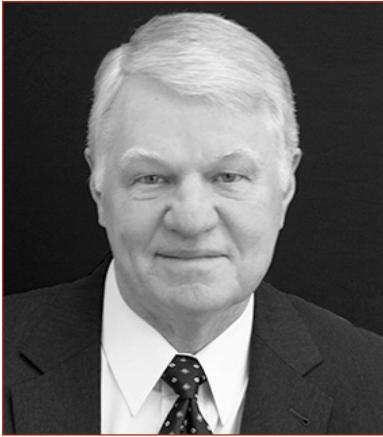
DR. LYNNE E. PARKER

Interim Dean, Tickle College of Engineering, University of Tennessee

[@UTK_TCE](#)

Dr. Lynne E. Parker is Interim Dean of the Tickle College of Engineering at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK), Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Engagement, and Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. She received her Ph.D. in computer science from MIT. She is an internationally recognized expert in distributed and heterogeneous robot systems, machine learning, human-robot interaction, and artificial intelligence. She has published extensively and has received numerous awards for her research,

teaching, and service, including the U.S. Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society's Distinguished Service Award, and many UTK Chancellors, College, and Departmental awards. She previously served as Division Director for Information and Intelligent Systems at the National Science Foundation, where she co-chaired a White House-commissioned task force that created the National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development (R&D) Strategic Plan. She also worked for several years as a Distinguished R&D Staff Member at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. She is a Fellow of IEEE and a Distinguished Member of the Association for Computing Machinery.



ADMIRAL GARY ROUGHEAD, USN (RET.)

Robert and Marion Oster Distinguished Military Fellow, Hoover Institution

[@Adm_GaryR](#)

In September 2007, Admiral Roughead became the twenty-ninth Chief of Naval Operations after holding six operational commands and is one of only two officers in the Navy's history to have commanded both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets. Ashore, he served as the commandant at the U.S. Naval Academy, during which time he led the strategic planning effort that underpinned that institution's first capital campaign. He was also the Navy's Chief of Legislative Affairs, responsible for the Department of the Navy's interaction with Congress, and the Deputy Commander of

the U.S. Pacific Command during the massive relief effort following the 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean. As Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Roughead successfully guided the Navy through a challenging period of transition in fiscal, security, and personnel matters. He stabilized and accelerated ship and aircraft procurement plans, accelerated the Navy's capability and capacity in ballistic missile defense and unmanned air and underwater systems, and directed the service's investigation of climate change and alternative energy. He reestablished the Fourth and Tenth Fleets to better focus on the Western Hemisphere and cyber operations, respectively. Admiral Roughead is the recipient of the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and various unit and service awards. He has also received awards from several foreign governments. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1973.



DR. TAKANORI SHIBATA

Chief Senior Research Scientist, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan

[@AIST_EN](#)

Dr. Takanori Shibata has been Chief Senior Research Science at AIST since 2013. His research interests include human-robot interaction, robot therapy, mental health for astronauts in long-term mission (e.g. to Mars), and humanitarian de-mining. He was certified as the inventor of a seal robot named PARO, the World's Most Therapeutic Robot, by Guinness World Records in 2002. He has received many awards including the Robot of the Year by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan in 2006, The Outstanding Young Person (TOYP) of the World by Junior

Chamber International (JCI) in 2004, and the Japanese Prime Minister's Award in 2003. In 2015, PARO was awarded the "Patient Trophy" as innovation of non-pharmacological therapy for dementia by the Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris, France, that is one of the largest medical group in the World. In 2017, PARO was awarded the "Best of the Best" by the Argentum in the U.S. Was born in 1967 and received B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in Electronic and Mechanical Engineering from Nagoya University in 1989, 1991 and 1992, respectively. He was a research scientist at AIST from 1993 to 1998. Concurrently, he was a visiting research scientist at the Artificial Intelligence Lab at MIT from 1995 to 1998, and a visiting research scientist at the Artificial Intelligence Lab at the University of Zurich in 1996. At the AIST, Dr. Shibata was a senior research scientist from 1998 to 2013. Concurrently, he was the Deputy Director for Information and Communication Technology Policy, Bureau of Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan in 2009 and 2010.



TAKEHIRO SHIMADA

Minister for Communications and Cultural Affairs, Embassy of Japan

[@JapanEmbDC](#)

Minister Takehiro Shimada was appointed Minister for Communications and Cultural Affairs of the Japanese Embassy in the United States in August 2017, making this his second post on the Cultural Affairs team in the U.S. Prior to his assignment in Washington, served as the Director of the Japanese Policy Planning Division for the Headquarters for the Abduction Issue, Cabinet Secretariat. Since joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he has served in the areas of international peace cooperation, Chinese and Mongolian Affairs, and foreign policy. Beyond

cultural affairs, his experience extends to both economic and political affairs. Minister Shimada graduated from Keio University in 1991 with a B.A. in Law. He is married with two daughters, one of whom is a student at University of Pennsylvania. He is an avid baseball fan and his hobbies include swimming, golf, and gardening.



DR. SAYURI GUTHRIE SHIMIZU

Dunlevie Family Professor of History, Rice University

[@riceuniversity](#)

Dr. Sayuri Guthrie Shimizu serves on the faculty of Rice University's Department of History as a Director of Graduate Studies (since 2017) and the Dunlevie Family Professor of History (since 2014). A historian of the United States' relations with the wider world, Dr. Shimizu places particular emphasis on U.S.-East Asian relations since the mid-19th century. Her research interests, cutting across historiographical and national boundaries, include the history of U.S.-Japanese relations, comparative colonialism, the transpacific world, sports in international relations, and global governance. She is the author of several books,

including *Transpacific Field of Dreams: How Baseball Linked the United States and Japan in Peace and War* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012); *Creating People of Plenty: The United States and Japan's Economic Alternative 1950-1960* (Kent: The Kent State University Press, 2001); and, most recently, *The Political Prism of the Olympic Games: Asia Rising*, with A.J. Mangan and Qing Luo. Prior to Rice, Dr. Shimizu was a Residential Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars from 2013-2014, and a Professor of History at Michigan State University from 2010-2014. She holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. in History from Cornell University.



CLAIRE SHIPMAN

Journalist and Best-Selling Author

[@ClaireShipman](#)

Claire Shipman is a journalist, author, and public speaker. An expert on confidence and women's leadership, her latest book, *The Confidence Code*, was a New York Times best seller and the subject of an Atlantic magazine cover story. It was co-authored by BBC journalist Katty Kay and published in April 2014. *Womenomics*, also by Kay and Shipman and published in 2009, was a New York Times bestseller as well. Shipman is also a contributor to ABC News, and now reports on women's issues for the network. She joined the network in 2001, and over the years her portfolio has included everything from politics, to international affairs

to social issues. Before moving to ABC, she covered the White House and the Clinton administration for NBC news. Shipman also spent a decade at CNN, where she covered the White House, and spent five years at CNN's Moscow bureau covering the collapse of the Soviet Union. She's received numerous awards for her reporting, including a Peabody, a DuPont, and an Emmy.



NICK Z. SUSSMAN

Director of Baseball and Softball Operations, Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy

[@NatsAcademy](#)

Nick Z. Sussman serves as the Director of Baseball and Softball Operations at the Academy. In this role, Sussman is responsible for overseeing the entirety of the baseball and softball program, including the implementation of the Summer League. Professionally, Sussman has been involved in coaching baseball in some form or fashion since 2008. In addition to assisting the baseball program at St. Albans, his roles have included Program Director at DC RBI, Assistant Coach and Recruiting Coordinator at Pomona College, Director of Instruction at

Headfirst Baseball and, most recently, Owner and Director of Win Within Baseball. Over the years, he has run numerous clinics in a voluntary capacity and has been a frequent contributor to after-school baseball/softball sessions over the past few years. He recently ran several baseball clinics in Japan through a partnership with the U.S. Department of State and Meridian International Center. Having grown up in the Washington area, he attended the Bullis School in Potomac, Maryland, and graduated from Kenyon College in 2005, where he starred as an All-NCAC third baseman. He earned an MBA from Lynn University in 2011.



MORI TAHERIPOUR

Faculty, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
Principal, MT Global Strategies, LLC

[@MoriTaheripour](#)

Mori Taheripour is a globally-recognized executive and award-winning educator with over 15 years of experience leading campaigns and initiatives at the intersection of sports and social change. She is a faculty member in the Legal Studies and Business Ethics Department at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, teaching Negotiation and Dispute Resolution at the undergraduate, graduate, and executive levels. Ms. Taheripour is also a co-founder of the Wharton Sports Business Initiative (WSBI), a partnership among top level business leaders, faculty, and students that generates and disseminates knowledge about the sports industry through educational programs, high-level student consulting assignments, global forums, and research. As an executive consultant, Ms. Taheripour leverages her expertise in negotiation, diversity and inclusion, sport for development, corporate social responsibility, and high-impact philanthropy across sectors. Her diverse client base includes major sports leagues, Fortune 100 companies, universities, and professional associations. From 2010 to 2014, Ms. Taheripour served as the first-ever Senior Advisor for Sport for Development at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). In this role, she was the senior US Government Representative tasked with promoting sport as a unique and powerful tool in the advancement of international development goals. Ms. Taheripour led the integration of sport into USAID programs around the world and was responsible for driving strategic partnerships between sports organizations, civil society, private sector corporations, and non-governmental organizations. Ms. Taheripour is a member of the Women's Sports Foundation's Board of Trustees, a board member for Skateistan, serves on the Investment Committee for USA Track and Field and is a founding Advisory Board Member of the Sports Leadership & Management Undergraduate Degree Program at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Ms. Taheripour earned her MBA from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and her B.A. in Psychology and Pre-Medical Studies from Barnard College of Columbia University.



KEVIN TSUJIHARA

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Warner Bros.

[@WarnerBrosEnt](#)

As Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Warner Bros., Kevin Tsujihara oversees worldwide operations, including the production, marketing and distribution of film, television and video games, for one of the most innovative and successful entertainment companies in the world. Combining a strong entrepreneurial spirit with the resources of a storied Hollywood studio, Mr. Tsujihara is focused on making Warner Bros. technologically innovative, astute and nimble in a rapidly evolving marketplace, while honoring its almost-100-year history. Warner Bros., a Time Warner Company, is a global leader in every type of entertainment and their related businesses, across all current and emerging media and platforms. Under Mr. Tsujihara's leadership, Warner Bros. is the only studio with leading positions in film, television and videogames, as well as highly successful home entertainment and consumer products divisions. Warner Bros. is also home to DC Entertainment, creator of the world's most popular and valuable superheroes. Mr. Tsujihara identified DC as a priority when he became CEO, and today, DC's characters and stories drive every business in which the Studio operates, generating billions in revenue. Reflecting the Studio's global perspective, Mr. Tsujihara has also made diversity and inclusion a companywide business imperative, working to create a workforce and a roster of film, TV and digital content that reflect the diverse global audience Warner Bros. serves. Under Mr. Tsujihara's leadership, Warner Bros. had its most profitable year ever in 2017, driven by outstanding performance across the company, including its television, film, videogame and consumer products operations. These results follow record success and profitability in both 2015 and 2016. Mr. Tsujihara has been at the Studio for 23 years. Prior to serving as CEO, he was President of Warner Bros. Home Entertainment, which included home video, digital distribution, video games, anti-piracy and emerging technology operations, a post he assumed at WBHE's founding in October 2005. At WBHE, he helped lead the company through the first wave of the digital transition, was a decisive and unifying voice across the industry in ushering in the Blu-ray format and established new digital delivery platforms and business models. Meanwhile, as other film studios were exiting the games business, he saw a huge opportunity. Mr. Tsujihara managed talent, assets and growth through acquisitions to create Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment, the only studio-based videogame company in the industry, which is now top-ranked and has revenues exceeding \$1 billion annually. Previous to WBHE, Mr. Tsujihara served as Executive Vice President, Corporate Business Development & Strategy, Warner Bros. Entertainment and, before that, Executive Vice President, New Media, responsible for the oversight of all Warner Bros.' new media endeavors. He joined Warner Bros. in 1994 as Director, Special Projects, Finance. He later went on to assist in the management of the company's interest in Six Flags. He received his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Southern California and his MBA from Stanford University. In addition to his professional commitments, Mr. Tsujihara sits on the Board of Directors for the MPAA and the board of LA 2028, the committee overseeing Los Angeles' bid to host the 2028 Olympic games. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the AFI and the MPTF Foundation Board of Governors and serves on the Stanford Graduate School of Business Advisory Council and the USC School of Cinematic Arts (SCA) Board of Councilors. He is a member of AMPAS, BAFTA and the Los Angeles Coalition for the Economy & Jobs.



KEN SPURLOCK

Air and Missile Defense Systems Senior Manager, Raytheon Missile Systems

[@Raytheon](#)

Mr. Spurlock is responsible for supporting the Raytheon Standard Missile -3 and Standard Missile - 6 program directors, facilitating the execution of current domestic and international requirements and the alignment of Raytheon developments with future domestic and international needs. In particular, he is business development lead for Standard Missile-3 (Blocks IB and IIA) and Japan lead for Japan Aegis Ashore. He joined Raytheon in May 2014 following his retirement as a Captain from US Navy after 25 years of service. In the Navy, he was designated as a

Senior Surface Warfare Officer and Navy Foreign Area Officer (Pacific). At sea, he served on six different platforms in San Diego, Pearl Harbor, and Yokosuka, Japan. Later, Mr. Spurlock served as a Foreign Service Officer (FSO). His first FSO assignment was to the Mutual Defense Assistance Office, U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, as the Director, Navy Surface Systems. He was responsible for Japan Navy's foreign military sales programs and Japan's BMD development. He attended both Japanese War Colleges (the Japanese National Institute for Defense Studies (Distinguished Graduate) and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Command and Staff College), earned a Master of Arts in National Security Affairs (Strategic Planning and International Negotiations) from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School and Bachelor's degree from the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD.



HIS EXCELLENCY SHINSUKE J. SUGIYAMA

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America

[@JapanEmbDC](#)

Ambassador Shinsuke J. Sugiyama presented his credentials as Ambassador to the United States in March 2018. His diplomatic career with the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) spans over 40 years. He most recently served as Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs. Previous positions include Deputy Director-General of the Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau as well as the International Cooperation Bureau; Director-General for Global Issues, including Ambassador for Climate Change; and Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau.

Ambassador Sugiyama has also held leadership positions within the Foreign Policy Bureau and Treaties Bureau of MOFA. His overseas assignments have included multiple positions at the Embassy of Japan in Washington, DC; Political Minister at the Embassy of Japan in Korea and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan in Egypt. Ambassador Sugiyama studied at Waseda University in Japan and Oxford University in the UK. He has taught international law for many years at the law faculty of Waseda University, as well as at many other schools in Japan and overseas, and has written numerous law articles, edited books on international law, and served as a member of the editing committee of the international law journal issued by the International Law Association of Japan. He is married to Yoko E. Sugiyama and they have two children: a son, Shunsuke D., who runs his own company in Hyogo Prefecture in Japan and has four children; and a daughter, Reina C., who graduated from Parsons in New York and has worked as a fashion designer there for nearly 16 years. Ambassador Sugiyama was Christened at University College, Oxford. He and his family are Episcopalians.

WE ARE AFLAC

ウィ・アー・アフラック

THOUGH MUCH HAS CHANGED IN THE WORLD DURING OUR 60-PLUS YEARS of operations, one thing has remained steadfast: Aflac's commitment to be there for our policyholders in their time of need. Aflac is proud to be the leading provider of medical and cancer insurance in Japan and the leader in voluntary insurance sales at the worksite in the United States.* Aflac insurance products help provide protection to more than 50 million people worldwide and insure one in four Japanese households.**

Over the last 17 years, three Aflac Parents House locations (two in Tokyo and one in Osaka) have helped a total of more than 130,000 children and their families by providing a home-away-from-home while the children are treated for cancer and other serious diseases.

Aflac Japan was the first life insurer to be awarded the highest grade of "Eruboshi," which is the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's certification for a company's promotional efforts for women's advancement in the workplace.



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*Source: Eastbridge Consulting Group, Inc. U.S. Worksite/Voluntary Sales Report. Carrier Results for 2016. Avon, CT: April 2017; Coverage is underwritten by American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus.

**Based on the 2017 number of households published by Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications



Courtesy of AP Photo



Courtesy of the Nisei Baseball Research Project



Courtesy of the Kobe City Magazine, Kobe 98th edition

PACIFIC PITCH: U.S.-JAPAN BASEBALL DIPLOMACY

[MERIDIAN.ORG/PACIFICPITCH/](https://meridian.org/pacificpitch/)

The Meridian Center for Cultural Diplomacy (MCCD), along with Dr. Sayuri Guthrie Shimizu of Rice University, partnered with the U.S. Embassy in Japan to create a compelling visual exhibition that highlights sports diplomacy between the United States and Japan through baseball – a national pastime in both countries. *Pacific Pitch: U.S.-Japan Baseball Diplomacy* includes images, posters, paintings, and other visual materials to tell the story of how baseball was introduced to Japan and how it has since played a pivotal role in bilateral relations between our two countries. From 2017-2018, the exhibition traveled to Tokyo, Fukushima, Osaka, and Okinawa.



Courtesy of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs-SportsUnited Division



Courtesy of Getty Images



WARNER BROS. IN JAPAN: A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

WARNER BROS. has a long and storied history in Japan dating back to the 1920s with the company's First National Pictures Japan. Since then, Warner Bros. Japan has been a constant source of innovation and excellence across the Japanese entertainment industry.

Today, Warner Bros. Japan is a recognized leader in the production, promotion and distribution of both international and local-language films, animated properties, home entertainment, console and mobile games, international and local television series, and consumer products.

Drawing from one of the world's most extensive collections of entertainment properties, Warner Bros. Japan's most popular films and television series include the global hits "Fantastic Beasts" and "Ready Player One," local language productions "Rurouni Kenshin" and "Gintama," the animated series "Jojo's Bizarre Adventure" and television series "Shirobako" and "Danmachi."



Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them



Rurouni Kenshin



Ready Player One



Gintama



**International Visitor
Leadership Program**
U.S. Department of State

THE INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, MERIDIAN, AND JAPAN

Under the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the State Department's Office of International Visitors sponsors the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). First launched in the 1940s, this program builds mutual understanding through short-term visits to the U.S. of up to 5,000 current and emerging foreign leaders annually. More than 335 current or former chiefs of state or heads of government have been IVLP visitors.

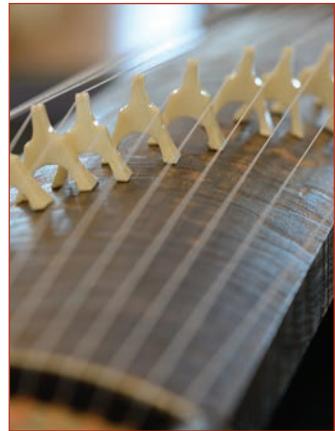
This exchange program partners with eight National Program Agencies, including Meridian International Center, to help implement and manage it. Since 2012, Meridian, working with the Office of International Visitors, has overseen 43 IVLP projects for 127 Japanese visitors. The topics for these projects are varied and include: Cybersecurity; Strengthening the U.S. – Japan Security Alliance; Advancement of Women in STEM; and, U.S. Policy Formation and Federal, State and Local Government Relations.



GLOBAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

A subset of the IVLP Program is the Global Government-to-Government Partnership (G3P), a professional exchange for Japanese Fellows to experience the richness and diversity of America's political, economic, and social life through a three to 12-month exchange. The Japanese Government covers the travel and administrative costs for these fellows. The participants are selected by the Japanese Government and interviewed by the staff at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, before they are nominated and accepted into the program. The nominees represent the country's emerging leaders with a strong potential and often return home to play major roles in fostering future development. Before arriving in the U.S., the fellows develop formal training plans that include English language training and specific goals and objectives. The plan includes a timeline for completion of the goals, and an outline of how they intend to apply what they have learned during their fellowships.

Meridian has helped managed the G3P program for decades. Since 2002, it has assisted 112 Japanese Fellows with internships, job shadowing, meetings with professional contacts, attendance at conferences, and language training. Placements in federal agencies have included the Departments of Agriculture, Transportation, Energy, and Labor as well as the Federal Trade Commission. Other placements included AARP and universities. In addition, the program emphasizes cultural opportunities so that fellows return home with a solid understanding of U.S. culture. This might include home hospitality, attending cultural events, and invitations to special events such as the Diplomacy Forum. Currently, there are three Japanese fellows in the U.S. who are in attendance at today's Forum.



PLEASE JOIN US AFTER THE DIPLOMACY FORUM FOR THE EVENING RECEPTION CELEBRATING THE CULTURE AND TRADITIONS OF JAPAN.

Kyoko Okamoto

Founder and music director of the Washington Toho Koto Society since 1971, Kyoko Okamoto is a graduate of the Kyoto University of Foreign Studies. She was certified as Teacher of koto following completion of her training in the Ikuta School of Koto in Japan. She teaches privately in the Washington metropolitan area and holds faculty appointments at the University of Maryland, College Park, UMBC, and the George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.

Kizuna

Kizuna is a contemporary taiko duo featuring Mark H. Rooney and Kristen Koyama. As performers, they seek to embody the awesome synergy of sound and dynamic movement that distinguishes taiko as an art form, as well as the spirit of "kizuna," the bond of friendship that is the foundation of the North American taiko community.

Marcia Mau

A founding member of the Capital Folders Origami Club, Marcia Mau is also an active member in OrigamiUSA. Ms. Mau has been folding for over 50 years, and teaches origami throughout the DC area.

Maggie O'Neill

Maggie O'Neill is an artist, designer, and creative entrepreneur based in Washington, DC, best known for her iconic pop impressionistic paintings of iconic DC landmarks and people. Living and working in the neighborhood of Shaw, her work is inspired by local landscapes and cultural icons, her travels abroad, notable women, and fashion. Maggie was the official artist of the 2018 National Cherry Blossom Festival.

The Japan-America Society of Washington DC Fashion Ambassadors

Nancy Marsden (kimono)

Naomi Natori (kimono)

Margot Baden (yukata)

Anshu Jain (jinbei/yukata)

Yuko Smith (kimono)

Melissa Tolentino (yukata)

Dair Cruz (yukata)

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