

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at [gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov](mailto:gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov), within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**


1. Name of Traveler: Robert Edmonson
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: October 2, 2024 Return: October 4, 2024  
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C. Destination: Charlottesville, Virginia Return City: Washington, D.C.
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Former Members of Congress (FMC)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Meetings with State Department, think tanks and Embassies regarding the geopolitical situation for the United States in Asia.
7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
  - a.  a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
  - b.  the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip; **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
  - c.  page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
  - d.  the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a.  I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*  
b. If not, explain: Skipped the closing lunch to get back to D.C.

**I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature of Traveler:  Date: 10/21/24

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Rep. Robert Garcia Date: 10/21/24

Signature of Supervising Member: 

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original  Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Travel Destination(s): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Date of Departure: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Return: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*Note:* You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler				
Accompanying Family Member				

6.  All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

**I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: Sophie Schlicht Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

**I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.*

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Robert Edmonson
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Former Members of Congress (FMC); Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Charlottesville, VA
4. a. Date of Departure: October 2, 2024 Date of Return: October 4, 2024  
b. Yes  No  Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?  
If yes, list dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_
5. a. Yes  No  Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
  - (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  - (3) Yes  No  Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes  No  Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?  
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Yes  No  *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.  
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**  
As chief of staff, I am the primary advisor to the Congressman on all policy matters. Deepening my understanding of the security, trade, and energy dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region, and the bilateral and multilateral foreign policy dynamics will aid my ability to best advise the Congressman on votes and matters before his Committees.
9. **Yes  No  Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

### ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: 

Date: 8/27/24

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

Former Members of Congress (FMC)

2.  I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

a.  The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**

b.  The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**

c.  The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): See addendum

5. Yes  No  Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: October 2 2024 Date of Return: October 4 2024

7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C.

b. Destination(s): Charlottesville, Virginia

c. City of return: Washington, D.C.

8. **Check only one.** I represent that

a.  The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**

b.  The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**

c.  The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**
- a.  I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
  - b.  I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
  - c.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
  - d.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. \_\_\_\_\_

10.  Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**
- a.  I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box;* **OR**
  - b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For *each* sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip *and* its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:  
**See addendum** \_\_\_\_\_

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air  Rail  Bus  Car  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
  - b. Class of travel: Coach  Business  First  Charter  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
  - c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

14.  I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a.  The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
  - b.  The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
    - 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \$220 (Good faith estimate)
    - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: See addendum

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: Kimpton The Forum City: Charlottesville Cost Per Night: \$133  
 Reason(s) for Selecting: Proximity to experts at area universities, availability of meeting rooms, local attractions

Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_

17.  I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total <b>Transportation</b> Expenses per Participant	Total <b>Lodging</b> Expenses per Participant	Total <b>Meal</b> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$100	\$266	\$220
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A

	<b>Other</b> Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of “Other” Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$75	Room rental and setup, AV costs, meeting materials
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A

19. **Check only one:**

- a.  I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee’s Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: Sabine Schleidt Date: 8/27/2024  
 Name: Sabine Schleidt Title: Chief Operating Officer  
 Organization: Former Members of Congress (FMC)  
 Address: 1401 K St NW Ste 901  
 Email: sschleidt@usafmc.org Telephone: 2022220972

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

Michael Guest, Mississippi  
*Chairman*  
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania  
*Ranking Member*

David P. Joyce, Ohio  
John H. Rutherford, Florida  
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York  
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas  
Mark DeSaulnier, California  
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina  
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust  
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Keelie Broom  
*Counsel to the Chairman*

David Arrojo  
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328  
Telephone: (202) 225-7103  
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

September 18, 2024

Mr. Robert Edmonson  
Office of the Honorable Robert Garcia  
1305 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Edmonson:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Charlottesville, Virginia, scheduled for October 2 to 4, 2024, sponsored by Former Members of Congress and Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Michael Guest  
Chairman

Susan Wild  
Ranking Member

MG/SW:kjf

4. This program is intended for senior Congressional Staff at offices of current Members of the United States Congress; FMC invited Chiefs of Staff who have participated in Congressional travel to the region and/or previously expressed interest in Indo-Pacific issues and – in particular, security, energy, trade, and social issues – and serve on committees relevant to the program’s issue areas. Please find enclosed a list of all invitees.

12. The Congressional Study Groups are among the largest and most active parliamentary exchange programs between the U.S. Congress and our allies abroad. The Study Groups on Japan and Korea, respectively, foster mutual understanding through regular roundtables in Washington, DC throughout the year in addition to trips such as Chief of Staff Study Tours to Japan, and domestic travel programs such as this Asia Retreat. They offer senior congressional staff a unique educational forum to better understand the complex issues facing allies in the Indo-Pacific from the standpoint of security, energy policy, bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, immigration, and demographic change.

FMC’s Congressional Study Group on Japan is responsible for organizing the program, arranging meetings, and inviting expert speakers to the study tour. FMC is solely responsible for all invitations to and communications with program participants, as well as the budget for the 2024 Asia Seminar.

Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA awards grant monies to fund the year-round programming of The Congressional Study Group on Japan as a part of their mission of promoting understanding between the U.S. and Japan. Experts from Sasakawa USA will participate in select roundtables as panelists.

15. b. 2) Charlottesville was selected to play host to the 2024 Asia Seminar Retreat for its convenient location, proximity to locally-based experts on the Indo-Pacific at institutions such as the University of Virginia, as well as landmarks and attractions which encourage Congressional staff to participate in the program.

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. **Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.**

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: Former Members of Congress (FMC)
2. Name of your organization: Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA
3. Yes  No  Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
4. Yes  No  Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
5. **Check one.** I certify that my organization:
  - a.  Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
  - b.  Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to  
Destination: \_\_\_\_\_ on Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
  - c.  Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g., meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
6. **Check only one:**
  - a.  My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
  - b.  My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
7. **I certify by my signature that**
  - a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
  - b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent;
  - c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
  - d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 8/26/24

Name: Satohiro Akimoto Title: President & Chairman

Organization: Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

Address: 1819 L Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: (202) 296-6694 Email: akimoto@spfusa.org

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

Additional Sponsor Form Addendum: Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

4. Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA only receives a grant from the Embassy of Japan to fund the Japan-U.S. Military Program (JUMP). That is the only funding Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA receives from a foreign government, and it is only for this JUMP program. No Embassy of Japan funding is ever put towards the grant for the U.S. Association of the Former Members of Congress.



## 2024 Asia Retreat Agenda

Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | Charlottesville, Virginia

Last Update: 9/13/2024 9:23 AM | Meeting partners subject to change

### Charlottesville Hotel:

Kimpton The Forum Hotel  
540 Massie Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22903

### Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

[TRAVEL DAY]

- 2:00 PM**                      **Departure from Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.**
- Pick-up Location: Capitol South Metro Station*
- 4:30 PM**                      **Participants Arrive, Check in to Hotel**
- 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**      **Welcome Reception**
- A setting for Congressional attendees and experts to connect in a more substantial manner than group introductions, fostering personal relationships that will form the foundation for candid, productive discussions throughout the retreat. This gathering encourages meaningful interactions, setting the stage for open and collaborative exchange.
- 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**      **Welcome Dinner - Indo-Pacific Update**
- An overarching introduction to the key issues and players in the Indo-Pacific, providing insight into the importance of the region ahead of the deep-dive that will follow on subsequent days. Featuring remarks by **Dr. Satohiro Akimoto**, President and Chairman of Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, and **the Hon. Dennis Ross** (R-FL, 2011-2019), FMC Board Member.



## Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>

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**Morning**                      **Breakfast at Hotel**

**9:00 AM – 10:15 AM**    **Securing the Indo-Pacific**

Roundtable discussion examining the complex security situation in the Indo-Pacific, encompassing traditional military threats and emerging cyber challenges. With several potential flashpoints and unpredictable actors, the U.S. and allies have taken steps to formalize cooperative measures, reform command structures, and integrate supply chains to enhance collective security. Featuring **James Schoff**, Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, **Gregory Poling**, CSIS, and **Caitlin Campbell**, CRS. Moderated by **Emma Chanlett-Avery**, Asia Society Policy Institute.

**10:45 AM – 12:00 PM**    **U.S.-Japan Bilateral Relationship**

Roundtable discussion on the U.S. and Japan's partnership, identifying unique opportunities for cooperation on security, economy, space and energy. Further, a conversation on Japan's domestic political situation following the LDP leadership election and expectations for the alliance with a new U.S. administration next year. Featuring **Professor Leonard Schoppa**, University of Virginia, **Dr. William Chou**, Hudson Institute, and **Emma Chanlett-Avery**, Asia Society Policy Institute. Moderated by **Shihoko Goto**, Wilson Center.

**12:30 PM – 2:00 PM**    **Lunch Roundtable – Trade and Economy**

Roundtable discussion over lunch on trade and investment conditions in the region, multilateral agreements and frameworks like CPTPP and IPEF, and Asia's role in the global economy. Featuring **Shihoko Goto**, Wilson Center, **Isabelle Icsó**, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and **the Hon. Dennis Ross** (R-FL, 2011-2019). Moderated by **Walter Lohman**, Office of Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK).

**2:30 PM – 3:30 PM**    **A New Era of Trilateral Cooperation – U.S.-Japan-ROK**

Roundtable discussion on the U.S.-Japan-South Korea trilateral relationship, including its role in the region, mutual interests, and the circumstances that have led to the current unprecedented levels of cooperation, as well as prospects for its endurance into the future. Featuring **Dr. William Chou**, Hudson Institute, **Dr. Darcie Draudt-Véjares**, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and **Keome Rowe**, U.S. Department of State. Moderated by **Walter Lohman**, Office of Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK).

**Executive Time**

**7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**    **Dinner Roundtable – Breakout Conversations**

Guided dinner discussion at local Charlottesville restaurant debriefing what's been learned, integrating the day's themes, and looking ahead to Friday's topics.

*Bad Luck Ramen Bar, 522 2nd St SE Unit E, Charlottesville, VA 22902*



## Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

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### Morning

#### Breakfast at Hotel

#### 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM **China's View of the Future**

Roundtable discussion on China's decision making with respect to the South China Sea and Taiwan, and how the CCP plans to ensure regime stability through economic growth and management of demographic challenges in order to stay on course towards their broader ambitions. Featuring **Walter Lohman**, Office of Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK), **Caitlin Campbell**, CRS, and DCM **Johnson Chiang**, TECRO. Moderated by **Keome Rowe**, U.S. Department of State.

#### 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM **Balancing Powers – Southeast Asia and ASEAN**

Panel discussion exploring Southeast Asia's strategic balancing act between US and Chinese geopolitical interests, including economic dependencies, security concerns, and the impact on regional stability and sovereignty.

Featuring DCM **Jaime Ramon T. Ascalon**, Embassy of the Philippines, DCM **Weiyang Lim**, Embassy of Singapore. Moderated by **Gregory Poling**, CSIS.

#### Check out of Hotel

#### 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM **Closing Lunch: Breakout Conversations**

Guided debriefing lunch discussion synthesizing lessons learned from the program and identifying areas in which Congress can best act on the issues going forward. Featuring closing remarks by **the Hon. Dennis Ross** (R-FL, 2011, 2019).

*TBD*

#### 2:30 PM

#### Departure to Washington, D.C.

#### 5:00 PM

#### Arrive at Capitol Hill, Washington D.C.

*Drop-Off Location: Capitol South Metro Station*



**2024 Chief of Staff Asia Seminar**  
October 2 – 4 | Charlottesville, Virginia  
List of Invitees

**U.S. House of Representatives**

1. Bradley Bottoms, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA)
2. Lorissa Bounds, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Jay Obernolte (R-CA)
3. Mark Dreiling, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE)
4. Robert Edmonson, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Robert Garcia (D-CA)
5. Jaryn Emhof, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Daniel Webster (R-FL)
6. Jamie Fleet, Democratic Staff Director, House Administration Committee & Senior Adviser, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jefferies (D-NY)
7. Megan Bel Miller, Chief of Staff & Senior Advisor, House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA)
8. Hillary Parkinson, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Keith Self (R-TX)
9. Mitchell Rivard, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Dan Kildee (D-MI)
10. Mary Rosado, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY)
11. Amy Soenksen, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Morgan McGarvey (D-KY)
12. Rebekah Solem, Chief of Staff, Office of Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA)



## 2024 Asia Retreat for Senior Congressional Staff Agenda As-Traveled

Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 | Charlottesville, Virginia

Kimpton The Forum Hotel  
540 Massie Rd  
Charlottesville, VA 22903

### Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

**[TRAVEL DAY]**

**1:30 PM**                      **Departure from Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.**

*Pick-up Location: The Capitol Hill Club  
300 First St SE, Washington, DC 20003*

**4:30 PM**                      **Participants Arrive, Check in to Hotel**

**5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**      **Welcome Reception**

A setting for Congressional attendees and experts to connect in a more substantial manner than group introductions, fostering personal relationships that formed the foundation for candid, productive discussions throughout the retreat. This gathering encouraged meaningful interactions, setting the stage for open and collaborative exchange.

*Oak Boardroom*

**7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**      **Welcome Dinner - Indo-Pacific Update**

An overarching introduction to the key issues and players in the Indo-Pacific, providing insight into the importance of the region ahead of the deep-dive that will follow on subsequent days. Featuring remarks by **the Hon. Dennis Ross** (R-FL, 2011-2019), FMC Board Member, and **Shanti Shoji**, Director of Programs, Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA.

*Oak Boardroom*



# THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUP ON JAPAN

A PROGRAM OF FMC

1401 K STREET NW, SUITE 901 WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
202.222.0972 | [www.usafmc.org/csg](http://www.usafmc.org/csg)

**Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Oak Boardroom**

**7:30 AM Breakfast at Hotel**

**9:00 AM – 10:25 AM Securing the Indo-Pacific**

Roundtable discussion examining the complex security situation in the Indo-Pacific, encompassing traditional military threats and emerging cyber challenges. With several potential flashpoints and unpredictable actors, the U.S. and allies have taken steps to formalize cooperative measures, reform command structures, and integrate supply chains to enhance collective security. Featuring **James Schoff**, Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, **Gregory Poling**, CSIS, and **Caitlin Campbell**, CRS. Moderated by **Emma Chanlett-Avery**, Asia Society Policy Institute.

**10:45 AM – 12:00 PM U.S.-Japan Bilateral Relationship**

Roundtable discussion on the U.S. and Japan's partnership, identifying unique opportunities for cooperation on security, economy, space and energy. Further, a conversation on Japan's domestic political situation following the LDP leadership election and expectations for the alliance with a new U.S. administration next year. Featuring **Professor Leonard Schoppa**, University of Virginia, **Dr. William Chou**, Hudson Institute, and **Emma Chanlett-Avery**, Asia Society Policy Institute. Moderated by **Shihoko Goto**, Wilson Center.

**12:30 PM – 2:00 PM Lunch Roundtable – Trade and Economy**

Roundtable discussion over lunch on trade and investment conditions in the region, multilateral agreements and frameworks like CPTPP and IPEF, and Asia's role in the global economy. Featuring **Shihoko Goto**, Wilson Center, **Isabelle Icsó**, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and **the Hon. Dennis Ross** (R-FL, 2011-2019). Moderated by **Walter Lohman**, Office of Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK).

**2:30 PM – 3:45 PM A New Era of Trilateral Cooperation – U.S.-Japan-ROK**

Roundtable discussion on the U.S.-Japan-South Korea trilateral relationship, including its role in the region, mutual interests, and the circumstances that have led to the current unprecedented levels of cooperation, as well as prospects for its endurance into the future. Featuring **Dr. William Chou**, Hudson Institute, **Dr. Darcie Draudt-Véjares**, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and **Keome Rowe**, U.S. Department of State. Moderated by **Walter Lohman**, Office of Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK).

**3:30 PM – 6:30 PM Executive Time**

**6:30 PM Depart for Dinner**

**7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Dinner Roundtable – Breakout Conversations**

Guided dinner discussion at local Charlottesville restaurant debriefing what's been learned, integrating the day's themes, and looking ahead to Friday's topics.

*Bad Luck Ramen Bar, 522 2nd St SE Unit E, Charlottesville, VA 22902*



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**Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Academy Classroom**

**7:30 AM Breakfast at Hotel**

**Check out from Hotel**

**9:00 AM – 10:15 AM China’s View of the Future**

Roundtable discussion on China’s decision making with respect to the South China Sea and Taiwan, and how the CCP plans to ensure regime stability through economic growth and management of demographic challenges in order to stay on course towards their broader ambitions. Featuring **Walter Lohman**, Office of Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK), **Caitlin Campbell**, CRS, and DCM **Johnson Chiang**, TECRO. Moderated by **Keome Rowe**, U.S. Department of State.

**10:45 AM – 12:00 PM Balancing Powers – Southeast Asia and ASEAN**

Panel discussion exploring Southeast Asia's strategic balancing act between US and Chinese geopolitical interests, including economic dependencies, security concerns, and the impact on regional stability and sovereignty. Featuring DCM **Jaime Ramon T. Ascalon**, Embassy of the Philippines, DCM **Weiyang Lim**, Embassy of Singapore. Moderated by **Gregory Poling**, CSIS.

**12:15 PM Departure for Lunch**

**12:30 PM – 2:00 PM Closing Lunch: Breakout Conversations**

Guided debriefing lunch discussion synthesizing lessons learned from the program and identifying areas in which Congress can best act on the issues going forward. Featuring closing remarks by **the Hon. Dennis Ross** (R-FL, 2011-2019).

*The Local, 824 Hinton Ave, Charlottesville, VA 22902*

**2:30 PM Departure to Washington, D.C.**

**5:00 PM Arrive at Capitol Hill, Washington D.C.**

*Drop-Off Location: The Capitol Hill Club  
300 First St SE, Washington, DC 20003*