

# 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: Tosha Hart
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: June 7, 2025 Return: June 14, 2025  
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None
4. Departure City: Greenville, SC Destination: Tokyo, Japan Return City: Greenville, SC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: FMC - Former Members of Congress
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: We met with members of the DIET and local business leaders regarding U.S. and Japan's friendship and how it will benefit both countries if that relationship continues.
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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of Traveler:  Date: 6-26-25

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: Congresswoman Sheri Biggs Date: 6-27-25

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: Former Members of Congress (FMC)

2. Travel Destination(s): Tokyo, Japan

3. Date of Departure: 06/07/2025 Date of Return: 06/14/2025

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Tosha Hart

*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	4827.05	1764	746.13	761.06 (meeting rooms, guide, interpreter, AV, insurance)
Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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: Sabine Schleidt Date: 06/26/2025

Name: Sabine Schleidt Title: Chief Operating Officer

Organization: Former Members of Congress (FMC)

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

Address: 1401 K Street NW, Suite 901, Washington, DC 20005

Telephone: 202-222-0972 Email: sschleidt@usafmc.org

*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: Tosha Hart
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Former Members of Congress
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Tokyo, Japan
4. a. Date of Departure: June 7, 2025 Date of Return: June 14, 2025  
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.**

I am the District Director for Rep. Sheri Biggs. She is still serving in the Air National Guard as a Lt Col & is on the Homeland Security, Science, Space, & Technology, & Foreign Affairs committees. This trip will educate me on the bilateral issues that are facing U.S. & Japan, how Japan is an important partner in security & trade, how we can benefit from their advances in technology, & how building better relationships locally and regionally can have a positive impact.

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: 5/7/2025

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_
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: June 7, 2025 Date of Return: June 14, 2025
7. a. City of departure: See addendum  
b. Destination(s): Tokyo, Japan  
c. City of return: See addendum
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: Sprinter Van)
  - b. Class of travel: Coach  Business  First  Charter  Other  (specify: Premium Economy)
  - 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): ~\$130/day
    - 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: The Okura Tokyo City: Tokyo Cost Per Night: \$288  
 Reason(s) for Selecting: Proximity to Meeting Partners and US Embassy

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	See Addendum	\$1728	\$780
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	\$865	Interpreter, Guide, Meeting Rooms
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:  Date: 05/02/2025  
 Name: Sabine Schleidt Title: Chief Operating Officer  
 Organization: Former Members of Congress (FMC)  
 Address: 1401 K Street NW, Suite 901  
 Email: sschleidt@usafmc.org Telephone: 202-222-5047

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).

## Primary Trip Sponsor Form Addendum

4. This study tour is intended for District Directors and State Directors of the United States Congress; FMC invited District Directors and State Directors of the House of Representatives and Senate who have previously expressed interest in Japan and U.S.-Japan relations – in particular, security, energy, and trade – and whose members serve on committees relevant to the trip’s issue areas. Please find enclosed a list of all participants.

Participant List:

7A.

- Ms. Robbin Bass: Dallas, Texas (DFW)
- Mr. Wes Enos: Des Moines, Iowa (DSM)
- Ms. Dana Hanson: Boston, Massachusetts (BOS)
- Ms. Loren Harris: Chicago Illinois (ORD)
- Ms. Tosha Hart: Greenville, South Carolina (GSP)
- Mr. John Holtkamp: Reno, Nevada (RNO)
- Ms. Elizabeth Larter: Seattle, Washington (SEA)
- Ms. Mandy Remmell: Baltimore, Maryland (BWI)
- Ms. Ashley Wheeland: Denver, Colorado (DEN)

7C.

- Ms. Robbin Bass: Dallas, Texas (DFW)
- Mr. Wes Enos: Des Moines, Iowa (DSM)
- Ms. Dana Hanson: Boston, Massachusetts (BOS)
- Ms. Loren Harris: Chicago Illinois (ORD)
- Ms. Tosha Hart: Greenville, South Carolina (GSP)
- Mr. John Holtkamp: Indianapolis, Indiana (IND)
- Ms. Elizabeth Larter: Seattle, Washington (SEA)
- Ms. Mandy Remmell: Baltimore, Maryland (BWI)
- Ms. Ashley Wheeland: Denver, Colorado (DEN)

12. The Congressional Study Group on Japan is among the largest and most active parliamentary exchange programs between the U.S. Congress and the legislative branch of other countries. The Study Group creates constant channels of communication and dialogue between American legislators and their counterparts in the Japanese Diet through regular roundtables in Washington, DC throughout the year in addition to trips such as the 2025 U.S. Congressional District Director Study Tour to Japan. It offers both Members of Congress and senior congressional staff a unique educational forum to examine issues including the U.S.-Japan security alliance, energy policy, bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, and societal issues such as workforce and population 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 trip participants, as well as the budget for the 2025 U.S. Congressional District Director Study Tour to Japan.

The Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission is an independent U.S. federal agency which awards grant monies to fund the District Director Study Tour as a part of their mission of promoting understanding and exchange between the U.S. and Japan.

15. b. 2) Tokyo is the financial and political hub of Japan, and the delegation will meet with high-level government officials, journalists, and experts on issues ranging from security and regional defense to social and workforce change and energy policies. Additionally, through meetings with students and cultural figures, participants will gain a holistic understanding of Japan's rich history, culture, and religion.

18.

Total Estimated Transportation Expenses per Participant:

- Ms. Robbin Bass: \$4,531.79
- Mr. Wes Enos: \$4,684.19
- Ms. Dana Hanson: \$3,828.39
- Ms. Loren Harris: \$5,622.59
- Ms. Tosha Hart: \$4,547.19
- Mr. John Holtkamp: \$4,568.19
- Ms. Elizabeth Larter: \$4,115.19
- Ms. Mandy Remmell: \$4,848.89
- Ms. Ashley Wheeland: \$4,496.09



# 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)

March 3, 2025

Dear Colleague:

On behalf of the Congressional Study Group on Japan (CSGJ) and Former Members of Congress (FMC), we are pleased to invite you to participate in our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual U.S. District Director Study Tour to Japan.

The Congressional Study Group on Japan (CSGJ), a non-partisan, non-advocacy legislative exchange conducted by FMC, has more than twenty years of history conducting successful, high-level, discussion-driven study tours for Members of Congress and senior Congressional staff, which complement an active calendar of year-round programs on Capitol Hill. Fervently non-partisan and non-advocacy, our model promotes an active, substantive discussion among all principals and the development of lasting working relationships based on mutual respect and understanding.

The 2025 Study Tour will take place from June 7 - 14 and will visit Tokyo and surrounding areas. Premium Economy airfare, lodging, ground transportation, and scheduled meal costs will be paid for by FMC, a congressionally-chartered, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, in partnership with the generous support from the Japan-US Friendship Commission, created by Congress in 1975. We have funding for eight District Directors, and participation is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants are expected to attend all official meetings and programs throughout the duration of the Study Tour. This privately-sponsored travel will be reported to the House Ethics Committee and is not part of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act (MECEA).

The Study Tour for District Directors provides an exciting opportunity to build U.S.-Japan relationships at the regional and local levels of government and civil society, beyond the traditional Washington-Tokyo relationship. Together with a variety of leading officials and experts from academia, civil society, industry, the media, and government, you will have the opportunity to discuss topics of mutual concern and areas for cooperation, including:

- Japan Overview: The US-Japan relationship, regional security, and the economic ties
- Industry and Innovation: Workforce, trade, and business
- The Future: Aging societies, disaster preparedness, and energy security

We hope that you will join us for the continuation of this vital transpacific dialogue. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ty Baker, Program Manager, at 202-747-5350 or [tbaker@usafmc.org](mailto:tbaker@usafmc.org). Thank you for your kind consideration.

Yours,

Sabine Schleidt  
Chief Operating Officer  
FMC

Ty Baker  
Program Manager  
FMC



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/usafmc



/meetfmc



**2025 Congressional District Director Study Tour to Japan**  
Tokyo, Japan | June 7 - 14, 2025

*Participants List*

District Directors

**Ms. Robbin Bass**

District Director  
Office of Rep. Nathaniel Moran (R-TX)

**Mr. John Holtkamp**

District Director  
Office of Rep. Jefferson Shreve (R-IN)

**Mr. Wes Enos**

Deputy Chief of Staff  
Office of Rep. Zach Nunn (R-IA)

**Ms. Liz Larter**

Deputy Chief of Staff / District Director  
Office of Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D-WA)

**Ms. Dana Hanson**

District Director  
Office of Rep. Jake Auchincloss (D-MA)

**Ms. Mandy Rimmell**

District Director  
Office of Rep. Johnny Olszewski (D-MD)

**Ms. Loren Harris**

State Director  
Office of Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)

**Ms. Ashley Wheeland**

District Director  
Office of Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO)

**Ms. Tosha Hart**

District Director  
Office of Rep. Sheri Biggs (R-SC)

Additional Participants

**Mr. Ty Baker**

Program Manager, FMC  
1401 K St NW, Suite 901  
Washington, D.C. 20005

**Ms. Andriana Gregovic**

Communications and Events Officer, FMC  
1401 K St NW, Suite 901  
Washington, D.C. 20005



**FMC**

# 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)

## 2025 Congressional District Director Study Tour to Japan – Working Agenda

June 7 – 14, 2025 | Tokyo, Japan

### Tokyo Hotel:

The Okura Tokyo  
2-Chome 10-4 Toranomom  
Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001

### Saturday (U.S.)

### [TRAVEL DAY]

#### Departure from US to Japan (Various Airports)

6:22 AM CST	Robbin Bass departs via DL1276 from DFW
6:51 AM EST	Mandy Rimmel departs via UA1259 from BWI
7:25 AM EST	Dana Hanson departs via DL0384 from BOS
7:35 AM EST	Tosha Hart departs via DL1273 from GSP
7:50 AM MST	Ashley Wheeland departs via UA0670 from DEN
8:31 AM PST	John Holtkamp departs via UA5414 from RNO
9:19 AM CST	Wes Enos depart via UA0581 from DSM
3:29 PM MST	Liz Larter departs via AA1605 from JAC
5:45 PM CST	Loren Harris departs via UA7911 from ORD

## **Sunday (Japan)**

**[TRAVEL DAY]**

### **Arrival to Japan from US (Various Airports)**

- 1:05 PM**                      **Robbin Bass Arrives via DL0121 to Haneda (HND)**
- 2:15 PM**                      **Dana Hanson Arrives via DL0167 to Haneda (HND)**
- 2:20 PM**                      **Tosha Hart Arrives via DL0295 to Haneda (HND)**
- 2:30 PM**                      **Wes Enos Arrives via UA0143; John Holtkamp and Mandy Rimmel  
Arrive via UA0837 to Narita (NRT)**
- 7:00 PM**                      **Ashley Wheeland Arrives via UA7993**
- 9:15 PM**                      **Loren Harris Arrives via UA7911 to Haneda (HND)**
- After**                              **Transfers to Hotel**
- Evening**                         **Individual Dinner**



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4:20 AM **Liz Larter arrives via AA8404 to Haneda (HND)**

**Morning Individual Breakfast at Hotel**

9:00 AM – 11:15 AM **U.S. Embassy Country Team Briefing**

Briefing by select heads of sections such as Political, Economic, Commerce, Public Affairs, and Consular on the current state of bilateral relationship at the Embassy of the United States in Tokyo.

*U.S. Embassy, 1 Chome-10-5 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8420*

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM **Japan in an Hour**

Roundtable lunch discussion with prominent journalists based in Tokyo on current affairs and perceptions of the US in Japan, preparing participants for the subject matter of subsequent meetings conducted in the Study Tour.

- **Martin Fackler**, New York Times
- **Gearoid Reidy**, Bloomberg
- **Noah Sneider**, The Economist

*Dynamic Kitchen & Bar Hibiki Futei Akasaka  
Akasaka Intercity 2F, 1 Chome-11-44 Akasaka, Minato City, Tokyo*

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM **Meeting with Diet Member Rui Matsukawa**

Discussion with Diet member **Rui Matsukawa** on her Osaka-based constituency, her experience in the House of Councillors, Japan's bicameral system compared to the US, expectations for the upcoming Upper House elections and how they might affect the trajectory of the US-Japan relationship, and her personal priorities on matters such as constitutional revision.

*2-2-1 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8981*

3:30 PM **Return to Hotel, Executive Time**

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM **JUSFC and America's Leadership in the US-Japan Alliance**

Dinner roundtable discussion with **Paige Cottingham-Streater**, Executive Director of the Japan-US Friendship Commission, on the Commission's role in making the U.S. safer, stronger, and more prosperous through its partnership with Japan.

*Nobu Tokyo  
4 Chome-1-28 1F, Toranomon, Minato City, Tokyo 105-0001*



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**8:00 AM – 9:30 AM The Changing Workforce**

Roundtable breakfast discussion with senior business representatives across different industries and sectors on the workplace in 2025, current workforce challenges, and opportunities and change to expect in the future.

- **Claire Chino**, ITOCHU
- **Tokuko Shironitta**, The Asia Group
- **Mina Takazawa**, Microsoft Japan

*The Etoile Room (41F), The Okura Hotel*

**10:00 AM Depart Hotel for Meeting****10:30 AM – 11:00 AM Meeting with Diet Member Karen Makishima**

Discussion with Diet member **Karen Makishima** on her experiences as a Diet Member, her participation in the Japan-US Parliamentary Association, how the US Japan relationship makes both Japan and the U.S. more prosperous.

*2-2-1 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8981*

**11:15 AM – 12:30 PM Diet Tour**

Tour of the Japanese Diet and discussion of the role of the Diet in Japan and how it compares to the US Congress, as well as exchange between the two institutions.

*1-7-1 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0014*

**1:00 PM – 2:15 PM Ishiba and the Current Political Atmosphere in Japan**

Lunch discussion with an expert on the Japanese political atmosphere, the effects of last year's Lower House elections and spring's Upper House Elections, and implications for the future of the US-Japan relationship

- **Professor Kiichi Fujiwara**, University of Tokyo
- **Prof. Jeff Hall**, Kanda University of International Studies

*Kitaohji Shimbashi Saryo*

*Higashi Shimbashi 1-5-2, Shiodome City Center 2F, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-7108*

**2:45 PM – 4:15 PM Transpacific Exchange with Students**

Discussion with University leadership on international education, exchange between the US and Japan, and Keio University's role in higher education. Followed by breakout room-style conversations with students from Keio University. Participants will field student-led questions on topics such as Congress, U.S. domestic issues, and the U.S.'s role in the Indo-Pacific, as well as hear the students' perspective on timely issues relevant to both the US and Japan.

*Keio University Mita Campus, 2 Chome-15-45 Mita, Minato-ku, Minato City, Tokyo 108-0073*



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**6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Working in Japan and the US: The Nature of Global Business**

Roundtable discussion over dinner featuring **Jun Aketa**, Senior Advisor, Mitsui & Co.; **Kenichiro Mizoguchi**, President, Hitachi Research Institute; and **Saori Tsuchiya**, Director, Office of Government Affairs and Public Policy, Tokyo Electron Limited, on contemporary issues affecting major Japanese corporations' investment strategies in the U.S. and around the world, the importance of Japanese companies and FDI in the U.S., and their perspectives on the current state of play regarding international trade.

*Stellar Works Restaurant and Bar*

*1-2-3 Aoyama Building 2F, Kita-Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0061*



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**8:00 AM – 9:15 AM U.S.-Japan Business Roundtable**

Breakfast roundtable discussion with representatives of CSGJ's Business Advisory Council members on topics including supply chain, tariffs, and the investment environment for Japanese companies doing business in the U.S, as well as how foreign direct investment by Japanese companies contributes to the U.S. economy. Participating companies include Aflac, ANA, Hitachi, Honda Motor Co., ITOCHU, Marubeni, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Mizuho, NEC, Nissan Motor Co., Panasonic, and Toyota Motor Co.

*The Etoile Room (41F), The Okura Tokyo*

**10:00 AM – 11:15 AM NEC Future Creation Hub**

Discussion with NEC leadership on the growing role of artificial intelligence, how the Internet of Things (IoT) is an increasing part of our daily lives, and discussion of NEC's projects and developments in the United States, followed by a tour of the NEC Future Creation Hub.

*5 Chome-7-1 Shiba, Minato City, Tokyo 108-0014*

**12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Japan's Neighbor: China, the U.S., and Indopacific Security**

Lunch roundtable discussion with experts on Indopacific Security on China's influence in the region and Japan's perspective on regional defense and cooperation as a result, and how U.S. cooperation with Japan strengthens both nations' security goals

- **Brad Glosserman**, Tama University Center for Rule Making Strategies
- **Yoshikazu Kato**, Rakuten Securities Economic Research Institute & Trans-Pacific Group
- **Shinji Yamaguchi**, National Institute for Defense Studies

*Tokyo Shiba Tojiya Ukai*

*4-4-13 Shiba-koen, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0011*

**1:30 PM – 5:30 PM Return to Hotel; Executive Time****5:30 PM Depart for Dinner**

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**6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Dinner with American Business Representatives**

Dinner discussion with representatives from the US-Japan Business Council on concerning the current business environment in Japan, both for foreign and domestic companies, the future of work given Japan's shifting demographics, the challenge of immigration, and the role of local and central government in advancing these efforts of economic development.

- **Mr. Shuichi Izumo**, Corporate Officer, Global Policy and Government Affairs, Cisco Systems Japan.
- **Mr. Tomohiro Oya**, Head of Public Policy, Airbnb Japan
- **Ms. Eri Shirakabe**, Head of Government Affairs for Japan, Apple, Inc.
- **Mr. Mamoru Takase**, Director of Government Affairs & Policy, Johnson & Johnson K.K. MedTech

*Umayu Izakaya Akasaka*

*4 Chome-2-32 Akasaka, Minato City, Tokyo 107-0052*



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**8:00 AM – 9:15 AM** **Innovating Japan: Entrepreneurship in Japan’s Future**  
Roundtable breakfast discussion with **Yuriko Matsukawa** on her work at Mpower Partners and efforts within various institutions to increase entrepreneurship and business development in Japan, as well as sharing America’s own lessons and experience in these areas.

*The Etoile Room (41F), The Okura Tokyo*

**9:45 AM – 10:30 AM** **Meeting with Diet Member Yosuke Suzuki**  
Visit with Diet Member **Yosuke Suzuki**, a representative from Tokyo in the lower house of the National Diet to discuss his perspective on the Constitutional Democratic Party as the largest opposition party in the Diet, his party’s role in the current government, his position as Deputy Director of the CDP’s International Bureau as well as Director of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Diet., and his perspective on the future of US-Japan economic cooperation.

*2-2-1 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8981*

**10:30 AM** **Depart for NISC**

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM** **A New Front: Cyber Security and Modern Defense**  
Discussion with leadership from the National center of Incident readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (NISC) on the agency’s role in improving Japan’s cybersecurity readiness and response, Japan’s cooperation with the United States on cyber security initiatives, and the current priorities and challenges for Japan and the United States in the cybersecurity space.

*Akasaka 2-4-6, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan*

**12:00 PM** **Depart for Tokyo Rinkai Disaster Prevention Park; Boxed Lunch on Bus En-route**

**12:30 PM – 1:30 PM** **When Disaster Strikes: Disaster Preparedness in Tokyo**  
Visit to the Tokyo Rinkai Disaster Prevention Park to meet with facility leadership and discuss Tokyo’s disaster prevention and response strategies and compare them with the participants’ own experiences and policies in the US. Followed by a tour of the facility.

*3 Chome-8-35 Ariake, Koto City, Tokyo 135-0063*

**1:30 PM** **Depart for Hotel**

**2:00 PM – 4:30 PM** **Executive Time**

**4:30 PM** **Depart for Meeting**



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**5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Meeting with Diet Member Hideki Niizuma**

Visit with Diet Member **Hideki Niizuma**, a representative for Nagoya from the Komeito Party in the upper house of the Diet to discuss his perspective on Komeito as a coalition partner in the government with the Liberal Democratic Party, his role as Chairman of the Party's International Committee, and the implications of the upcoming Diet Upper House Elections on the current coalition and government, as well as US-Japan relations.

*2-2-1 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8981*

**6:15 PM Depart for Dinner**

**7:00 PM – 8:45 PM Sake and Soft Power**

Dinner and lecture from a licensed sake sommelier on the history and production methods of Japan's national drink, its growing popularity overseas (especially in the United States), and its role in Japan's soft power. Attendees will learn how traditional cultural products such as sake are essential in establishing both a robust economic relationship and a wider cultural rapport between nations, such as with American sake breweries and import companies meeting the growing US demand for sake.

*Premium Sake Pub Gashue  
2 Chome-13-5 Higashiueno, Taito City, Tokyo 110-0015*



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- Morning**                      **Individual Breakfast at Hotel**
- 7:45 AM**                      **Depart Hotel for Yokosuka**
- 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM**      **Bus Briefing on Itinerary**  
Briefing by FMC staff on the day’s schedule, including entry and visit procedures for the Yokosuka Naval Base and the Panasonic Smart City, as well as providing background and context for each visit.
- 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**      **US Fleet Activities Yokosuka**  
Meeting with base leadership to discuss the US’s defense priorities in East Asia, as well as the role of US-Japan cooperation in the region, followed by a tour of base facilities  
  
*1 Chome-20 Honcho, Yokosuka, Kanagawa 238-0041*
- 11:15 AM**                      **Depart for Lunch**
- 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**      **Informal Lunch**
- 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM**      **Executive Time**
- 2:30 PM**                      **Depart for Panasonic Smart City**
- 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**      **Life in the Future: Smart City Development**  
Discussion with senior Panasonic leadership on how new technologies and innovation in urban planning and home construction will change how we live, followed by and site visit of the Panasonic Sustainable Smart Town.  
  
*6-21-1 Tsujido Motomachi, Fujisawa-shi, Kanagawa, Japan 251-0043*
- 5:00 PM**                      **Depart for Dinner**
- 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**      **Closing Dinner**  
A debriefing dinner discussion on the lessons learned during the duration of the delegation’s travel and reflection on various dimensions of the U.S. – Japan relationship led by FMC staff.  
  
*Ebiya Yakatabune  
3-1 Shibaura, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0023*

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**Saturday, June 14, Tokyo and US (Various) [Travel Day] *Casual Attire***

**Morning Individual Breakfast at Hotel**

**Group Departures from Tokyo:**

**10:25 AM Wes Enos and Mandy Rimmel depart from Haneda (HND) via UA7936**

**10:40 AM Loren Harris and John Holtkamp depart from Haneda (HND) via UA7912**

**3:15 PM Dana Hanson and Tosha Hart depart from Haneda (HND) via DL0274**

**5:45 PM Liz Larter departs from Narita (NRT) via AA8446**

**6:25 PM Robbin Bass departs from Haneda (HND) via DL0008**

**10:55 PM Ashley Wheeland departs from Haneda (HND) via UA7939**

**Group Arrivals to the US:**

**8:40 AM CST Loren Harris arrives via UA7912 to ORD**

**10:35 AM PST Liz Larter arrives via AA8446 to SEA**

**2:56 PM EST John Holtkamp arrives via UA3426 to IND**

**2:19 PM CST Wes Enos arrives via UA6166 to DSM**

**4:25 PM EST Mandy Rimmell arrives via UA0274 to BWI**

**5:49 PM EST Tosha Hart arrives via DL2517 to GSP**

**7:43 PM EST Dana Hanson arrives via DL1707 to BOS**

**10:41 PM MST Ashley Wheeland arrives via UA1230 to DEN**

**11:37 PM CST Robbin Bass arrives via DL0420 to DFW**



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**FMC**

# 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)

## 2025 Congressional District and State Director Study Tour to Japan – Agenda As Traveled

June 7 – 14, 2025 | Tokyo, Japan

### **Tokyo Hotel:**

The Okura Tokyo  
2-Chome 10-4 Toranomom  
Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001

**Saturday, June 7 (U.S.)**

**[TRAVEL DAY]**

### Departure from US to Japan (Various Airports)

6:22 AM CST	Robbin Bass departs via DL1276 from DFW
6:51 AM EST	Mandy Rimmell departs via UA1259 from BWI
7:25 AM EST	Dana Hanson departs via DL0384 from BOS
7:35 AM EST	Tosha Hart departs via DL1273 from GSP
7:50 AM MST	Ashley Wheeland departs via UA0670 from DEN
8:31 AM PST	John Holtkamp departs via UA5414 from RNO
9:19 AM CST	Wes Enos depart via UA0581 from DSM
3:29 PM MST	Liz Larter departs via AA1605 from JAC
5:45 PM CST	Loren Harris departs via UA7911 from ORD

**Sunday, June 8 (Japan)**

**[TRAVEL DAY]**

Arrival to Japan from US (Various Airports)

1:05 PM	Robbin Bass Arrives via DL0121 to Haneda (HND)
2:15 PM	Dana Hanson Arrives via DL0167 to Haneda (HND)
2:20 PM	Tosha Hart Arrives via DL0295 to Haneda (HND)
2:30 PM	Wes Enos Arrives via UA0143; John Holtkamp and Mandy Rimmell Arrive via UA0837 to Narita (NRT)
7:00 PM	Ashley Wheeland Arrives via UA7993
9:15 PM	Loren Harris Arrives via UA7911 to Haneda (HND)
After	Transfers to Hotel
Evening	Individual Dinner



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4:20 AM Liz Larter arrives via AA8404 to Haneda (HND)

Morning Individual Breakfast at Hotel

8:45 AM Group departs hotel for US Embassy

**9:30 AM – 11:30 AM U.S. Embassy Country Team Briefing**

Briefing by select heads of sections such as Political, Economic, Commerce, Public Affairs, and Consular on the current state of bilateral relationship at the Embassy of the United States in Tokyo, including a separate briefing on the US Pavilion at the Osaka Expo and how the Expo contributes to the US's soft power and perception across the world, strengthening America's relationships and furthering its objectives abroad.

*U.S. Embassy, 1 Chome-10-5 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8420*

**12:30 PM – 2:00 PM Japan in an Hour**

Roundtable lunch discussion with prominent journalists based in Tokyo on current affairs and perceptions of the US in Japan, preparing participants for the subject matter of subsequent meetings conducted in the Study Tour.

- **Martin Fackler**, New York Times
- **Gearoid Reidy**, Bloomberg
- **Noah Sneider**, The Economist

*Dynamic Kitchen & Bar Hibiki Futei Akasaka  
Akasaka Intercity 2F, 1 Chome-11-44 Akasaka, Minato City, Tokyo*

**3:00 PM – 3:30 PM Meeting with Diet Member Rui Matsukawa**

Discussion with Diet member **Rui Matsukawa** on her Osaka-based constituency, her experience in the House of Councillors, Japan's bicameral system compared to the US, expectations for the upcoming Upper House elections and how they might affect the trajectory of the US-Japan relationship, and her personal priorities on matters such as constitutional revision.

*2-2-1 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8981*

3:30 PM Return to Hotel, Executive Time

**6:00 PM – 8:00 PM JUSFC and America's Leadership in the US-Japan Alliance**

Dinner roundtable discussion with **Paige Cottingham-Streater**, Executive Director of the Japan-US Friendship Commission, on the Commission's role in making the U.S. safer, stronger, and more prosperous through its partnership with Japan.

*Nobu Tokyo  
4 Chome-1-28 1F, Toranomon, Minato City, Tokyo 105-0001*



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**8:00 AM – 9:15 AM The Changing Workforce**

Roundtable breakfast discussion with senior business representatives across different industries and sectors in Japan on the workplace in 2025, current workforce challenges, and opportunities and change to expect in the future.

- **Claire Chino**, ITOCHU
- **Tokuko Shironitta**, The Asia Group
- **Mina Takazawa**, Microsoft Japan

*The Etoile Room (41F), The Okura Hotel*

**10:00 AM Depart Hotel for Meeting****10:30 AM – 11:00 AM Meeting with Diet Member Karen Makishima**

Discussion with Diet member **Karen Makishima** on her experiences as a Diet Member, her participation in the Japan-US Parliamentary Association, the role of social media in current politics, and how the US Japan relationship makes both Japan and the U.S. more well-off.

*2-2-1 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8981*

**11:15 AM – 12:15 PM Diet Tour**

Tour of the Japanese Diet and discussion of the role of the Diet in Japan and how it compares to the US Congress, as well as exchange between the two institutions.

*1-7-1 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0014*

**12:50 PM – 1:50 PM Ishiba and the Current Political Atmosphere in Japan**

Lunch discussion with experts on the Japanese political environment, the effects of last year's Lower House elections, the outlook for next month's Upper House Elections, and implications for the future of the US-Japan relationship

- **Professor Kiichi Fujiwara**, University of Tokyo
- **Professor Jeff Hall**, Kanda University of International Studies

*Kitaohji Shimbashi Saryo*

*Higashi Shimbashi 1-5-2, Shiodome City Center 2F, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-7108*

**2:45 PM – 4:15 PM Transpacific Exchange with Students**

Discussion and breakout room-style conversations with students from Keio University. Participants will field student-led questions on topics such as Congress, U.S. domestic issues, and the U.S.'s role in the Indo-Pacific, as well as hear the students' perspective on timely issues relevant to both the US and Japan.

*Keio University Mita Campus, 2 Chome-15-45 Mita, Minato-ku, Minato City, Tokyo 108-0073*



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**6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Working in Japan and Abroad: The Nature of Global Business**

Roundtable discussion over dinner featuring **Jun Aketa**, Senior Advisor, Mitsui & Co.; **Kenichiro Mizoguchi**, President, Hitachi Research Institute; and **Saori Tsuchiya**, Director, Office of Government Affairs and Public Policy, Tokyo Electron Limited, on contemporary issues affecting major Japanese corporations' investment strategies in the U.S. and around the world, the importance of Japanese companies and FDI in the U.S., and their perspectives on the current state of play regarding international trade.

*Stellar Works Restaurant and Bar*

*1-2-3 Aoyama Building 2F, Kita-Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0061*



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**8:00 AM – 9:15 AM U.S.-Japan Business Roundtable**

Breakfast roundtable discussion with representatives of CSGJ's Business Advisory Council members on topics including supply chain, tariffs, and the investment environment for Japanese companies doing business in the U.S, as well as how foreign direct investment by Japanese companies contributes to the U.S. economy. Participating companies include ANA, Hitachi, Honda Motor Co., ITOCHU, Marubeni, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Mizuho, NEC, Nissan Motor Co., Panasonic, and Toyota Motor Co.

*The Etoile Room (41F), The Okura Tokyo*

**10:00 AM – 11:15 AM NEC Future Creation Hub**

Tour of the NEC Future Creation Hub, followed by a discussion with NEC leadership on the growing role of artificial intelligence, how the Internet of Things (IoT) is an increasing part of our daily lives, and discussion of NEC's projects and developments in the United States.

*5 Chome-7-1 Shiba, Minato City, Tokyo 108-0014*

**12:00 PM – 1:45 PM Japan's Neighbor: China, the U.S., and Indopacific Security**

Lunch roundtable discussion with experts on Indopacific Security on China's influence in the region and Japan's perspective on regional defense and cooperation as a result, and how U.S. cooperation with Japan strengthens both nations' security goals, featuring:

- **Brad Glosserman**, Senior Advisor, Pacific Forum
- **Yoshikazu Kato**, Rakuten Securities Economic Research Institute & Trans-Pacific Group
- **Shinji Yamaguchi**, National Institute for Defense Studies

*Tokyo Shiba Toyoya Ukai*

*4-4-13 Shiba-koen, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0011*

**1:30 PM – 5:30 PM Return to Hotel; Executive Time****5:30 PM Depart for Dinner****6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Dinner with American Business Representatives**

*Meeting Lead: Loren Harris*

Dinner discussion with representatives from the US-Japan Business Council on concerning the current business environment in Japan, both for foreign and domestic companies, the future of work given Japan's shifting demographics, the challenges facing the workplace in Japan, and the role of local and central government in advancing these efforts of economic development.

- **Mr. Shuichi Izumo**, Corporate Officer, Global Policy and Government Affairs, Cisco Systems Japan.
- **Mr. Tomohiro Oya**, Head of Public Policy, Airbnb Japan



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- **Ms. Eri Shirakabe**, Head of Government Affairs for Japan, Apple, Inc.
- **Mr. Mamoru Takase**, Director of Government Affairs & Policy, Johnson & Johnson K.K. MedTech

*Umayu Izakaya Akasaka*  
*4 Chome-2-32 Akasaka, Minato City, Tokyo 107-0052*



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**8:00 AM – 9:15 AM** **Innovating Japan: Entrepreneurship in Japan’s Future**  
Roundtable breakfast discussion with **Yumiko Murakami** on her work at Mpower Partners and efforts within various institutions to increase entrepreneurship and business development in Japan, as well as sharing America’s own lessons and experience in these areas.

*The Etoile Room (41F), The Okura Tokyo*

**9:45 AM – 10:30 AM** **Meeting with Diet Member Yosuke Suzuki**  
Visit with Diet Member **Yosuke Suzuki**, a representative from Tokyo in the lower house of the National Diet to discuss his perspective on the Constitutional Democratic Party as the largest opposition party in the Diet, his party’s role in the current government, his position as Deputy Director of the CDP’s International Bureau as well as Director of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Diet., and his perspective on the future of US-Japan economic cooperation.

*2-2-1 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8981*

**10:30 AM** **Depart for NISC**

**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM** **A New Front: Cyber Security and Modern Defense**  
Discussion with **Counsellor Makoto Kamoshita** from the National center of Incident readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (NISC) on the agency’s role in improving Japan’s cybersecurity readiness and response, Japan’s cooperation with the United States on cyber security initiatives, and the current priorities and challenges for Japan and the United States in the cybersecurity space.

*Akasaka 2-4-6, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan*

**12:00 PM** **Depart for Tokyo Rinkai Disaster Prevention Park; Boxed Lunch on Bus En-route**

**12:30 PM – 1:30 PM** **When Disaster Strikes: Disaster Preparedness in Tokyo**  
Visit to the Tokyo Rinkai Disaster Prevention Park to meet with facility leadership and discuss Tokyo’s disaster prevention and response strategies and compare them with the participants’ own experiences and policies in the US. Followed by a tour of the facility.

*3 Chome-8-35 Ariake, Koto City, Tokyo 135-0063*

**1:50 PM** **Depart for Meeting**

**2:20 PM – 3:20 PM** **Meeting with Japan Innovation Party**  
Visit with Diet Members **Kazumi Sugimoto and Koichiro Ichimura**, both representatives for the Japan Innovation Party in the lower house of the Diet to discuss their perspective on the party’s regional strength in Kansai, what they expect in the upcoming Upper House Election, lawmaking as an opposition party in a



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minority government situation, and their views on the importance of the US-Japan relationship.

*2-2-1 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8981*

**3:30 PM**                    **Return to Hotel**

**4:30 PM**                    **Depart for Meeting**

**5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**    **Meeting with Diet Member Hideki Niizuma**

Visit with Diet Members from the Komeito party lead by **Hideki Niizuma**, a representative for Nagoya from the Komeito Party in the upper house of the Diet to discuss his perspective on Komeito as a coalition partner in the government with the Liberal Democratic Party, his role as Chairman of the Party's International Committee, and the implications of the upcoming Diet Upper House Elections on the current coalition and government, as well as US-Japan relations. His fellow Komeito Members in the Lower House, **Koichi Kasai** and **Katsuhide Noshizono**, will also offer their perspectives on the International Committee, the current coalition government, and US- Japan Relations

*2-1-1 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8981*

**6:15 PM**                    **Depart for Dinner**

**7:00 PM – 8:45 PM**    **Sake and Soft Power**

Dinner and lecture from a licensed sake sommelier on the history and productions methods of Japan's national drink, it's growing popularity overseas (especially in the United States), and its role in Japan's soft power. Attendees will learn how traditional cultural products such as sake are essential in establishing both a robust economic relationship and a wider cultural rapport between nations, such as with American sake breweries and import companies meeting the growing US demand for sake.

*Sake Pub Gashue*

*2 Chome-13-5 Higashiueno, Taito City, Tokyo 110-0015*



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- Morning**                      **Individual Breakfast at Hotel**
- 7:45 AM**                      **Depart Hotel for Yokosuka**
- 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM**      **Bus Briefing on Itinerary**  
Briefing by FMC staff on the day’s schedule, including entry and visit procedures for the Yokosuka Naval Base and the Panasonic Smart City, as well as providing background and context for each visit.
- 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**      **US Fleet Activities Yokosuka**  
Meeting and discussion with leadership from the UN Enforcement Coordination Cell, a U.S. led group of 14 nations who are working to counter DPRK illicit trafficking of oil and weapons. Followed by a tour of the USS Dewey and discussion with **Commanding Officer Ivan Dobrev** and **Command Master Chief Phillip Pickle** on the role of US-Japan cooperation in the region, the US response and position to China, and other defense priorities in East Asia.
- 1 Chome-20 Honcho, Yokosuka, Kanagawa 238-0041*
- 11:15 AM**                      **Depart for Lunch**
- 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM**      **Informal Lunch**
- 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM**      **Executive Time**
- 2:30 PM**                      **Depart for Panasonic Smart City**
- 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**      **Life in the Future: Smart City Development**  
Discussion with senior Panasonic leadership on how new technologies and innovation in urban planning and home construction will change how we live, followed by and site visit of the Panasonic Sustainable Smart Town.
- 6-21-1 Tsujido Motomachi, Fujisawa-shi, Kanagawa, Japan 251-0043*
- 5:00 PM**                      **Depart for Dinner**
- 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**      **Closing Dinner**  
A debriefing dinner discussion on the lessons learned during the duration of the delegation’s travel and reflection on various dimensions of the U.S. – Japan relationship led by FMC staff.
- Ebiya Yakatabune  
3-1 Shibaura, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0023*

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**Saturday, June 14, Tokyo and US (Various) [Travel Day] Casual Attire**

Morning Individual Breakfast at Hotel

Group Departures from Tokyo:

10:25 AM Wes Enos and Mandy Rimmell depart from Haneda (HND) via UA7936

10:40 AM Loren Harris and John Holtkamp depart from Haneda (HND) via UA7912

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Group Arrivals to the US:

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10:41 PM MST Ashley Wheeland arrives via UA1230 to DEN

11:37 PM CST Robbin Bass arrives via DL0420 to DFW



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Michael Guest, Mississippi  
*Chairman*  
Mark DeSaulnier, California  
*Ranking Member*

John H. Rutherford, Florida  
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York  
Ashley Hinson, Iowa  
Nathaniel Moran, Texas

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina  
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland  
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas  
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust  
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Jordan Downs  
*Chief of Staff to the Chairman*

David Arrojo  
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328  
Telephone: (202) 225-7103  
<https://ethics.house.gov>

May 27, 2025

Ms. Tosha Hart  
Office of the Honorable Sheri Biggs  
303 West Beltline Boulevard  
Anderson, SC 29625

Dear Ms. Hart:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Japan,<sup>1</sup> scheduled for June 7 to 14, 2025, sponsored by Former Members of Congress.

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.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$480] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

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<sup>1</sup> Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or [ohsstaff@mail.house.gov](mailto:ohsstaff@mail.house.gov). House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

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

Sincerely,



Michael Guest  
Chairman



Mark DeSaulnier  
Ranking Member

MG/MD:nl