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*, 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: Will Burns
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ ***OR*** ☐ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: October 17, 2026 Return: October 24, 2026
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☐ None
4. Departure City: Washington D.C. Destination: Japan: Tokyo and Toyama Return City: Washington D.C.
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Japan Center for International Exchange
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended:
   Meetings and roundtables with leading policy experts and high-level government, civil society, and private sector leaders.
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: William P. Burns **Date:** November 6, 2026

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: Jay Obernolte **Date:** November 6, 2026

Signature of Supervising Member: Jay Obernolte

last updated 7/2023

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: Japan Center for International Exchange
2. Travel Destination(s): Japan: Tokyo and Toyama
3. Date of Departure: October 17, 2026 Date of Return: October 24, 2026
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Will Burns

   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	$3,658.36	$1,485.00	$559.93	$140.50 (2 days interpretation)
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: Kazuyo Kato Digitally signed by Kazuyo Kato Date: 2026.11.06 18:02:04 +09'00' **Date:** November 6, 2026

Name: Kazuyo Kato **Title:** Executive Director

Organization: Japan Center for International Exchange

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

Address: 475 Riversdie Drive, Suite 731, New York, NY 10115

Telephone: 212-679-4130 **Email:** kkato@jcie.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.

last updated 7/2023

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: William Penn Burns

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:
Japan Center for International Exchange

3. City and State OR Foreign Country of Travel: Japan

4. a. Date of Departure: October 17, 2026 Date of Return: October 24, 2026

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 cover AI, technology, innovation, foreign affairs, and national competitiveness for Rep. Obernolte. As such, ~~understanding how our allies are approaching technology regulation and coordination are critical to the~~ development of our own laws.

I am a Senior Legislative Assistant

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:** September 14, 2026

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:

   Japan Center for International Exchange

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 attached.

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

6. Date of Departure: October 17, 2026 Date of Return: October 24, 2026

7. a. City of departure: Washington DC
   b. Destination(s): Japan: Tokyo and Toyama
   c. City of return: Washington DC

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:
   JCIE is the sole sponsor of the trip, meaning we cover all expenses related to the program, select participants, develop the trip agenda, arrange all meetings and travel logistics, and attend to the delegation through out the program. JCIE promotes US-Japan dialogues on issues of mutual concern, and this program is designed to provide senior staffers with a deeper understanding of US-Japan relations and the dynamics of Japanese policymaking.

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): approx. $107
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Tokyo was chosen as it is Japan's capital city. Toyama is a data-driven smart city that is expected to become Japan's largest data center hub

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: Mitsui Garden Hotel Ginza-gochome City: Tokyo Cost Per Night: $269
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Affordability and proximity to the Japanese Diet and government offices.
   Hotel Name: Hotel Vischio Toyama City: Toyama Cost Per Night: $204
   Reason(s) for Selecting: Affordability and proximity to downtown Toyama and locations we'll visit.
   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:**

☐ Actual Amounts ☑ Good Faith Estimates	Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant	Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant	Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$3,459.00	$1,484.00	$535.00
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$186.00	Interpretation costs (2 days)
For each Accompanying Family Member	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: Kazuyo Kato Digitally signed by Kazuyo Kato Date: 2026.09.11 14:00:14 -04'00' Date: September 11, 2026

Name: Kazuyo Kato Title: Executive Director

Organization: Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE USA)

Address: 475 Riversdie Drive, Suite 731, New York, NY 10115

Email: kkato@jcie.org Telephone: 212-679-4130

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

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas
Brad Knott, North Carolina

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

October 13, 2026

Mr. William Burns
Office of the Honorable Jay Obernolte
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Burns:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Japan,[1] scheduled for October 17 to 24, 2026, sponsored by Japan Center for International Exchange.

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 $525 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 $525] 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.

[1] 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. 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:rp

US Congressional Staff Exchange Program

2026 Japan Study Tour

October 19-23 | Tokyo, Toyama

FINAL ITINERARY

Wednesday, October 14

12:35 Alan McQuinn and Kate Schisler depart Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) on UA 803

Thursday, October 15

15:55 Alan McQuinn and Kate Schisler arrive Haneda Airport (HND) on UA 803

Saturday, October 17 **Travel Day*

12:35 Will Burns, Molly Martin, Nic Oliver, Ariana Orne depart Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) on UA 803
**Participants to arrange their own transportation from home to airport.*

Sunday, October 18 **Travel Day*

15:55 Will Burns, Molly Martin, Nic Oliver, Ariana Orne arrive Haneda Airport (HND) on UA 803

Travel by minibus to Mitsui Garden Hotel Ginza-Gochome to check in.

17:30 Check in at hotel

18:45 Meet in hotel lobby to walk to dinner restaurant

19:00 **Welcome Dinner & Orientation with JCIE USA Staff**
Review of the week's activities and meeting interlocutors with JCIE staff
JCIE staff: Kazuyo Kato, Executive Director, JCIE USA
Stephen McHugh, Chief Program Officer, JCIE USA
Location: Ginza Torisato Restaurant

Accommodation
Mitsui Garden Hotel Ginza-Gochome
Address: 5-13-15 Ginza, Chuo City | Tel: +81-3-6226-5131
https://www.gardenhotels.co.jp/ginza-gochome/eng/

Monday, October 19 (6 hrs.)

08:20 Meet in lobby to travel to The Yomiuri Shimbun HQ by minibus

09:00-10:30 **Japan's View of Asia, the World, and US-Japan Relations** (1.5 hrs.)
Experts from two leading Japanese media organizations will discuss key issues of concern to the Japanese government and the public regarding developments in Asia and around the world, and how Japan's domestic politics and opinions are shaping its foreign and security policies.

Speakers: **Mr. Hiroyuki Akita**, Commentator, *The Nikkei*
Ms. Aya Igarashi, Deputy Chair of the Editorial Board, *The Yomiuri Shimbun*
Location: The Yomiuri Shimbun HQ

10:30-11:00 Travel to Cabinet Office by minibus

11:00-12:00 **Briefing: Japan's AI Policy** (1 hr.)
The group will visit Japan's Cabinet Office, a central government agency that supports the Prime Minister and her Cabinet by coordinating policy across Japan's ministries and agencies and overseeing major cross-cutting policy areas such as economic policy, science and technology, disaster management, and AI. Staffers will receive a briefing on the key features of the AI Basic Plan approved in December 2025, implementation progress and challenges, and areas of US-Japan collaboration.

Speakers: **Morita Mitsue**, Artificial Intelligence Office, Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan
Shihori Maeda, Principal Deputy Director, Artificial Intelligence Office, Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan
Sayaka, Matsumoto, Assistant Director, Principal Deputy Director, Artificial Intelligence Office, Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan
Location: Cabinet Office

12:00-12:30 Travel to restaurant by minibus

12:30-14:00 **Lunch Discussion on Japan's Science & Technology Agency (JST)** (1.5 hr.)
The group will meet with two top leaders shaping Japan's national S&T policy to discuss key policy developments around emerging technologies and areas for US-Japan collaboration, followed by Q&A and discussion.

Speakers: **Dr. Kazuhito Hashimoto**, President, JST; Chief Science and Technology Advisor to the Cabinet, Cabinet Secretariat of Japan
Dr. Keisuke Okamura, Director, Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, Cabinet Office
Ms. Kana Asano, Director, Office for International Science and Technology Policy and Information Study
Location: Okiagari Koboshi restaurant

14:00-14:30 Travel to Meiji Shrine by minibus

14:30-15:30 **Briefing on Japanese Religion and Visit to Meiji Shrine (1 hr.)**
Due to the Ministry of Defense not being available for a meeting at the last minute, JCIE staff provided a briefing on the role of religion in Japanese society, including differences between Shinto and Buddhism, and had a brief visit to Meiji Shrine.

15:30-16:00 Travel to Diet Building by minibus

16:00-17:00 **Roundtable Discussion: "Democracy and US-Japan Cooperation in the Age of AI: Addressing Risks and Strengthening Governance"** (1 hr.)
Participants will exchange views with 2-4 members of the "Caucus for Universal Values in the Indo-Pacific" in the National Diet on the impact of AI on politics, elections, and policymaking in Japan and the United States; the risks AI poses to democratic governance; and areas for US-Japan cooperation to address those risks and harness AI to strengthen democracy.

Participants: **Hon. Hiroe Makiyama** (Constitutional Democratic Party, House of Councillors); **Hon. Yuya Mineshima** (Team Mirai , House of Representatives); **Hon. Jun Mukoyama** (LDP, House of Representatives); and **Hon. Akira Hirabayashi** (Komeito, House of Representatives). Moderated by **Ryo Sahashi** (Professor of International Relations, Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, the University of Tokyo; Research Fellow, Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE Japan))
**Two representatives from the Japan-US Friendship Commission JUSFC) will be joining the meeting.*

Location: Japanese Diet building.

17:00 Return to hotel by minibus

19:00 Dinner on own / free time

<u>Tuesday, October 20</u> (7 hrs.)

08:00 Meet in lobby

08:10-08:30 Travel by minibus to BS Code office.

08:30-09:30 **Meeting on Technology and AI in Health in an Aging Society** (1 hr.)
Participants will visit BS Code, a Japanese start-up company that focuses on addressing the challenges of Japan's aging society including labor shortage and transfer of Japan's "master craftsmanship" to the future generation by utilizing cutting-edge AI technology and smart glasses. Participants will have hands-on experience with their products.

Speaker: **Ms. Nana Nakauchi**, CEO, BS Code.
Location: BS Code office.

09:30-11:00 Break in Shibuya

11:00-11:30 Travel by minibus to restaurant

11:30-13:00 **Lunch Meeting with Sakana AI** (1.5 hrs.)
The group will meet with a defense expert from Sakana AI, one of Japan's leading AI start-ups established in 2023, to learn about their history of quick growth in the Japanese start-up eco-system, their business areas, and challenges and opportunities in their defense-related projects.
Speaker: **Ms. Saki Kikuchi**, Project Manager, Sakana AI Defense Dept.
Location: Shato Hanten restaurant

13:00-13:30 Travel to Japanese Business Federation (Keidanren) by minibus

13:30-14:30 **Roundtable Discussion with Japanese Business Leaders** (1 hr.)
The discussion will be with a group of Japanese business leaders who are members of the International Strategy Working Group (WG) on AI and the Digital Economy & the AI Utilization Strategy Task Force at Japanese Business Federation. Staffers are expected to introduce AI-related developments on the Hill under the member/committee they serve, including achievements, ongoing initiatives, and current priorities. The Japanese side will in turn discuss the current state of AI adoption by Japanese companies and the challenges they face; their perspectives on Japan's AI policies and plans, including expectations for private companies; and how US-Japan cooperation can be further promoted.
**With simultaneous interpretation.*
Participants: Members of the International Strategy WG on AI and the Digital Economy & AI Utilization Strategy Task Force, Keidanren
Location: Keidanren Kaikan

14:30-15:00 Travel to Vision Center by minibus

15:00-17:00 **Roundtable Discussion with Future Leaders from the Matsushita Institute of Government and Management** (2 hrs.)
Staffers will gather with a group of students at the Institute, which was founded by the Panasonic founder to provide leadership development education for people who want to shape society, government, business, or other institutions. Alumni include the current Prime Minister of Japan, Sanae Takaichi. Participants will exchange views on three topics: domestic political/economic challenges in the US and Japan; AI policy developments in the US; and security challenges in East Asia and expectations for the US-Japan alliance.
**With simultaneous interpretation.*
Participants: 6-10 students of the Institute
Location: Meisan Tameike Bldg.
Vision Center Tameike-Sanno

17:00-18:30 Break

18:30-19:00 Travel to dinner by minibus

19:00-20:30 **Dinner Discussion on Japan's Space Policy and US-Japan Space Cooperation** (1.5 hrs.)
A director managing international cooperation at Japan's national space agency, JAXA, will offer a dinner briefing on recent developments in Japan's space programs, technology, and US-Japan cooperation.
Speaker: **Mr. Takehiro Nakamura**, Manager, Research and Analysis Division, JAXA
Mr. Ohashi Masayoshi, Associate Senior Administrator, Research and Analysis Division, International Relations and Research Department, JAXA
Location: Kitaohji Ginza Honten restaurant

20:30 Return to hotel by minibus

**Pack for two nights and prepare to check out next morning.*

Wednesday, October 21 (6 hrs.)

09:10 Check out of hotel

09:15-10:00 Travel to Tokyo Station by minibus

10:00-11:30 **Briefing & Tour of General Control Center (GCC) & "7-Minute Miracle": Central Japan Railway** (1.5 hrs.)
JR Central representatives will brief the group on the process and technologies behind-the-scenes of Japan's bullet train (shinkansen) operations through a special tour of the General Control Center and the highly synchronized and rapid cleaning process totaling 7 minutes during the 12-minute stop.
Speakers: **Keiichi Kagayama**, Corporate Officer, Chief General Manager, Consulting and Coordination Office
Tomokazu Minesaki, Manager
Kazunori Chuma, Assistant Manager
Yuka Yasuda, Senior Staff
Location: Tokyo Station

11:30-12:00 Travel to MOFA by minibus.

12:00-13:30 **Lunch Discussion with the North American Bureau staff at Ministry of Foreign Affairs** (1.5 hrs.)
The group will be briefed by several staff members from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the role of the US-Japan alliance in Japan's foreign policy, key issues facing the alliance, and areas for greater US-Japan cooperation.
Participants: 3-4 staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Location: Akasaka Tsutsui restaurant

13:30-14:00 Travel to US Embassy by minibus

14:00-15:00 **US Government Perspectives on the US-Japan Alliance** (1 hr.)
The staffers will receive a briefing on the state of US-Japan relations from the perspective of US Embassy staff on-the-ground, including current priorities, challenges, and opportunities to strengthen the US-Japan security alliance. Ambassador George Glass or Deputy Chief of Mission Aaron D. Snipe may drop by to greet the group.
Speakers: US Embassy staff
Location: US Embassy in Tokyo

15:00-15:30 Travel to Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) by minibus

15:30-16:30 **Briefing on Industrial Policy and Economic Security** (1 hr.)
The briefing will cover three topics: 1) Key features of Japan's industrial policy including strategy on physical AI; 2) challenges and measures to strengthen Japan's economic security; and challenges and opportunities for US-Japan cooperation to strengthen economic security.
Speakers: **IKAI Yuji**, Director, Office of International Affairs, Commerce and Information Policy Bureau, METI
TAKAGI Mika, Director, Supply Chain Resilience Policy Office, Manufacturing Industries Bureau, METI
SATO Yoshiharu, Director, Office of International Affairs for Economic Security, Trade and Economic Security Bureau, METI
Observers: **AOYAGI Asako,** Director, Trade and Investment of Americas Division, Trade Policy Bureau, METI
NUMATA Haruna, Americas Division, Trade Policy Bureau, METI
Location: Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry

16:30-16:40 Travel to MOFA by minibus

16:40-17:40 **Meeting with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Iwao Horii** (1 hr)
We will have a brief opportunity to meet with the current State Minister for Foreign Affairs at his ministry
Speakers: **Iwao Horii**, State Minister for Foreign Affairs; Member, House of Councillors
Location: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Central Office Building

17:40-18:00 Travel to Tokyo Station

18:00 Arrive at Tokyo Station; Purchase dinner at station

19:04-21:52 Depart from Tokyo Station by Hokuriku Shinkansen (Hakutaka 575)

22:30 Check in at Hotel Vischio Toyama

Accommodation
Hotel Vischio Toyama
Address: 1-231 Meirincho, Toyama, 930-0001 | Tel: +81-76-464-6639
https://www.hotelvischio-toyama.com/en/

Thursday, October 22 (7.5 hrs.)

08:50 Meet in lobby

09:00-09:15 Walk to Toyama Prefectural Government

09:15-09:45 **Briefing by Toyama Prefectural Government** (30 min.)
The group will meet with Deputy Governor Keiko Nishi to learn about the prefectural government's vision for Toyama's future, its current priorities and challenges, demographic shifts, impact of natural disasters, connections to the United States, etc.
Speakers: **Ms. Keiko Nishi**, Deputy Governor
Location: Toyama Prefectural Government

09:45-10:00 Walk to Toyama City Hall

10:00-10:30 **Meeting with Toyama City Government** (30 min.)
Toyama city officials will discuss its compact city strategy centered on public transportation, i.e. its light rail system, and how their innovative city planning is intended to meet the needs of their rapidly aging population.
Speakers: **Ms. Kumiko Inaba**, Deputy Mayor, Toyama City
Location: Toyama City Hall

Walk to Toyama train station across the street.

10:30-11:15 **Travel on Toyama Chihou Railway Toyamako & Light Rail Briefing** (30 min.)
A Toyama city official or JCIE staff member will explain Toyama's light rail system, which was covered during the morning meetings, during this hands-on opportunity to experience the city's transit system designed to address the needs of its aging population.
Speaker: JCIE staff

11:15-13:00 **Iwase Tour & Lunch** (1.5 hrs.)
The group will visit Iwase, a historic port town located along the Sea of Japan. JCIE staff will brief participants about its influential role in the cargo ship trade during the Edo and Meiji periods and ways the area's local traditions and history are being intentionally preserved as the region rapidly modernizes.
Lunch Location: Shokudo Tenpo

13:00-14:00 Travel to Nanto City by minibus

14:00-14:20 **Visit to Nanto City Data Center Construction Site** (20 min.)

The group will visit the construction site of the GigaStream Toyama data center, which is being built as one of the three largest data center hubs in Japan, to better understand the scale of the project ahead of meetings with the city government to discuss the impact of the data center on the community.

14:20-14:30 Travel to Data Center Construction Site

14:30-15:00 **Visit & Discussion: Nanto City Government** (30 min.)
The group will visit Nanto City, where the new data centers will be constructed, to receive a briefing on the plan, including its expected impact on the local economy and community and how the plan is received by the local public.
Speaker: **Hon. Mikio Tanaka**, Mayor, Nanto City
Location: 1550 Araki, Nanto City Hall

15:00-15:10 Travel to Play Earth Park/Sakuragaike Site

15:10-15:50 **Visit to Sakuragaike and Introduction of Goldwin Inc's "Play Earth Park Nurturing Forest" Goldwin, Inc.** (40 min.)
The group will learn about the activities of Goldwin, a prominent Japanese outdoor apparel company founded in 1950 as the Tsuzawa Knit Fabric Factory in Oyabe City, which owns the rights to brands including North Face and Helly Hansen in Japan. Prior to a formal meeting with Goldwin staff, they will visit the site of Goldwin's "Play Earth Park Naturing Forest," a nature-themed inter-generational playground, as part of the company's efforts to promote environmental sustainability.
**Note: you will need to wear hard hats, as the site is under construction.*
Speakers: Goldwin Staff
Location: Sakuragaike

15:50-16:10 Travel from Sakuragaike to Goldwin Offices

16:10-17:10 **Meeting with Goldwin. Inc** (1 hr.)
Following the site visit to Goldwin's "Play Earth Park" construction site, the group will have a debrief session at Goldwin's offices to discuss the details of their project, the reasons for Goldwin's investments in Nanto City, and to learn about the manufacturing side of their business.
Speakers: Goldwin Staff (TBC)
Location: Goldwin Office (210 Kiyosawa, Oyabe, Toyama)

16:50-17:50 Return to Toyama City

18:00-18:45 Break

19:00-21:00 **Midweek Reflection Dinner** (2 hrs.)
This dinner was used to reflect on lessons from the program so far and to share feedback on what the group learned during their time in Toyama

Speaker: JCIE staff
Location: Gonbei Sha restaurant

Friday, October 23 (6 hrs.)

08:00 Check out of hotel

08:50 Meet in lobby

09:00-09:15 Walk to TISI

09:15-10:15 **Meeting with TIS INTEC (TISI)** (1 hr.)
The group will receive a briefing on the business challenges and opportunities of one of Japan's leading IT services companies formed through a merger of Toyo Information Systems and INTEC, which was originally established in 1964 as the Toyama Computer Center. The briefing will also address the significance of conducting business in Toyama.
Speakers: **Akira Makado**, Director, Executive Vice President, TISI
Sam Sakata, Director, COO, TISI
Hiroyuki Watanabe, Deputy Division Manager of Digital Innovation Division
Location: TISI HQ

10:15-10:30 Walk to Toyama Station; pick up lunch

11:11-13:20 Depart Toyama Station on Hokuriku Shinkansen (Kagayaki 528)

Survey completion *(1 hr.)*
Participants will fill out a survey to reflect on the entire trip and provide feedback on individual meetings and activities as well as how the trip has impacted their understanding of and interest in US-Japan relations. The survey will include multiple-choice and open-ended questions requiring written responses and is estimated to take 1 hr. to complete.

13:20-14:00 Travel by minibus to International House of Japan

14:00-15:30 **Discussion with Research Institute for Advanced Innovation and GeoStrategy (RAIS) Scholars** (1.5 hrs.)
The group will meet with scholars of a new Japanese think tank established in April 2026 to address the growing intersection of advanced technology and national security and bridge the gap between conventional military strategy and emerging innovations such as AI, quantum computing, cybersecurity, and biotechnology. The think tank is led by two co-directors who are leading Japanese scholars at Keio University, including Professor Tomoyuki Furutani and Professor Ken Jimbo.
Speakers: **Prof. Tomoyuki Furutani,** Professor, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University

Mr. Kyle McLain, Program Officer, RAIS
Kentaro Yamashita, Program Officer/Research Assistant, RAIS
Mr. Hiromichi Yaoita, Program Officer, RAIS
Location: International House of Japan

15:30-16:00 Return to the hotel by minibus

16:00-16:20 Bag drop-off and brief check-in at hotel

16:45-17:45 **Visit to Hon. Akihisa Shiozaki on Legislative Priorities on AI (1 hr.)**
Participants will have a discussion with Hon. Akihisa Shiozaki, State Minister for Digital Transformation and AI, and member of Japan's House of Representatives from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), to learn about key governmental developments on AI in Japan. Shiozaki has also served in additional leadership roles such as executive director for LDP's AI and Web3 project teams.

Location: 1st Lower House Diet Member's Office Building

18:00-19:00 Return to hotel by minibus; Break

19:00-19:30 Travel to Gonpachi restaurant via taxi

19:30-21:00 **Wrap-Up Meeting** (1.5 hrs.)
JCIE USA will facilitate a discussion requesting each staffer to reflect on their experiences in Japan and identify key themes and lessons learned regarding Japan and US-Japan relations, as well as the expected impact of their new knowledge.
Speakers: JCIE staff
Location: Gonpachi restaurant

Saturday, October 24 **Travel Day*

00:30 Molly Martin departs Haneda Airport (UA 7982) arriving in US same day

10:20 Kate Schisler departs Haneda Airport (UA 7942) arriving in US same day

15:45 Will Burns, Alan McQuinn, Nic Oliver, Ariana Orne depart Haneda Airport (UA 804) arriving in US same day.

US Congressional Staff Exchange Program

2026 Japan Study Tour

October 19-23 | Tokyo, Toyama

DRAFT ITINERARY

Wednesday, October 14

12:20 Alan McQuinn and Kate Schisler depart Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) on UA 803

Saturday, October 17 **Travel Day*

12:20 Will Burns, Molly Martin, Nic Oliver, Ariana Orne depart Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) on UA 803

**Participants to arrange their own transportation from home to airport.*

Sunday, October 18 **Travel Day*

15:55 Will Burns, Molly Martin, Nic Oliver, Ariana Orne arrive Haneda Airport (HND) on UA 803

Travel by minibus to Mitsui Garden Hotel Ginza-Gochome to check in.

17:30 Check-in at hotel

18:45 Meet in hotel lobby to walk to dinner

19:00 **Welcome Dinner & Orientation with JCIE USA Staff**
Review of the week's activities and meeting interlocutors with JCIE staff

JCIE staff: Kazuyo Kato, Executive Director, JCIE USA
Stephen McHugh, Chief Program Officer, JCIE USA

Location: Kushiyaki Bistro Fukumimi Ginza 6 (6-14-5 Ginza, Chuo City | +81362787774) **skewered & grilled dishes*

Accommodation
Mitsui Garden Hotel Ginza-Gochome
Address: 5-13-15 Ginza, Chuo City | Tel: +81-3-6226-5131
*Check-in: 15:00 / Check-out: 11:00
*Breakfast included.
https://www.gardenhotels.co.jp/ginza-gochome/eng/

Monday, October 19

08:20 Meet in Lobby to travel to The Yomiuri Shimbun Headquarters (HQ)

DRAFT

09:00-10:30 **Japan's View of Asia, the World, and US-Japan Relations** (1.5 hrs.)
Experts from two leading Japanese media organizations will discuss key issues of concern to the Japanese government and the public regarding developments in Asia and around the world, and how Japan's domestic politics and opinions are shaping its foreign and security policies.

Speakers: **Mr. Hiroyuki Akita**, Commentator, *The Nikkei*
Ms. Aya Igarashi, Deputy Chair of the Editorial Board, *The Yomiuri Shimbun*

Location: The Yomiuri Shimbun HQ (1-7-1 Otemachi, Chiyoda City)

11:00-12:00 **Briefing: Japan's AI Policy** (1 hr.)
The group will visit Japan's Cabinet Office, a central government agency that supports the Prime Minister and her Cabinet by coordinating policy across Japan's ministries and agencies and overseeing major cross-cutting policy areas such as economic policy, science and technology, disaster management, and AI. Staffers will receive a briefing on the key features of the AI Basic Plan approved in December 2025, implementation progress and challenges, and areas of US-Japan collaboration.

Speakers: AI Policy Promotion Office representatives, Bureau of Science, Technology and Innovation

Location: Cabinet Office (1 Chome-6-1 Nagatachō, Chiyoda city)

12:30-14:00 **Lunch Discussion on Japan's Science & Technology Agency (JST)** (1 hr.)
The group will meet with two top leaders shaping Japan's national S&T policy to discuss key policy developments around emerging technologies and areas for US-Japan collaboration, followed by Q&A and discussion.

Speakers: **Dr. Kazuhito Hashimoto**, President, JST; Chief Science and Technology Advisor to the Cabinet, Cabinet Secretariat of Japan
Dr. Keisuke Okamura, Director, Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, Cabinet Office
Ms. Kana Asano, Director, Office for International Science and Technology Policy and Information Study

Location: Okiagari Koboshi (1-16-8 Toranomon, Chiyoda-Ku, Iijima building, B1) **Japanese cuisine*

14:30-15:30 **Meeting TBD**
Speakers: TBD

Location: TBD

15:45 Meet in the Lobby of the 2nd Lower House Diet Members' Bldg. (passes provided)

16:00-17:00 **Roundtable Discussion: "Democracy and US-Japan Cooperation in the Age of AI: Addressing Risks and Strengthening Governance"** (1 hr.)

DRAFT

Participants will exchange views with 2-4 Diet members on the impact of AI on politics, elections, and policymaking in Japan and the United States; the risks AI poses to democratic governance; and areas for US-Japan cooperation to address those risks and harness AI to strengthen democracy. The meeting is organized with JCIE USA's sister organization, JCIE Japan, which helped facilitate and launch the "Caucus for Universal Values in the Indo-Pacific" in the National Diet in May 2025. The caucus aims to strengthen universal values including democracy, human rights, and the rule of law through cooperation with counterparts and democratic actors elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific region.

Participants: **Hon. Hiroe Makiyama** (Constitutional Democratic Party, House of Councillors); **Hon. Yuya Mineshima** (Team Mirai , House of Representatives); **Hon. Jun Mukoyama** (LDP, House of Representatives); and **Hon. Akira Hirabayshi** (Komeito, House of Representatives). Moderated by **Ryo Sahashi**
**Two representatives from the Japan-US Friendship Commission JUSFC) will be joining the meeting*

Location: 2nd Lower House Members Bldg. Floor B1 Room #10

17:15-17:45 **Courtesy Visit to Hon. Akihisa Shiozaki on Legislative Priorities on AI** (30 min.) *TBD
Participants will have a discussion with Hon. Akihisa Shiozaki, State Minister for Digital Transformation and AI, and member of Japan's House of Representatives from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), to learn about key governmental developments on AI in Japan. Shiozaki has also served in additional leadership roles such as executive director for LDP's AI and Web3 project teams.

Location: 1st Lower House Diet Member's Office Building Room 1102 (2 2-1 Nagatachō, Chiyoda City)

19:00 ~ Dinner on your own / free time

<u>Tuesday, October 20</u>

08:00 Meet in Lobby

08:30-09:30 **Meeting on Technology and AI in Health in an Aging Society** (1 hr.)
Participants will visit BS Code, a Japanese start-up company that focuses on addressing the challenges of Japan's aging society including labor shortage and transfer of Japan's "master craftsmanship" to the future generation by utilizing cutting-edge AI technology and smart glasses. Participants will have hands-on experience with their products.

Speakers: TBD

Location: 7F Fukuda Building West, 2-11-3 Akasaka, Minato-ku

9:45-11:00 Meeting TBD

DRAFT

11:30-13:00 **Lunch Meeting with Sakana AI** (1.5 hrs.)

The group will meet with a defense expert from Sakana AI, one of Japan's leading AI start-ups established in 2023, to learn about their history of quick growth in the Japanese start-up eco-system, their business areas, and challenges and opportunities in their defense-related projects.

Speaker: **Ms. Saki Kikuchi**, Project Manager, Sakana AI Defense Dept.

Location: 22nd floor Azabudai Hills Mori JP Tower in Minato-ku

13:30-14:30 **Roundtable Discussion with Japanese Business Leaders** (1 hr.)

The discussion will be with a group of Japanese business leaders who are members of the International Strategy Working Group (WG) on AI and the Digital Economy & the AI Utilization Strategy Task Force at Japanese Business Federation. Staffers are expected to introduce AI-related developments on the Hill under the member/committee they serve, including achievements, ongoing initiatives, and current priorities. The Japanese side will in turn discuss the current state of AI adoption by Japanese companies and the challenges they face; their perspectives on Japan's AI policies and plans, including expectations for private companies; and how US-Japan cooperation can be further promoted.
With simultaneous interpretation.

Participants: Members of the International Strategy WG on AI and the Digital Economy & AI Utilization Strategy Task Force, Japanese Business Federation (*Keidanren)*

Location: Keidanren Kaikan (1-3-2, Otemachi, Chiyoda City)

15:00-17:00 **Roundtable Discussion with Future Leaders from the Matsushita Institute of Government and Management** (2 hrs.)

Staffers will gather with a group of students at the Institute, which was founded by the Panasonic founder to provide leadership development education for people who want to shape society, government, business, or other institutions. Alumni include the current Prime Minister of Japan, Sanae Takaichi. Participants will exchange views on three topics: domestic political/economic challenges in the US and Japan; AI policy developments in the US; and security challenges in East Asia and expectations for the US-Japan alliance.
With simultaneous interpretation.

Participants: 6-10 students of the Institute

Location: Room 503 (5th Floor), Meisan Tameike Bldg.
Vision Center Tameike-Sanno (1-1-12 Akasaka, Minato City)

17:45:18:30 **Meeting TBD**

19:00-20:30 **Dinner Discussion with Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)**

DRAFT

on Japan's Space Policy and US-Japan Space Cooperation (1.5 hrs.)
A director managing international cooperation at Japan's national space agency, JAXA, will offer a dinner briefing on recent developments in Japan's space programs, technology, and US-Japan cooperation.
Speaker: **Mr. Takehiro Nakamura**, Manager, Research and Analysis Division, JAXA + 1 other representative
Location: Restaurant TBC (Akasaka Tsutsui)

20:30 Return to hotel

Pack for two nights and prepare to check out next morning.

Wednesday, October 21 **Travel to Toyama in the evening*

08:00 **Check out of hotel and load bags onto minibus**

09:45 Arrive at Tokyo Station (meet in parking area outside Nihonbashi exit by 9:55)

10:00-11:30 **Briefing & Tour of General Control Center (GCC) & "7-Minute Miracle": Central Japan Railway** (1.5 hrs.)
JR Central representatives will brief the group on the process and technologies behind-the-scenes of Japan's bullet train (shinkansen) operations through a special tour of the General Control Center and the highly synchronized and rapid cleaning process totaling 7 minutes during the 12-minute stop.
Speakers: TBD
Location: Tokyo Station

12:00-13:30 **Lunch Discussion TBD** (1.5 hrs.)
Speakers: TBD
Location: TBD

14:00-15:00 **USG Perspectives on the US-Japan Alliance** (1 hr.)
The staffers will receive a briefing on the state of US-Japan relations from the perspective of US Embassy staff on-the-ground, including current priorities, challenges, and opportunities to strengthen the US-Japan security alliance.
**Please bring your passport. Electronic devices are not permitted in the building, and you will be asked to leave such devices at the security check point.*
Speakers: TBD
Location: US Embassy in Tokyo

15:30-16:30 **Briefing on Industrial Policy and Economic Security** (1 hr.)
The briefing will cover three topics: 1) Key features of Japan's industrial policy including strategy on physical AI; 2) challenges and measures to strengthen

DRAFT

Japan's economic security; and challenges and opportunities for US-Japan cooperation to strengthen economic security.

Speakers: **IKAI Yuji**, Director, Office of International Affairs, Commerce and Information Policy Bureau, METI
TAKAGI Mika, Director, Supply Chain Resilience Policy Office, Manufacturing Industries Bureau, METI
SATO Yoshiharu, Director, Office of International Affairs for Economic Security, Trade and Economic Security Bureau, METI
AOYAGI Asako, Director, Trade and Investment of Americas Division, Trade Policy Bureau, METI
NUMATA Haruna, Americas Division, Trade Policy Bureau, METI

Location: Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI)

17:00-17:30 Travel to Tokyo Station (30 min.)

17:30-18:30 Arrive at Tokyo Station; Purchase dinner at station (1 hr.)

19:04 Depart from Tokyo Station by Hokuriku Shinkansen (Hakutaka 575) (2 hrs.+)

21:52 Arrive in Toyama

22:30 Check in at Hotel Vischio Toyama

Accommodation
Hotel Vischio Toyama
Address: 1-231 Meirincho, Toyama, 930-0001 | Tel: +81-76-464-6639
*Check-in: 15:00 / Check-out: until 11:00
*Breakfast included
https://www.hotelvischio-toyama.com/en/

Thursday, October 22 **In Toyama all day*

TBD Meet in Lobby

09:15-09:45 Courtesy Visit to Toyama Prefectural Government (30 min.)
The group will meet with Deputy Governor Keiko Nishi to learn about the prefectural government's vision for Toyama's future, its current priorities and challenges, demographic shifts, impact of natural disasters, connections to the United States, etc.

Speakers: **Hon. Keiko Nishi**, Deputy Governor

Location: Toyama Prefectural Government (1-7 Shinsogawa, Toyama City)

10:00-10:30 Meeting with Toyama City Government (30 min.)

DRAFT

Toyama city officials will discuss its compact city strategy centered on public transportation, i.e. its light rail system, and how their innovative city planning is intended to meet the needs of their rapidly aging population.

Speaker: **Hon. Kumiko Inaba**, Deputy Mayor, Toyama City

Location: Toyama City Hall (7-38 Shinsakura-machi, Toyama City)

10:30-11:15 **Travel on Toyama Chihou Railway Toyamako & Light Rail Briefing** (30 min.)
A Toyama city official or JCIE staff member will explain Toyama's light rail system, which was covered during the morning meetings, during this hands-on opportunity to experience the city's transit system designed to address the needs of its aging population.

Speaker: Toyama City official / JCIE staff

11:15-13:00 **Iwase Tour & Lunch** (1.5 hrs.)
The group will visit Iwase, a historic port town located along the Sea of Japan. JCIE staff will brief participants about its influential role in the cargo ship trade during the Edo and Meiji periods and ways the area's local traditions and history are being intentionally preserved as the region rapidly modernizes.

Speakers: JCIE staff

13:00-14:00 Travel to Nanto City (1 hr.)

14:00-14:20 **Courtesy Visit & Discussion: Nanto City Government** (20 min.)
The group will visit Nanto City, where the new data centers will be constructed, to receive a briefing on the plan, including its expected impact on the local economy and community and how the plan is received by the local public.

Speaker: **Hon. Mikio Tanaka**, Mayor, Nanto City

Location: 1550 Araki, Nanto City

14:20-14:40 Travel to Data Center Construction Site (20 min.)

14:40-15:00 **Visit to Nanto City Data Center Construction Site** (20 min.)
The group will visit the construction site of the GigaStream Toyama data center, which is being built as one of the three largest data center hubs in Japan, to better understand the scale of the project ahead of meetings with the city government to discuss the impact of the data center on the community.
**note: you will need to wear hard hats, as the site is under construction.*

15:00-15:10 Travel to Play Earth Park/Sakuragaike Site

15:10-15:50 **Visit to Sakuragaike and Introduction of Goldwin Inc's "Play Earth Park Nurturing Forest" Goldwin, Inc.** (40 min.)
The group will learn about the activities of Goldwin, a prominent Japanese outdoor apparel company founded in 1950 as the Tsuzawa Knit Fabric Factory in Oyabe City, which owns the rights to brands including North Face and Helly

DRAFT

Hansen in Japan. Prior to a formal meeting with Goldwin staff, they will visit the site of Goldwin's "Play Earth Park Naturing Forest," a nature-themed inter-generational playground, as part of the company's efforts to promote environmental sustainability.

Speakers: Goldwin Staff (TBC)

Location: Sakuragaike

15:50-16:10 Travel from Sakuragaike to Goldwin Offices

16:10-16:50 Meeting with Goldwin. Inc (40 min.)
Following the site visit to Goldwin's "Play Earth Park" construction site, the group will have a debrief session at Goldwin's offices to discuss the details of their project, the reasons for Goldwin's investments in Nanto City, and to learn about the manufacturing side of their business.

Speakers: Goldwin Staff (TBC)

Location: Goldwin Office (210 Kiyosawa, Oyabe, Toyama)

16:50-17:50 Return to Toyama City (1 hr.)

18:00-18:45 Break

19:00-21:00 **Group Dinner Discussion with Toyama *Kenjinkai* Representative** (2 hrs.)
An ambassador for Toyama Kenjinkai, a social organization formed by expatriates to maintain connections to their home region while living abroad, will discuss the role of kenjinkai and Toyama's efforts to transform into an internationally focused city aiming to attract global business and partnerships.

Speaker: **Ms. Chiyo Kobayashi,** Toyama Kenjinkai representative

Location: Gonbei Sha restaurant (Urban Place B1, 18-7 Ushijimacho, Toyama)

Friday, October 23

08:00 Check out of hotel with luggage (load luggage into minibus)

08:30 Meet in Lobby

09:15-10:15 Meeting with TIS INTEC (TISI) (1 hr.)
The group will receive a briefing on the business challenges and opportunities of one of Japan's leading IT services companies formed through a merger of Toyo Information Systems and INTEC, which was originally established in 1964 as the Toyama Computer Center. The briefing will also address the significance of conducting business in Toyama.

Speakers: TBD

Location: TISI (Tower 11, Floor 20-22, 5-5 Ushijimashinmachi, Toyama)

DRAFT

10:15-10:30 Travel to Toyama station; pick up lunch

11:11-13:20 Depart Toyama Station on Hokuriku Shinkansen (Kagayaki 528) (2+ hrs.)

Survey completion *(1 hr.)*
Participants will fill out a survey to reflect on the entire trip and provide feedback on individual meetings and activities as well as how the trip has impacted their understanding of and interest in US-Japan relations. The survey will include multiple-choice and open-ended questions requiring written responses and is estimated to take 1 hr. to complete.

***Free lunch either on the train or around Tokyo Station*

14:00-15:30 Discussion with Research Institute for Advanced Innovation and GeoStrategy (RAIS) Scholars (1.5 hrs.)
The group will meet with scholars of a new Japanese think tank established in April 2026 to address the growing intersection of advanced technology and national security and bridge the gap between conventional military strategy and emerging innovations such as AI, quantum computing, cybersecurity, and biotechnology. The think tank is led by two co-directors who are leading Japanese scholars at Keio University, including Professor Tomoyuki Furutani and Professor Ken Jimbo.

Participants: **Mr. Tomoyuki Furutani**, Professor, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University + 3-5 researchers.

Location: International House of Japan (5-11-16 Roppongi, Minato-ku)

16:15-16:45 Meeting with the Ministry of Defense
Participants will exchange views on cyber security challenges facing the United States and Japan, and areas where the two countries can collaborate further.

Participants: **Mr. ARA Shimpei**, Director, Cyber Buildup and Planning Division, Bureau of Defense Buildup Planning; **Mr. YOSHIDA Roran**, Director, Minister's Secretariat

Location: Ministry of Defense (5-1 Honmura-cho, Ichigaya, Shinjuku-ku)

17:30 Quick check in at hotel

18:15 Arrive at Mt. Fuji Dialogue Reception

18:30-19:00 Mt. Fuji Dialogue Welcome Reception (30 min.)
The group will attend an invitation-only reception as part of the "Mt. Fuji Dialogue," a premier annual gathering for top leaders in the United States and Japan designed to strengthen US-Japan relations and is co-hosted by Japan Center for Economic Research and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Staffers will have an opportunity to speak to leaders from the Diet, government ministries, think tanks/universities, businesses, and the media.

DRAFT

Location: Otemachi One 3F, 1-2-1 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0004

19:00-19:30 Travel to Gonpachi via Taxi (typically 8-20 minutes)

19:30-21:00 Wrap-Up Meeting (2 hrs.)
JCIE USA will facilitate a discussion requesting each staffer to reflect on their experiences in Japan and identify key themes and lessons learned on Japan and US-Japan relations, as well as the expected impact of their new knowledge.

Location: Gonpachi (1 Chome-13-11 Nishiazabu, Minato City, Tokyo 106-0031, Japan)

00:30 Molly Martin departs Haneda Airport (UA 7982) arriving in US same day.

Saturday, October 24 **Travel Day*

10:20 Kate Schisler departs Haneda Airport (UA 7942) arriving in US same day.

15:45 Will Burns, Alan McQuinn, Nic Oliver, Ariana Orne depart Haneda Airport (UA 804) arriving in US same day.

DRAFT