

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT For Immediate Release

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Takahashi Youth Fellows to Visit Japan

SAN FRANCISCO (July 11, 2010) – The Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program (Takahashi Fellows Program) organized by the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) and sponsored by The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation, with additional support from the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco, Japan Airlines and Kintetsu International Travel, will be sending ten youth participants to Japan for its inaugural program this summer.

The Takahashi Fellows Program was created as a follow-up, after 13 successful years of the Shinzen Nikkei Youth Goodwill Program. The structure of this new program is based on the best practices, experiences, opportunities and activities of the Shinzen Program, but focuses more on the leadership and civic development of youth to build a strong background and foundation for their future endeavors. The Takahashi Fellows Program helps develop a deeper understanding and awareness of Japan, its culture and the people as an international citizen ambassador, develops lifelong leadership and civic skills, provides youth with the opportunity to visit Japan and have meaningful exchanges with their peers and develops an appreciation and understanding of citizen-action and involvement through community and international volunteerism. Paul Osaki, Executive Director of the JCCCNC, mentions, “This program is invaluable in not only helping the youth in our Japanese American community develop and define their identity, but to also create future leaders for the community.”

The ten youth participants selected to participate as 2011 Takahashi Fellows have been preparing diligently over the course of five intensive workshops to prepare for their trip.



These young ambassadors have participated in Japanese culture and language workshops; organized a luncheon fundraiser to support scholarships for participants; about Japan and its history through a true-story film on Hiroshima before and during WWII; and team-building activities, including a six hour ropes course session at Ft. Miley. They have taken command of the planning of many of their own activities for the workshops helping to build their leadership skills. The Takahashi Fellows have had to apply

the new planning skills to every activity and event, and as a result of the process they have learned the importance of setting goals, meeting objectives and being accountable for their actions. With these new found skills, they have planned intercultural activities in Osaka, Kobe and a special discussion with a representative of the Ministry Of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo. Other highlights of the trip include a tour the Japanese National Diet, a visit the Kodomo Home orphanage and a stay at Kisen Wai Wai Mura, where they will have the opportunity to experience traditional Japanese village life farming, cooking, sleeping and making their own chopsticks and slippers.



The 2011 Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship

Program Itinerary:

Tuesday, July 19	Depart San Francisco
Wednesday, July 20	Arrive in Japan
Thursday, July 21	Cultural Walks - Asakusa / Ryogoku-Tokyo Edo Museum Cultural Activity - Akihabara
Friday, July 22	Visit and Tour of Tokyo University Meeting and Discussion at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tour of the National Diet

Saturday, July 23	<p>“Cool Japan” Activity</p> <p>Shinkansen to Osaka</p> <p>Lunch in Namba</p> <p>Stay at Kisen Waiwai Mura – traditional farming village</p>
Sunday, July 24	<p>Activities and Meals at Kisen Waiwai Mura (cooking, farming, crafts)</p>
Monday, July 25	<p>Depart Kisen Waiwai Mura</p> <p>Tour Osaka Castle and Visit Umeda Area</p> <p>Arrive in Kobe</p> <p>Meet Host Families (four nights with host family)</p>
Tuesday, July 26	<p>Visit Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution (Earthquake Museum)</p> <p>Visit Hyogo International High School</p> <p>Cultural Activities – Ikebana, Tea Ceremony, Karate</p>
Wednesday, July 27	<p>Visit Nagata Kodomo Home (orphanage)</p> <p>Activities and Lunch</p>
Thursday, July 28	<p>Free Day with Host Family</p>
Friday, July 29	<p>Visit Kobe City College of Technology</p> <p>Intercultural Activities, Tour and Lunch</p> <p>Takahashi Program Graduation, Kobe YMCA</p>
Saturday, July 30	<p>Tour Kyoto – Kinkakuji, Kiyomizudera</p> <p>Visit International Manga Museum</p>
Sunday, July 31	<p>Visit Arashiyama - Iwatayama Monkey Park/Bamboo Forest</p> <p>Depart Japan for San Francisco</p>

The Takahashi Fellow will be documenting their trip through Journal writing, photos and videos that they hope to send while they are in Japan, as well as when they return.

About the 2011 Takahashi Fellows

Mina Han- A 17 year old Junior at University High School in San Francisco. She looks forward to expanding her knowledge of Japan, and the Japanese American Community.

Owen Iwamasa- A 16 year old Junior at George Washington High School in San Francisco. Owen looks forward to improving his knowledge of Japan, and improving as a person.

Angeline Junaedy- A 16 year old Junior at Abraham Lincoln High School in San Francisco. She looks forward to learning more about the Japanese American community, and she wants to better herself through the experiences in Japan.

Grant Kawahatsu- A 17 year old Senior at San Francisco's Stuart Hall High School. He looks forward to meeting other community minded youth, and to share his experiences in Japan once he comes back.

Yumi Kobayashi- A 14 year old Freshman at Albany High School. She hopes to learn more about Japanese culture, and learn about Japanese teenagers.

Kristen Koyama- A 16 year old Junior at Oakland Technical High School. She wants to learn more about her Japanese heritage and looks forward to going to the Kodama Orphanage home.

Danny Souza- A 15 year old sophomore at Palma High School in Hollister. He wants to get in touch with his Japanese culture, and get the full experience in Japan.

Whitney Tamaki- A 16 year old Junior at Albany High School. She wants to further develop her leadership skills and looks forward to building international relationships.

Colin Wong- A 17 year old Senior at Campolindo High School in Moraga. He is looking forward to the cultural exchanges with peers in Japan and continuing to develop his leadership skills.

Laura Kim Yee- A 17 year old Senior at Skyline High School in Oakland. She would like to learn and explore Japanese culture through this first-hand experience.

Scholarship Awardees

Two memorial scholarships were made available by JCCCNC members to support two students who might not have been able to participate without their support - Mr. Kahn Yamada, in memory of his wife Florence "Flo" Kono Yamada, and, the Roy Y. Ashizawa Family, his wife Fumi, daughter Joyce-Ashizawa-Yee, her husband, Bradley Yee and grandson, Wesley. The Florence "Flo" Kono Yamada Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Angeline Junaedy, who like Flo has a vibrant personality and strong passion

for the civic responsibility in the community. Yumi Kobayashi was awarded the Roy Y. Ashizawa Memorial Scholarship for her great interest in going to Japan to learn, see, smell, feel and taste Japanese culture and art first-hand, and then return to share her experience with others.



Front: (L to R): Diane Matsuda, Takahashi Program Advisor; Consul General Inomata; Mrs. Martha Suzuki, The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation; Mrs. Inomata; Paul Osaki, Executive Director, JCCCNC Middle: Kristen Koyama; Laura Yee; Mina Han; Angeline Junaedy; Yumi Kobayashi Top: Lori Matoba, Deputy Director, JCCCNC; Grant Kawahatsu; Whitney Tamaki; Danny Souza; Owen Iwamasa; Ryan Kimura, Programs Director, JCCCNC Missing Colin Wong

On Saturday, July 9th, the Takahashi Fellows and their family members attended a send off reception hosted by the Consul General of Japan, Hiroshi Inomata and his wife at his official residence. Consul General Inomata stressed in his speech to the Takahashi Fellows that they “should remember the three ‘L’s’ while they are in Japan - look, listen and learn; two ‘M’s’ – make friends and meet people,” so when they come back they should

“share their experiences and stay in touch.” Whitney Tamaki, on behalf of the Takahashi Fellows, mentioned in her speech, how they “individually and as a group have grown,” adding, “that many of them are looking forward to connecting with their Japanese roots and experiencing Japan with their own eyes.” She ended with “We thank you Mrs. Suzuki and your sister (Mrs. Takahashi, who was not in attendance), for sponsoring this trip.” In appreciation for their support, the Fellows created special lanterns to be sent to Hiroshima for their annual lantern floating ceremony on August 6, for Consul General Inomata, as well as special guest Martha Suzuki and her sister, Tomoye Takahashi.

The Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program would not be possible without the generous support provided by The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation, which was established in 1985 to further develop and encourage an understanding and appreciation of Japanese culture, values and the arts, as well as supporting activities in the Japanese American community that promote a better understanding of Japanese American history, its challenges and its future. “The Takahashi Foundation, Tomoye Takahashi and Martha Suzuki have been long-time supporters of the JCCCNC youth international goodwill exchange programs and we can not thank them enough for the opportunity these programs have provided for the youth in our community to learn about their Japanese culture, heritage and traditions while strengthening the bonds between the United States and Japan,” states Donna Kimura, JCCCNC Board Member and Takahashi Program Advisor. The JCCCNC also appreciates the support from the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco, especially Consul General Inomata along with travel partners Japan Airlines and Kintetsu International Travel.

For more information on the Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program, please contact Lori Matoba at the JCCCNC at (415) 567-5505.

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About JCCCNC

Envisioned by the Japanese American community, JCCCNC will be an everlasting foundation of our Japanese American ancestry, cultural heritage, histories and traditions. The JCCCNC strives to meet the evolving needs of the Japanese American community through programs, affordable services and administrative support and facilities for other local service organizations. The JCCCNC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community center based in San Francisco.