



## 2017 TOMODACHI-MITSUI & CO. LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

*"Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership"*

### OVERVIEW

The TOMODACHI-Mitsui & Co. Leadership Program contributes to building a "TOMODACHI generation" of creative thinkers and driven doers who are invested in the future of U.S.-Japan relations, understand and appreciate cultural differences, and possess the globally-oriented skills and mindset needed to thrive and make a difference.

Generously funded by Mitsui & Co., Ltd., and entering its fifth year, the exchange program provides participants with unique access to leaders in the U.S.-Japan arena, and the opportunity to broaden their perspectives to enhance work or initiatives in their professional fields. Selected through a competitive process, participants represent geographic and professional diversity.



### GOALS

- Create a professional network among rising business and government leaders in Japan and the United States.
- Motivate young American and Japanese leaders to engage in and contribute to furthering U.S.-Japan relations.
- Raise awareness of important policies and issues relevant to the United States and Japan among next generation leaders in both countries.



## CONCEPT

Ten (10) Americans and ten (10) Japanese young professionals from a mix of the public or private sectors will travel to each other's country for one week to engage as a group and meet with established and up-and-coming leaders from business and government.

The American delegation will travel to Iwate Prefecture and Tokyo, and the Japanese delegation will travel to Houston, Texas and Washington, D.C.

Guided by the 2017 program theme, "Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership," the delegations will explore innovation, new technology, and industrial development in the context of U.S.-Japan relations.

Government officials, business executives, non-profit leaders, and academics will share their experiences and insights during the program. Through interactive and engaging sessions, participants will discuss issues, formulate new ideas together, and nurture lifelong friendships. The trip also enables delegates to gain greater understanding of multicultural America and the unique qualities of Japanese society, further strengthening the bridge between these two cultures.



## SCHEDULE (all dates for 2017)

- Orientation (attendance is mandatory)  
American delegation: June 9-10, Chicago  
Japanese delegation: July 6-8, Tokyo
  - Official Trip (dates inclusive of travel)  
American delegation: June 30 - July 8, Tokyo and Iwate Prefecture  
Japanese delegation: September 10-18, Houston, Texas and Washington, DC
- Transportation, hotel, and meals will all be provided.
  - Delegates are required to attend all meetings and events during the trip.
  - As a rule, spouses, family members, and friends are not permitted to accompany delegates during the official trip.

As time/schedules permit, participants from both delegations will meet during their respective trips to the other country and may also join other TOMODACHI Initiative activities in progress. Selected individuals may participate as speakers or attendees at TOMODACHI, U.S.-Japan Council, or Mitsui & Co., Ltd. events.

Delegates will be encouraged to remain connected with each other and engaged in strengthening U.S.-Japan relations following their participation in this program.

## ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

- Demonstrated leadership potential
- Professional accomplishments in career field
- Connection to U.S.-Japan activities (preferably including through profession)
- Young professional (generally up to target age 35)
- English proficiency

Candidates who do not meet all of the above criteria may still be considered if they demonstrate outstanding qualifications.

The U.S.-Japan Council will make final selection of a diverse set of delegates, taking into consideration applications and recommendations made by various government, private and corporate advisors.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

**AMERICAN DELEGATION: THURSDAY, APRIL 13**  
**JAPANESE DELEGATION: THURSDAY, APRIL 20**

*For further information about the TOMODACHI-Mitsui & Co. Leadership Program or questions about the application process, please contact either Noriko Litwin at [nlitwin@wls2.com](mailto:nlitwin@wls2.com) or Wes Stockstill at [wstockstill@wls2.com](mailto:wstockstill@wls2.com).*



## OVERVIEW OF SPONSORS



The TOMODACHI Initiative is a public-private partnership between the U.S.-Japan Council and the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Born out of support for Japan's recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake, TOMODACHI invests in the next generation of Japanese and American leaders through educational and cultural exchanges as well as leadership programs. The initiative seeks to foster a "TOMODACHI Generation" of young American and Japanese leaders who are committed to and engaged in strengthening U.S.-Japan relations, appreciate each other's countries and cultures, and possess the global skills and mindsets needed to contribute to and thrive in a more cooperative, prosperous, and secure world. Visit us at [www.tomodachi.org](http://www.tomodachi.org)



MITSUI & CO.

**Mitsui** (Mitsui & Co., Ltd.) is one of the most diversified and comprehensive trading, investment, and service enterprises in the world, with 138 offices in 65 countries/regions as of January 2017. Utilizing the global operating locations, network and information resources, Mitsui is developing a wide range of businesses in six core areas: Metals, Machinery & Infrastructure, Chemicals, Energy, Lifestyle, and Innovation & Corporate Development (logistics, insurance, finance, and information technology-related projects). For more information, visit [www.mitsui.com/jp/en](http://www.mitsui.com/jp/en).



The **U.S.-Japan Council** is a 501(c) 3 non-profit educational organization that contributes to strengthening U.S.-Japan relations by bringing together diverse leadership, engaging stakeholders, and exploring issues that benefit communities, businesses and government entities on both sides of the Pacific. The Council promotes people-to-people relations as crucial to a strong U.S.-Japan relationship. Recognizing the catalytic role that Japanese Americans play in strengthening U.S.-Japan relations, the Council cultivates a national network of Japanese. In 2012, the U.S.-Japan Council (Japan) was created to support the administration of the TOMODACHI Initiative. The U.S.-Japan Council maintains an office in Tokyo, Japan. For more information about the U.S.-Japan Council, visit [www.usjapancouncil.org](http://www.usjapancouncil.org).

## REFLECTIONS FROM ALUMNI:



*“Personally, the TOMODACHI – Mitsui & Co. Leadership Program definitely revived and strengthened my interest in Japan and opened my eyes to current issues both in Japan and the US-Japan relationship. I will plan to take up my Japanese language studies once more, keep current on news regarding Japan, stay connected to the US-Japan Council and my fellow delegates, and promote future TOMODACHI programs to my network. I feel incredibly grateful to have had this opportunity, and hope that the program continues for years to come!”* **Kaitlyn Ramirez – Boston, MA**

*“ Through participation in the TOMODACHI-Mitsui & Co. Leadership Program, I aim to become a world-changing community organizer within the next 10 years by creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem in Kamaishi with the U.S-Japan TOMODACHI network, sharing lessons learned from Kamaishi to other regions.”*

**Kazunori Ishii – Iwate)**

