Introduction

Building the TOMODACHI Generation is an intensive, two-week program designed for Japanese students with an interest in leadership training, cross-cultural exchange, and entrepreneurial approaches to addressing social challenges.

The program is a partnership between The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars (TWC), in Washington, D.C. and the U.S.-Japan Research Institute (USJI), and is administered by TWC. The program is funded by TOMODACHI’s Fund for Exchanges, generously supported by Toyota Motor Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation, and Hitachi, Ltd. as well as Morgan Stanley.

The program engages 20 Japanese students and 15 U.S. students, and is an outstanding opportunity to:

• Understand the concept of civil society, its potential to address social issues, as well as the role and function of civil society in the U.S. and Japan.
• Enhance teamwork and collaboration skills by working as part of an international team (U.S. and Japanese) and developing an initiative or project that uses cross-sector partnerships to support the long-term recovery of the Tohoku region and to strengthen civil society.
• Strengthen key global skills such as cross-cultural understanding, leadership, public speaking, social responsibility, innovation, problem-solving, critical thinking, communication and networking skills through participation in guided teambuilding exercises, discussions, workshops, a capstone project and other program activities.

Program Outline

Week 1 Programming

The first week will focus on the concept and role of civil society—providing a framework for understanding the impact of cross-sector collaborations and will include:

• Understanding the Concept of Civil Society
• Understanding the Relationship between Civil Society and its Stakeholders
• Understanding Civil Society Infrastructure
• Understanding the Role and Impact of Effective Communication in Civil Society

Weekend Leadership Retreat

The first week of learning will be followed by a three-day weekend retreat engaging U.S. and Japanese students in small, international teams and will include:

• Team and leadership building through an outdoor adventure course with U.S. counterparts
• Understanding Civil Society in Action
• Collaborating on a civil society initiative or project that addresses a specific aspect of the long-term challenges faced by residents of the Tohoku region

Week 2 Programming

The second week of programming will focus on learning lessons from organizations operating within the civil society framework and the value of global skills and will include:

• Understanding Leadership Styles and the Importance of Global Skills and Networking
• Strengthening Individual Leadership and Goal-Setting Skills
• Understanding My Role as a TOMODACHI Generation Leader
• Strengthening Public Speaking Skills

The final day of the program will include a presentation of each international team’s civil society projects in a session during USJI Week.
About The Washington Center

The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars is an independent, nonprofit organization serving hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States and other countries by providing selected students with challenging opportunities to train and learn in Washington, D.C. The largest program of its kind, The Washington Center has more than 50,000 alumni who agree that their TWC experience helped them develop job skills, discover their passion, make invaluable professional and personal connections, gain access, set a plan for the future, and strengthen their desire to give back to their communities. Many of the alumni are in leadership positions in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors of the U.S. and around the world. To learn more, visit www.twc.edu

How to Apply
Documents to submit:
• Program Application/Statement of Purpose in English (mandatory, format 1)
• English Resume or C.V. (mandatory, free format, size A4)
• Recommendations (optional, especially if the recommendations show the applicant’s connection to relief efforts in Tohoku, free format, size A4)
*Interested candidates must consult with their campus liaison for details and deadlines.

Cost of Participation

The Building the TOMODACHI Generation program will cover the cost of the student’s flight to and from Washington, D.C., basic traveler’s insurance, lodging, food, and transportation around Washington. Each student will share a room with one other student in a hotel conveniently located near The Washington Center. Participants need to bring personal spending money. They should plan to spend approximately $50 USD per week on snacks, personal items and entertainment.

Eligibility Requirements

• The applicant must be a full-time undergraduate or graduate student.
• Students from all majors may apply.
• The applicant must be enrolled in the university during the program. Applicants who will be study-abroad students during the time of the program are not eligible.
• Demonstrated desire to contribute to reconstruction of the Tohoku region is a must.
• The applicant must have Japanese citizenship.
• The applicant must have a current passport.

About the TOMODACHI Initiative

The TOMODACHI Initiative is a public-private partnership, born out of support for Japan’s recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake that invests in the next generation of Japanese and American leaders through educational and cultural exchanges as well as leadership programs. In the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, the United States military and Japan Self-Defense Forces worked together successfully in Operation Tomodachi to provide immediate humanitarian relief to the Tohoku region. Building upon this cooperation and spirit of friendship, the United States and Japan launched the TOMODACHI Initiative. TOMODACHI is led by the United States Government and the U.S.-Japan Council, a tax-exempt non-profit organization, and is supported by the Government of Japan, corporations, organizations and individuals from the United States and Japan. To learn more, visit http://usjapantomodachi.org

About The U.S.-Japan Research Institute (USJI)

Established in 2009, the U.S.-Japan Research Institute (USJI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Washington, D.C., jointly operated by Doshisha University, Keio University, Kyoto University, Kyushu University, Ritsumeikan University, Sophia University, University of Tokyo, University of Tsukuba, and Waseda University. Our missions are centered on the development of the bilateral relationship between the United States and Japan, and include: conducting policy analysis and academic research; fostering the future generation of decision makers; and building a strong U.S.-Japanese local community. In order to achieve these missions, USJI holds events through the year, including seminars and lectures related to U.S.-Japan relations. USJI also strives to develop the future generation of policymakers in the bilateral relationship between the United States and Japan. To learn more, visit www.us-jpri.org/index.html

Program Dates:
February 13, 2016–February 29, 2016 (tentative)