

## Second Japan-U.S. High Level Policy Dialogue on Education

### JOINT STATEMENT

Mita Kaigisho, Tokyo

October 28, 2024

The Second Annual Japan-U.S. High Level Policy Dialogue on Education took place on October 28, 2024, in Tokyo. Deputy Assistant Secretary Camille Dawson of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and Senior Deputy Minister YANO Kazuhiko of Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), opened the Dialogue. The U.S. Department of State and MEXT (hereinafter referred to as "the two sides") are pleased to announce the official launch of the Mineta Ambassadors Program to expand student exchange between the United States and Japan. U.S. and Japanese representatives also committed to expanding education and research collaboration through greater student, faculty, and staff exchanges, as well as inter-university and university-private sector collaboration.

The High Level Policy Dialogue on Education is the outcome of the Memorandum of Cooperation in Education signed by U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and then-MEXT Minister NAGAOKA Keiko on May 21, 2023, in Hiroshima, Japan on the sidelines of the G7 Summit. Based on this memorandum, the first High Level Policy Dialogue on Education was held in Washington, D.C. in October 2023.

The U.S. Department of State's delegation to this year's High Level Policy Dialogue on Education was led by Camille Dawson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Press and Public Diplomacy, and Regional and Security Policy in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and Marianne Craven, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Academic Programs in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The U.S. delegation also included representatives from the U.S. Embassy in Japan. Japan's delegation included representatives from MEXT, MOFA and the Embassy of Japan in the United States.

The two sides exchanged views on current exchange activity, ongoing exchange programs, challenges, and opportunities for collaboration going forward. Both sides recognized the critical role played by the bilateral Japan-U.S. Educational Commission (JUSEC) through its stewardship of the Fulbright program and other initiatives.

The two sides welcomed achievements made by one or both sides following the 2023 High Level Policy Dialogue on Education and the Japanese Prime Minister's Official Visit to Washington in April 2024. Achievements are as follows:

- MEXT's commitment to expand student mobility through the Inter-University Exchange Project and a new scholarship program for Japanese doctoral students who aim to seek degrees in science-related fields at top universities, including in the United States;
- The U.S. Embassy's role in facilitating private-sector contributions of \$110 million to support new academic partnerships in Artificial Intelligence;
- The recruitment of the first Japanese STEM-focused Fulbright participants in more than 50 years;

- The widening of programs, when appropriate, to bolster trilateral, quadrilateral, and regional efforts;
- The launch of the first courses under an English Language Specialist project with Kumamoto University to support the university's new workforce development curriculum for semiconductor engineers;
- Successful bilateral collaboration on EducationUSA university fairs and other student-mobility efforts; and
- A Memorandum of Cooperation signed in April 2024 between the MOFA, MEXT and the U.S. Department of State to increase the number of Japanese language and/or culture specialists in the United States.

In the year to come, the officials concurred to:

- Officially launch the Mineta Ambassadors Program call for institutional proposals to expand high school- and university-level student exchange between the United States and Japan;
- Explore possible collaboration between the Mineta Ambassadors Program and Tobitate Study Abroad Initiative;
- Continue to promote student exchange through steady implementation of ongoing programs such as the Inter-University Exchange Project between U.S. and Japanese universities and scholarships;
- Highlight U.S.-Japan education cooperation and exchange opportunities on the world stage through EXPO 2025 in Osaka;
- Discuss U.S. participation in University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific;
- Increase opportunities for Japanese students to explore options to study in the United States through university fairs to take place in Japan;
- Support Japanese language study in the United States by strengthening pathways to promote Japanese language, and to create and expand opportunities for Japanese educators, Japanese language teachers, and/or Japanese specialists, including through the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program and Japanese language programs from the Japan Foundation, such as J-LEAP (Japanese-Language Education Assistant Program);
- Reaffirm the importance of cooperation on pursuing increased exchanges for K-12 Japanese language teaching in the United States, including enhanced opportunities for Japanese language teachers to build on their knowledge and skillsets via practical experience in the United States;
- Promote and educate stakeholders on the J-1 visa requirements for Japanese language teachers at the K-12 level to broaden exchange opportunities and foster greater participation in order to increase the number of Japanese language teachers at the K-12 level; which includes reviewing the applicability and requirements of the program;
- Follow up on the MOC signed on April 2024 by:
  - Disseminating information on the Japanese Specialist Program to designated sponsors and potential host schools in the United States
  - Encouraging designated sponsors to work with U.S. schools to expand language programs to include Japanese

- Steady implementation of the expanded Critical Language Scholarship Program to offer virtual Japanese language study for beginners in 2025, complementing overseas advanced study opportunities; and
- Explore approaches to researching transferability of Japanese teaching licenses to the United States.

Moving forward over the coming year, officials from the two sides will meet through a joint education working group to develop an action plan and corresponding lines of effort to advance bilateral education partnerships. The United States will host the next High Level Policy Dialogue on Education in 2025.

## **Participants**

### United States – Department of State

Camille Dawson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Press and Public Diplomacy, Regional and Security Policy, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs

Marianne Craven, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Academic Programs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Daniel Ernst, Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy Tokyo

A. Sunshine Ison, Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Tokyo

Sarah Belousov, Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Tokyo

Rei Yamazaki, Educational Outreach Country Coordinator, U.S. Embassy Tokyo

Tyler Partridge, Public Diplomacy Desk Officer, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs

Teresa Nichols, Academic Exchange Specialist, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

### Japan – MEXT

YANO Kazuhiko, Senior Deputy Minister

WATANABE Sonoko, Assistant Minister / Director-General for International Affairs

KITAYAMA Koji, Deputy Assistant Minister, International Affairs Division

KANESHIRO Taichi, Coordinator for Educational Reform

MIZUNO Toshiaki, Director, Office for International Cooperation Planning

KAMOSHITA Yuko, Senior Specialist, International Affairs Division

NAKANO Rimi, Director, International Education Division, Education Policy Bureau

OKAJIMA Miwa, Deputy Director, International Education Division, Education Policy Bureau

SATO Kuniaki, Director, International Affairs Division, Higher Education Bureau

TAKEDA Kuniko, Deputy Director, Higher Education Bureau

### Japan – MOFA

HARIMOTO Yukiko, Director, North America Exchange Division

NAKAMURA Yasunori, Deputy Director, North America Exchange Division

KIKUMA Shigeru, Principal Deputy Director, Cultural Affairs and Overseas Public Relations Division

SAKAMOTO Hideki, Deputy Director, Cultural Affairs and Overseas Public Relations Division

UEHARA Kotoko, Assistant Director, Exchange Programs Division

### Japan – Embassy of Japan

MIYAKE Fumito, Minister, Public Affairs Section

ANDO Hiroshi, Education Counsellor, Public Affairs Section