



JASC Journal

Winter 2012

After the Summer

JASCers turn roundtable discussion into program for Japanese youth

Every year JASCers work together in roundtables that often produce ideas and enthusiasm for solving problems. It is not every year that this enthusiasm is immediately turned in to working organizations. In Japan, a group of JASCers are taking what they created during JASC and building real programs that have an impact on Japanese youth. Ryosuke Kobayashi, who is currently a senior at Harvard University, and Naoki Katayama, who graduated from Keio University in September of 2012, are leading two summer programs that attempt to make a difference in the lives of Japanese high school students.

Ryosuke and Naoki met during the 62nd JASC (2010), where they were both members of the *Revitalizing Education roundtable*. Throughout the conference, members of the roundtable weighed the pros and cons of the Japanese and American educational systems and identified



A Roundtable discussion during the 64th JASC

both systems' biggest shortcomings. As their Final Forum project, members of the roundtable conceptualized an "ideal" summer school that made up for these shortcomings.

One of the major issues the conceptualized program sought to address was the isolation of Japanese youth. Japanese youth have received criticism for displaying an

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The International Student Conferences (ISC) Board of Directors receives presentations from this year's student leaders

JASC 65

Fall Meeting sets tone for 2013 meeting of the conference

On November 16th, the student leaders of the 65th JASC descended on Washington, D.C. for the annual Fall Meeting. Board members and student leaders met on Friday, November 16th to share updates about the 65th JASC, to be held in Japan this summer. Student leaders then spent the rest of the weekend planning conference content and coordinating their national recruiting effort.

To coincide with the meeting, ISC held an open house in their office where alumni, board members, supporters, and students were able to enjoy each others' company and discuss the upcoming JASC and KASC conferences.

JASC is set to travel to **Kyoto, Nagasaki, Iwate and Tokyo** from July 29th, 2012 to August 24th. The conference will convene in Kyoto where delegates will use the ancient city as a venue to question how different cultures can interact while still maintaining a unique identity. Environmental sustainability will also be a major focus of the site.

From Kyoto the delegation will travel to **Nagasaki** where focus will fall on the economy, as Nagasaki is

one of Japan's busiest industrial ports. With their visit coinciding with the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, delegates will also seek to view U.S.-Japan relations through the lens of history as they consider the legacy of the U.S. offensive in Japan.

The theme for the **Iwate** site is "recovery" in terms of culture, economy, infrastructure, psychological and societal well-being, and domestic and international reputation. In order to explore this theme, delegates will attend lectures concerning disaster preparation and reconstruction, learn about the importance of food and agriculture to Japan by visiting a farm, and peer into Iwate culture through a short homestay with families living in the region.

The conference will conclude in **Tokyo** where delegates will look back on their experience and ponder ways in which they might utilize their knowledge to benefit their societies in the future. Tokyo will be the site of the final forum (date to be determined) as well as at least one alumni reception (date to be determined). Further information about conference events will be shared in the spring edition of the JASC Journal.

More information about this summer's conference is available at iscdc.org/jasc. While you're on the site, check out what our sister program the Korea-America Student Conference (KASC) has planned this summer in Korea, iscdc.org/kasc.





AUGUST 2013
**65th JAPAN
AMERICA**
STUDENT CONFERENCE

日米学生会議

Kyoto
京都

Nagasaki
長崎

Iwate
岩手

Tokyo
東京

Roundtable Topics

- Social Minorities and Discrimination
- Modern Issues in Education
- Regional Security in a Global Era
- Environment and Society
- Culture and Technology
- Social Responsibility and Government
- Globalization and Agriculture in the 21st Century

www.iscdc.org

Apply before March 1, 2013

Know a future JAScer?

Help recruit for this summer's conference!

Spread the word about JASC and email jasc@iscdc.org or call 202-289-9088 for more information on how you can help with recruiting.





Ryosuke (left) and Naoki (right) during JASC 62

“uchimuki” or inward looking tendency. Beyond a lack of international engagement, students are often isolated within Japan by various domestic borders, lines drawn between high school and college students, between academia and the private sector or between generations. Without appropriate role models and reliable informational resources, Japanese students are often stuck on their own island, blinded in making future decisions.

A year after JASC 62, Ryosuke decided to address the issue of isolation by putting the ideas formed during JASC to practice. Looking back Ryosuke said, “I did not want to end our roundtable by merely presenting the idea at the final forum.”

With help from fellow JASCers, along with a group of his classmates from Harvard, he launched a summer school for high school students in Tokyo called *H-LAB*. They based the program on the foundation of liberal arts. The essence of liberal arts, in their definition, is to offer the best support for students in the midst of determining their own interests and career path through a structure that facilitates inter-personal interactions.

In order to realize this goal, *H-LAB* selected Japanese and American university students of different backgrounds and fields of study to serve as leaders of the program and living sources of information about college life, study abroad and career paths. *H-LAB* offers lectures given by professionals, communication with other participants and committee members and seminars made by university students in both Japanese and English. The program offers a model of advising and peer-mentoring to resolve current educational problems Ryosuke and his fellow JASCers discovered in the Revitalizing Education roundtable. *H-LAB* gives Japanese high school students a chance to get in touch with the world outside the classroom and valuable time to think about their future.

As a member of the team Ryosuke assembled to lead the first *H-Lab*, Naoki saw the impact of the program first-hand. He decided to use the model *H-Lab* established and address problems Japanese youth face in his home region of Tottori prefecture. It wasn't until he began his studies in Tokyo that Naoki realized the large gap between the amount of resources and opportunities available to students living in metropolitan and rural areas in Japan. Even when rural students perform on par with their urban peers, they tend to move away from their hometown to far away university and careers, bringing their skills with them.

Naoki's program, *Bridge School* seeks to broaden participants international outlook and to address problems specific to the region. He would like youth who participate in *Bridge School* to start bringing back their knowledge and power to their local neighborhoods once they complete their education and establish their careers. This idea was implanted in the minds of the first *Bridge School* participants, who after seeing the troubling trends towards rural decline, pledged to think about how they might be able to contribution to Tottori's future somehow, someday.

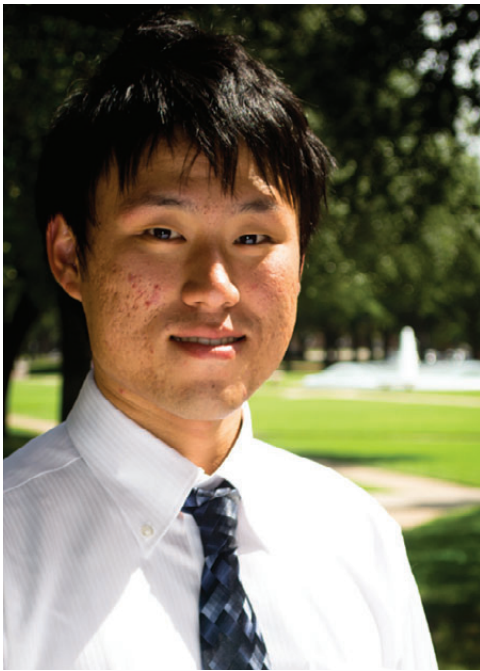
H-Lab and *Bridge School* are both well on their way to planning their next summer of programming. In the future, Naoki is planning to spread his project to other rural areas that face issues similar to Tottori. While Ryosuke is happy to keep *H-Lab* in Tokyo, interest in the program is growing and he remains open to expanding the reach of the program in other ways.

JASC's roundtable format offers a rare chance for students to focus on specific issues for an entire month and works to bring their visions together into one cohesive idea. *H-LAB* and *Bridge School* serve as wonderful examples that show ideas formulated during JASC can be continued beyond the conference and made into projects that have a tangible impact in the real world. The energy and enthusiasm sparked within roundtable discussions can encourage JASCers to turn ideas in to action to shape the future and better the world. Which roundtable participants will be the next to put their idea into practice?

For those who can read Japanese, more information about *H-LAB* and *Bridge School* can be found on their respective websites, <http://hcji-lab.org/> and <http://bridgeschool.jp/>.

This article was written by Rumi Tomizawa, an alumna of JASC 63 who served a one-month internship at ISC.





Shintaro Kono, JASC 64 Delegate and Graduate Student at University of Illinois

Leisure and Recovery

JASCer's graduate research focuses on the impact of leisure activities on disaster survivors

When Shintaro Kono set out to write his roundtable essay for the 64th JASC he had plenty of material to draw upon. Shintaro was wrapping up his first year of graduate school at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana when he decided to apply to JASC. At the same time, he was writing his thesis for his Master's degree in Recreation, Sport and Tourism.

Shintaro's thesis examines the relationship between leisure activities and psychological recovery from natural disasters. For his research he interviewed disaster survivors and volunteers who were involved in projects that promote leisure activities in communities of people displaced by the Great Tohoku Earthquake. He found that one of the most important factors affecting victims' mental health was the subjective meanings that they attached to their experiences and leisure activities.

Shintaro used his research and experience volunteering in the Tohoku region to contribute to the *Post-Crisis Reconstruction* roundtable during the 64th

JASC. He also drew upon his thesis to write his roundtable essay which won first prize in the 2012 JASC roundtable essay contest.

Shintaro obtained his Master's degree this December and plans to begin a PhD program at the University of Alberta in 2013. He can be reached at skono2@illinois.edu

Memories from JASC 29

Susan Oshida JASC 29 (1977) and husband Dan Branch stopped by the ISC office in Washington, D.C. while she was in town visiting relatives for the Thanksgiving holiday. She brought with her an album of pictures mostly from JASC 29 which visited Nagoya, Tokyo, Toyama and Kanazawa. The pictures are of high quality, depicting conference activities and participants as well as the beauty of the Japanese culture and landscape. They will surely bring back fond memories for those that were there!



These and countless other images from past JASCs are available on the JASC Flickr page.

Executive Director's Corner

Happy holidays from International Student Conferences! The staff and interns at ISC have been hard at work these past few months – wrapping up bits and pieces from this summer's conferences, hosting student executive committee members in Washington, DC for their fall meetings, etc. We've also started to step up our alumni outreach efforts – we are currently planning a New York City-area alumni event in Winter/Spring 2013 (Attention New Yorkers, please make sure your mailing address and e-mail addresses are current with our database!). We hope to organize similar alumni events hosted at other locations in the near future as well. Please do not hesitate to contact me at yshinomiya@iscdc.org if you are willing to be a host for such events! From all of us here at ISC, we wish you a warm and wonderful holiday season.



Yuuki Shinomiya,
Executive Director ISC





JAScEr Notes

Aya Spencer JASC 61 (2009) recently received an offer to work as an Analytic Consultant for IBM, in Washington, D.C. after graduation (May 2013). She is excited to start!

Jon-Michael Durkin JASC 60 & 61 (2008 & 2009) would like to send his thoughts to those JASCers affected by hurricane Sandy on the East Coast. If there is anything he can do to be of assistance during this period please feel free to reach out. Additionally, he would like to let you all know that he has relocated to the sunny city of Mountain View, California. He has transitioned from his previous job with NICHIAS Corporation to a slightly more robust one with Google. If any of you are in the area and would like to stop by for a visit please feel free to contact him!

Florence Maher JASC 57 (2005) is mid-way through her first U.S. Foreign Service assignment as a consular officer in Monterrey, Mexico. She recently met up with **Anna Franekova** JASC 56 & 57 (2004 & 2005) in London. JASCers are welcome to visit! She can be reached at florence.maher@gmail.com.



Michelle Lee Jones JASC 56 & 57 (2004 & 2005), JASC Program Manager 2009-10 is engaged to Bryan Parsons (picture above). Michelle continues her graduate

studies at Seoul National University in South Korea and is writing her thesis on Korean Supreme Court rhetoric and the regulation of sex work. She would love to meet any JASCers in Seoul for a spicy bowl of bibimbap.

Starting in January of 2013, **Jill Kunishima** JASC 55 & 56 (2003 & 2004) and her husband will be traveling through Southeast Asia, South America and Europe, and would love to connect with fellow JASCers! If you live in one of those areas, or simply have a great recommendation, she'd love to hear from you. Her email address is jmkunishima@gmail.com.

Sophia Kan JASC 53 & 54 (2001 & 2002) would love to host a reunion in Germany. Also, she started a PhD program at the University of Geottingen, so she will be in Germany the next four years. If you are in town, please send her an email. sophmeister@gmail.com

Karli (Kreindler) Sherwinter JASC 49 & 50 (1997 & 1998) gave birth to a baby girl, Sarit Esther Sherwinter, on October 24, 2012 in Boulder, Colorado. Sarit is getting a lot of attention from big sister, Kayla (age 5 1/2) and big brother Reuben (age 3).

Ross Chaney JASC 47 (1995) sends an update from Santa Fe, NM, where he is currently the Director of the Santa Fe Business Incubator. He just completed a one month artist residency at the Vermont Studio Center (VSC), on a fellowship from the Harpo Foundation. While at the VSC, he made paintings on canvas and collaborated with writers, painters, photographers and installation artist. He will also receive the Sundance Institutes' producers fellowship, to support him in attending the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, and other convenings for creating independent film. He hopes JASCers visit him in Santa Fe. ross.chaney@gmail.com

Note: Mary previously served as Ward 2 Representative on the board before being elected as the At Large Member

Congratulations to reelected JASCers

Jeff Barker, JASC 21 (1969) was reelected to the Oregon House of Representatives for a sixth term November 6, 2012. He is Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. His wife, and fellow JASCer, **Vicki Barker**, has been spending time volunteering at a battered women's shelter in Portland, OR.



Mary Lord, JASC 25 (1973) was also reelected as the At Large Member of the Washington, D.C. State Board of Education.

(Note Below)

We congratulate both on their victories!

Kengo Yoshihara JASC 41 (1989) moved to Seattle, USA for his first stay as the section head of cultural and information, and political section as well, of the Consulate General of Japan here in Washington state, and spent one year so far. And Gladly supported 64th JASC to be held here in Seattle this summer. Hopefully, he is going to stay a few more years, and expects to see alumni here or somewhere in the world.



JASCers get Together

In Tokyo last month **Rachel Brunette-Chen** JASC 47 & 48 (1995 & 1996) received a visit from **Ron Quezon** JASC 48 (1996) and **Melinda Ng** JASC 47 (1995), who currently live in the Los Angeles area, in celebration of their 10th wedding anniversary. They all had a wonderful time together! During their visit, they enjoyed a mini-reunion with a group of fellow 47th and 48th JASCers. Everyone provided updates on their lives, and it was exciting to hear about the many paths all have taken since their college days. It was also fun to meet each other's spouses and kids -- future JASCers!

Rachel has been in the Foreign Service for ten years, mostly serving in East Asia, including three years so far in Tokyo. Her husband is also a Foreign Service Officer, and they will be moving to London next summer with their toddler, Erika. They will be sad to leave Japan, but look forward to new adventures. They would love to meet up with JASC friends in Europe!



(from left - standing): Michiko "Bene" Zentoh (JASC 47), Yoko Kobayashi Fujino (47, with daughter and expecting #2!), Rika Kou (48), Sho Miichi (47, 48), Atsushi Fujino (47), Hideo Ohashi (48), Ron Quezon (48); (from left - front row) Toshihiko "Jose" Mori and son (48), Jiro Yoshino (48), Rachel Brunette-Chen and daughter (47, 48), Melinda Ng (47)



from left to right: Tomi, Rick and Leslie

Leslie Kim, Tomi Nagai-Rothe, Liz Nichols, and Rick Ruvolo, all JASC 27 (1975) alums and Bay Area residents, recently gathered at Liz's home in Oakland CA. They enjoyed lunch, hiking in the nearby hills, and catching up - it had been over ten years since they'd ALL been together. They wished they were in touch with more fellow JASCers, especially from Japan. Please get in touch with Liz by emailing eliznich@gmail.com.



from left to right: Rick, Leslie and Liz

Keep us Updated!

There are alumni events coming up in Washington, D.C., New York and of course in Japan this summer. To get involved, make sure ISC has a way to reach you.

Email jasc@iscdc.org or call 202-289-9088 with your updated contact information or to request more information about hosting an event in your area.





JASC

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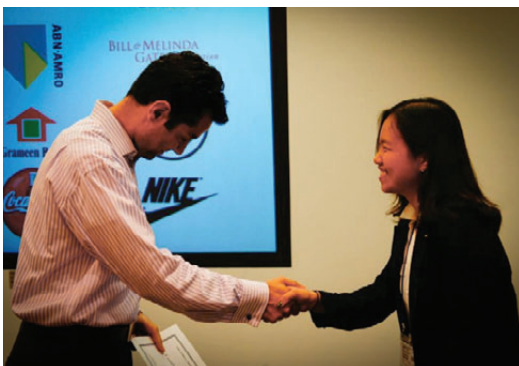
Check us out Online!

Our redesigned website (www.iscdc.org/jasc/) is up and running, featuring information on current and past Conferences, beautiful pictures and multimedia, a new JASC Alumni directory and blog, and links to our Facebook!

Now it's easier than ever to DONATE to support the continued development of JASC. Visit www.iscdc.org/donate/. Get family, friends, and your company involved!



Have you made your end of the year contribution yet?



Since International Student Conferences is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit organization, donations to JASC are tax deductible!

Contribute before the end of the year to ensure eligibility for a tax deduction on your 2012 tax returns.

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