Leading U.S-Japan Exchange for 49 Years

The Japan-America Society of Houston is the leading organization that connects Houston’s diverse community, local businesses, and individuals to advance the mutual interest of American and Japanese peoples.

Our programs in language and education, arts and culture, business initiatives and networking provide opportunities for collaboration and important people-to-people exchange.

The purpose of Japan Update Houston Conference 2017, which brings together experts from Japan, areas throughout the United States and the Houston community, is to examine evolving trade relations between the U.S. and Japan. The conference is designed to offer perspectives on possible international, national and local ramifications of recent developments affecting U.S. and Japanese trade policies. It is hoped the ideas offered will stimulate dialog between Japanese and American professionals.

This program is a part of a larger series of Japan Update presentations sponsored by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and the National Association of Japan America Societies throughout the United States that seek to stimulate public interest in contemporary issues faced by Japan and the United States. The series provides an important forum for information exchange at a time of increased interest in the United States-Japan bilateral relationship.

We trust that the Japan Update held today will offer those attending a better understanding of the implications of trade issues for both Japan and the United States.
The Future of Trade Relations Between the U.S. and Japan in the Wake of the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election

Friday, February 10, 2017
PETROLEUM CLUB OF HOUSTON

11:30 AM | GREETINGS & LUNCH

WILLIAM H. WEILAND
President, Japan-America Society of Houston

THE HONORABLE TETSURO AMANO
Consul-General of Japan in Houston

PETER KELLEY
President, National Association of Japan-America Societies

12:15 PM | NEGOTIATING TRADE BETWEEN U.S. & JAPAN

DR. MIREYA SOLÍS
Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy, Brookings Center for East Asia Policy Studies
Phillip Knight Chair in Japan Studies

PROF. YORIZUMI WATANABE
Professor of International Political Economy and Trade Policy, Keio University
1:00 PM | LOCAL IMPACT

BOB HARVEY
President and CEO, Greater Houston Partnership

JOHN A. MOSELEY
Senior Director of Trade Development, Port of Houston Authority

1:30 PM | U.S.-JAPAN TRADE RELATIONS AND BEYOND

THE HONORABLE J. THOMAS SCHIEFFER
Former U.S. Ambassador to Japan

MODERATOR: DR. RUSSELL A. GREEN
Dr. Mireya Solís

Mireya Solís is a senior fellow and the Philip Knight Chair in Japan Studies in the Brookings Center for East Asia Policy Studies. An expert in Japan’s foreign economic policies, Solís earned a doctorate in government and a master’s in East Asian studies from Harvard University, and a bachelor’s in international relations from El Colegio de México. Her main research interests include Japanese politics, political economy, and foreign policy; international and comparative political economy; international relations; and government-business relations. She also has interests in broader issues in U.S.-Japan relations and East Asian multilateralism.

A theme running through Solís’s research on Japanese political economy is an attempt to explain the coexistence of pork-barrel and state-led growth practices in Japan’s industrial policy. She also gives important attention to domestic determinants of Japan’s foreign economic policy. Her most recent research is on what she calls the single most important departure of Japanese trade policy of the last decade: Japan’s embrace of preferential trade agreements as a means of liberalizing its trade relations. Solís explores the causes and results of this policy set, and explores the on-going competition among different blueprints for regional integration—a trend which includes the United States through its leadership of negotiations toward the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Solís’s analysis includes consideration of whether free trade agreements can be an effective tool to implement the domestic structural reforms needed to enhance the competitiveness of the Japanese economy. She is also interested in exploring opportunities for closer collaboration between the United States and Japan on a variety of issues, including the development of a regional architecture by leading high-standard economic integration in East Asia.

She is the author of “Banking on Multinationals: Public Credit and the Export of Japanese Sunset Industries” (Stanford University Press, 2004) and co-editor of “Cross-Regional Trade Agreements: Understanding Permeated Regionalism in East Asia” (Springer, 2008) and “Competitive Regionalism: FTA Diffusion in the Pacific Rim” (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009). She has also published numerous articles and book chapters on implications of and responses to the recent economic crisis, Japan’s domestic politics and foreign and economic policies and East Asian multilateralism. She is currently working on a book about Japan’s trade policy.
Following several appointments in Japan’s foreign service, specializing in international trade policy issues, Professor Watanabe has now brought those skills and experience to the senior academic post he has filled at Keio University since 2005.

Prof. Watanabe’s distinguished career has featured significant engagement in all the major bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations in which Japan has been involved in the past two decades. This included the role of policy advisor to relevant Ministries and postings to Japan’s diplomatic missions in Brussels and Geneva.

He was Deputy Director-General of the Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan from 2002-2004 and served as Chief Negotiator for the Japan-Mexico Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the Working Party on Russia’s Accession to the WTO. He was Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan in 2004. He has been a member of the Task Force on Japan-India Economic Partnership, Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry since 2006.

He is the author of a number of publications on GATT/ WTO and trade and economic partnership agreements. His book on the TPP (Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement) was ranked one of the top-ten best-selling books on economics in Tokyo.

In addition, Prof. Watanabe has been the Statutory Auditor at Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Co. Ltd. since April 2015.

Bob Harvey joined the Greater Houston Partnership as President and CEO in September 2012. Harvey is the fourth President and CEO of the Partnership since it was formed in 1989 in a merger of the Greater Houston Chamber of Commerce, the Houston Economic Development Council and the Houston World Trade Center.

Harvey is committed to enhancing the Partnership’s effectiveness as “the voice of business” in the 10-county Greater Houston area. He has emphasized the importance
of “quality of life” issues in achieving the Partnership’s mission of enhancing regional economic prosperity. In addition to its role as the principal regional economic development organization and primary advocate for sound public policy, the Partnership, under Harvey’s leadership is convening community leaders in order to gain consensus on the key issues facing the region and the appropriate response. Prior to joining the Partnership, Harvey was active in the Houston business community, first as a management consultant in the Houston office of McKinsey & Company, Inc. for 17 years and then as Vice Chair/Executive Vice President with Reliant Energy for six years.

After leaving Reliant in 2005, Harvey served in a variety of community volunteer leadership roles. He chaired the board of the United Way of Greater Houston from 2007-2010. Harvey was Board Chair of The Post Oak School, a pre-K through 9th grade Montessori school in Houston, from 2008-2011, and Board Chair of the Texas A&M Foundation from 2003-2004.

Harvey has also served on the boards of Central Houston, Inc., Houston Technology Center, Houston Zoo, Inc., the Houston Zoological Society and the Association of Former Students of Texas A&M University.

Harvey currently serves on the Community Foundation Council of the Greater Houston Community Foundation and the boards of St. John’s School, the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Center for Houston’s Future, and the Alliance For Kids, as well as the Board of Regents of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

JOHN A. MOSELEY

John Moseley joined the Port of Houston Authority of General Manager of the Trade Development Department in February 2010, earning the title of Senior Director in 2014. From 1987 to 2010, Moseley served in multiple capacities in the U.S. and abroad for companies such as Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, International Development and Energy Associates, Kolbe GmbH, Eurostar (L.A. Gear), COSCO and CMA CGM. His most recent position prior to joining the port authority was with CMA CGM as Director of Sales, U.S. Gulf Coast Region.

Moseley earned a bachelor’s degree in international business administration from California State University at Los Angeles and an MBA from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Isenberg School of Management.
He began his maritime career ashore with Mitsui O.S.K. Lines in 1988 as a pricing analyst after working for Carmichael International, a Los Angeles based customs house brokerage firm. In his position at the Port Authority, he is globally responsible for guiding the Trade Development team to increase revenue, vessel calls, cargo volume and overall commerce through Houston via Port of Houston Authority facilities, with team members deployed worldwide.

Moseley is a past board member of the International Trade Club of Southern California, Netherlands-American Chamber of Commerce and the International Transportation Management Association of Houston. Currently, he serves on GHP’s Industrial Real Estate Committee and is Co-Chair of the International Trade Committee of the Greater Houston Partnership. He actively serves on the Supply Chain Steering Committee of RILA (Retail Industry Leaders Association) and the transportation committee of the National Green Coffee Association, New York. He is a member of NAIOP, the National Industrial Real Estate Development Association and SIOR, the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors.

The Honorable J. Thomas Schieffer

J. Thomas Schieffer is the founder and CEO of Envoy International LLC, a consulting firm that provides a wide range of advice to companies with international interests.

He served as U.S. Ambassador to Japan from 2005-2009 and U.S. Ambassador to Australia from 2001-2005. Prior to his diplomatic service Ambassador Schieffer was a partner in the Texas Rangers baseball team. In 1989 he joined the partnership headed by George W. Bush and Rusty Rose that purchased the Texas Ranger Baseball Club. Originally just an investor, Schieffer was named partner-in-charge of Ballpark Development in 1990, President of the Club in 1990 and Co-Managing Partner with Rose in 1994 when George W. Bush assumed office as Governor of Texas. He was inducted into the Texas Rangers Baseball Hall of Fame on August 23, 2014 for his contributions to the franchise.

At the age of 25 Ambassador Schieffer was elected to the Texas House of Representatives and served three terms. He remained active in Texas politics after leaving the Legislature. A lawyer by trade, Ambassador Schieffer has a long history of involvement in the oil and gas business.

A much decorated diplomat, Ambassador Schieffer has been recognized repeatedly for his leadership and organizational skills, particularly in the area of intelligence. In November 2013, he was presented with the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun by the Emperor of Japan to recognize his significant contributions in promoting
friendly relations and understanding between the United States and Japan. He was also decorated by the government of Australia, the Secretary of Defense and five agencies of the U.S. government for his service.

Ambassador Schieffer attended the University of Texas, where he earned a B.A. in government, an M.A. in international relations, and studied law. He was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in 1979.

MODERATOR

Dr. Russell Green

Russell A. Green, Ph.D., is the Will Clayton Fellow in International Economics at Rice University’s Baker Institute and an adjunct professor in the Economics Department, where he teaches financial markets, international finance and macroeconomics. Prior to joining the Baker Institute, Green spent four years in India as the U.S. Treasury Department’s first financial attaché to that country. Green was previously the deputy director of the U.S. Treasury’s Office of International Monetary Policy, where he led efforts to strengthen International Monetary Fund exchange rate policies and international reserve management. Green also served as a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan/University of Tokyo. During his undergraduate years, he spent a year studying at Doshisha University in Kyoto.
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