

XYZ University
“Creating Curriculum in Japan Area Studies”

June 20 – July 19, 2011

SAMPLE HOST COUNTRY ITINERARY

Monday, June 20

Depart Houston for Tokyo, Continental Flight #43

Tuesday, June 21

Arrive in Tokyo, shuttle to Kawasaki Inn, Tokyo

Wednesday, June 22

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Overview of Program Logistics, Dr. John Smith, Project Director

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Lecture: “Japanese Education System”

Speaker: Dr. Arata Tanaka, The University of Japan

Discussion of how the Japanese education system is organized, how is education funded, how do students advance (what test systems are used to promote students); public versus private education; how is technology used in the classroom; challenges facing Japan’s education

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm

Lunch

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

“Teacher-to-Teacher” Discussions

Japanese Teacher’s Union

Coordination of teacher-to-teachers meetings to discuss classroom management and overview of successes and challenges in teaching K-12; discussion of teacher continuing education and professional development for teachers; discussion of establishing formal or informal “sister school” relationships with the American teachers.

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Welcome Dinner

Thursday, June 23

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Lecture: “Modern History of Japan,”

Mr. Shiro Sato, President,

International Education Center

An overview of Japanese history since the Meiji Restoration; an overview of important events that shaped Japan to be what it is today; provide context for the information to be discussed for the remainder of the program.

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Tour: Tokyo City Guided tour of cultural centers of Tokyo, including tea service and calligraphy lesson <i>led by John Smith, Project Director</i>
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Dinner as group to discuss activities/lesson plans <i>Dr. John Smith, Project Director</i>

Friday, June 24

10:00 am – 12:00 noon	Lecture: “Japanese Demographics” <i>Mr. Takumi Hayashi, Assistant Professor, Miyagi University</i> Description of the background of the Japanese population, age structure and life expectancy, ethnic background and immigration, religious background, economic profile of the population; Mr. Hayashi will use the Japanese food industry as a case study to illustrate the Japanese lifestyle in different sectors of society.
12:00 noon – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Tour: Edo Tokyo Museum Guided tour of Edo-Tokyo Museum to learn more about Tokyo’s history and culture. <i>led by local museum guide.</i>

Saturday, June 25

10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Walking Tour of Kamakura, ancient capital of Japan Guided walking tour that explains the role of this city through the Minamoto, Hojo, Ashikaga and Muromachi eras. <i>Led by John Smith.</i>
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Sunday, June 26

Free Day

Monday, June 27

10:00 am – 12:00 noon	Lecture: “Physical and Cultural Geography of Japan” <i>Mr. Takeo Matsumoto, President, Institute for International Business Communication</i> Description of size of the country, the topography, the urban landscape and population density, transportation, Japan as a fishing nation, the agricultural areas and their importance to Japan, explanation of different traditions in different regions of the country.
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Lecture: “Sustainable Land Management & Conservation”
Speaker TBD, Global Environmental Information Centre
Land use with consideration of environmental factors; natural resources.

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Briefing: “Environmental Education”
Ms. Azumi Sasaki
ECO Communication Center
Introduction of seminars, newsletters and teaching materials used in Japanese environmental education.

Tuesday, June 28

10:00 am – 12:00 noon Lecture: “Overview of Japanese Arts”
Ms. Amaya Watanabe, Japan Arts Association
History of the association and Japanese arts and its roots in Japanese culture and history.

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Tour: Japan Folk Crafts Museum
Guided tour of traditional folk arts and discussion on the role they play in Japanese modern society. *Led by graduate student Kim Ayako from University of Japan.*

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Group discussion on infusing arts into the curriculum of the lesson plan; how Japanese arts reflect the society, Dr. John Smith, Project Director.

Wednesday, June 29

9:00 am – 1:30 pm Lecture: “Overview of Japanese Cinema” (followed by tour)
Mr. Norio Kato, President, Japan Academy of Moving Images
Description of history of Japanese cinema and how it influences culture, what are the most important themes of Japanese cinema, what are the most important challenges.

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Lunch

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Tour of Ghibli Museum (animated films) *led by graduate student, Kim Ayako, from University of Japan*

Thursday, June 30

10:00 am – 12:00 noon Lecture: “Japanese Politics”
Mr. Seiji Yoshida, Freelance Journalist/Professor

Tokushima Bunri University, Faculty of Policy Studies

Description of the political system in Japan, the role of the emperor, the political parties and how they exert influence, how are ordinary citizens included in the political process, the Japanese parliamentary system important constituencies and how they influence the political system, current events in Japanese politics, future of political parties.

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Tour: Japanese Diet <i>led by Dr. Sujin Kim, Professor</i>
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Lecture: “Role of Nonprofits in Japanese Social Services Delivery” <i>Dr. Hoshi Kimura, Japan NPO Center</i> Overview of active NPO sector; what are the most important challenges facing Japan, Japanese society and how is the NPO sector addressing these needs.

Friday, July 1

10:00 am	Travel to Kyoto
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Lecture: “History of Imperial Japan” <i>Dr. Shigeo Ito, Kyoto University</i> Overview of how imperial Japan has affected modern day politics.

Saturday, July 2

10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Tour of Kyoto <i>Led by John Smith and local guide</i>
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Sunday, July 3

Free Day

Monday, July 4

10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Lecture: “Japanese International Relations” <i>Mr. Osamu Kato, Consultant, Mobil Oil Japan</i> Description of how international relations are carried out, what are Japan’s most important allies, what is Japan’s relationship with its Asian neighbors, what is Japan’s security relationship with the U.S.; role of Japan’s security forces, what are the most important challenges Japan faces in international affairs?
12:00 noon – 1:00 pm	Lunch

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| 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm | Tour: Yasukuni Jinji Yushukan
The museum is a shrine to Japan’s nationalist past, a point of pride for many Japanese and controversy for many of its neighbors and adversaries. It is important to understand this aspect of Japanese history to better understand Japanese culture. <i>Led by graduate student from University of Japan.</i> |
| 4:30 pm – 5:00 pm | Group wrap-up discussion/lesson plan update, Dr. John Smith, Project Director |

Tuesday, July 5

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| 10:00 am – 12:00 noon | Lecture: “U.S.-Japan Relations”
Ms. Jane Doe, <i>U.S. Embassy, Cultural Affairs</i> |
| 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm | Lunch organized by Tokyo American Center |
| 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm | Tour: Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden
<i>Led by local guide</i> |

Wednesday, July 6

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| 10:00 am – 12:00 noon | “Read and Discuss the Day’s Newspaper”
<i>Mr. Katsumi Yamaguchi, Political Commentator, formerly of TV Tokyo Corporation</i>
The purpose of this exercise is to understand what are the issues that are currently most important to the Japanese people (and is there any controversy or different points of view to discuss), how news is gathered and reported, the Japanese view of the press, how are politics covered? |
| 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm | Lunch |
| 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm | Tour of television studio and discussion of what is the role of the media in Japanese society/how is it changing? |
| 6:00 pm | Dinner with alumni of Global Career Launch Program. Program organized for Japanese young professionals to learn about entrepreneurship and to participate in business plan development since 2000. Alumni will gather and discuss how they have used this experience, as well as their view of how entrepreneurs can succeed in the Japanese market. |

Thursday, July 7

10:00 am – 12:00 noon	<p>Lecture: “International Aid” <i>Speaker TBD, Children Without Borders</i> Japan has a very active international aid program, allowing the nation to apply the reserves it has built through trade to a variety of overseas projects that help to enhance its image. This discussion will focus on support provided to children in other parts of the world.</p>
12:00 noon – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<p>Lecture: “Senior Living in Japan” <i>Dr. Hiromi Watanabe, National Silver Human Resources Center Association</i> Japan is the home to the fastest aging society in the world, and this discussion will focus on ways in which the government and civil society are working to serve the growing needs of senior citizens who cannot rely on their families to care for them (in a nation with a tradition where families have tended to care for many generations privately).</p>

Friday, July 8

10:00 am – 12:00 noon	<p>Lecture: “Japan’s Economy” <i>Mr. Goro Nakamura, Consultant, former Vice Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Trade</i> Description of the history of the rise in the Japanese economy since World War II, industrial strength, importance of export market, agriculture market, what are the most important sectors now, what are the weak sectors, how is wealth distributed (are average Japanese citizens better off now than 20 years ago), what are Japan’s competitive advantages now, what are the current threats to the Japanese economy?</p>
12:00 noon – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	<p>Tour: Tokyo Stock Exchange Description of the financial markets in Japan, and relation to the world market. <i>Led by Dr. Kim, Professor from University of Japan</i></p>
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<p>Lecture: “The Japanese Consumer” <i>Mr. Daiki Inoue, Japan Marketing Association</i> Profile of the Japanese consumer</p>

Saturday, July 9

10:00 am – 12:00 noon Project Director facilitates discussion on debriefing program activities/lesson planning

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Work in groups on lesson plans

Sunday, July 10 Free Day

Monday, July 11 Free Day

Tuesday, July 12

10:00 am – 12:00 noon Lecture: “U.S.-Japan Trade Relations”
Mr. Manabu Sasaki, Consultant, former Vice Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Trade
Description of the history of trade relations with the U.S., the pattern of trade in goods and services (what do we trade?), the pattern of Japanese investment in the U.S., what are the areas of concern for the future of trade in the U.S.?

12:00 noon -1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Meetings with representatives of Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Tokyo Metropolitan Government
The group will meet with representatives of business and the public sector to get a better sense of workplace issues, and for discussions on U.S.-Japan economic relations.

Wednesday, July 13

10:00 am – 5:00 pm Site visits: “Human Resources Outlook for Japan”
Mitsubishi Heavy Industry
Hitachi Ltd.
ITOCHU Corporation
The purpose of these meetings is to learn how companies recruit workers, how they train them and retain them, what are the challenges businesses face regarding human resources, what are the most important workforce issues. What do Japanese companies look for in a new worker?

Thursday, July 14

10:00 am – 3:00 pm Site Visit: Waseda University
Discussions with faculty and administrators on the role of higher education in preparing Japanese students for a career in the global

economy; any collaboration with U.S. higher education institutions; generally, what are the popular areas of studies for Japanese students now; generally, what are the most important challenges facing Japanese higher education; how do universities incorporate technology into teaching; what do Japanese higher educators want Americans to be teaching young students about Japanese culture and society.

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Panel discussion by university students: “Outlook on Japan”
University students talk about their background, their vision of the future of Japan, their view of how they expect they will contribute to Japan's society and economy, their career plans, their vision of the current state of U.S.-Japanese relations, their view of what's popular for Japanese young people right now, and what do they want Americans to know about Japanese culture and society

Friday, July 15

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Lecture: “Japanese Pop Culture”
Dr. Izumi Kobayashi, Shibuya City Hall
Discussion of current fashion, music, entertainment in Japan's youth culture.

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Tour: New National Theater of Tokyo
Attend performance of NUE (Japanese drama based on folklore)

Saturday, July 16

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Project Director facilitates discussion on program activities/lesson planning

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Work in groups on lesson plans

7:00 pm

Attend baseball game

Sunday, July 17

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Audio tape information for lesson plans

Monday, July 18

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Present final lesson plan

12:00 noon – 5:00 pm

Free Time

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Closing Dinner

Tuesday, July 19

Escort to airport for departure to Houston on Continental Flight
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