

U.S. independence day

Timeless values, enduring principles

James P. Zumwalt
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, U.S. EMBASSY

As we celebrate our Independence Day, it is my honor as charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Japan to send a message of gratitude to my fellow Americans living and working in Japan, and to our Japanese hosts. Each year, the approach of the fourth day of July on our calendar gives Americans a reason to reflect on our singular history and the creation of our nation.



The words of the famous preamble of our Declaration of Independence have a special place in the heart of all Americans over generations: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Though written in

1776, those timeless words continue to inspire the human spirit today.

When U.S. President Barack Obama visited the National Archives, the building that holds our Constitution, our Declaration of Independence and our Bill of Rights, in May, he went there because, as he said, "We must remember this enduring truth: The values and ideals in those documents are not simply words written into aging parchment, they are the bedrock of our liberty and our security. We uphold our fundamental principles and values not just because we choose to, but because we swear to; not because they feel good, but because they help keep us safe and keep us true to who we are." Speaking as "someone whose life was made possible by these documents," the president underlined that "our values have been our best national security asset — in war and peace; in times of ease and in eras of upheaval."

The citizens of the United States are grateful for our many friends around the

world who advance shared ideals of freedom, justice and democracy. Japanese and American citizens enjoy and value common freedoms today, such as a free press, freedom of worship and rule of law. Commitment to these values underpins our enduring and productive alliance. As I wrote recently in my blog, the absence of political debate about an alliance with Japan, or the importance of Japan to our Asia policy, during the U.S. presidential campaign last year demonstrated the fundamental agreement of both major political parties in the United States, as well as strong public understanding, for continuing and strengthening the U.S.-Japan security alliance.

On this occasion of America's birthday, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Japanese people, our gracious hosts. I hope that my fellow Americans will join me in celebrating our freedom and our friendship with the people of Japan.

Yes You Can!



Your American Study Abroad Experience Starts Here!

U.S. College and University Fair 2009

Saturday, September 26 (13:00 – 17:00)

Akihabara, UDX Gallery 4F (Register at www.kbunsha.co)

The Fulbright experience for global leaders

Fulbright Japan (the Japan-U.S. Educational Commission) was established to promote mutual understanding between the peoples of Japan and the United States through the administration of educational exchange programs. It is funded by the governments of Japan and the U.S., and is governed by a binational board composed of Japanese and American nationals.

The core activity of Fulbright Japan is the administration of the Fulbright scholarship program, which has an international reputation built on the principles of binational governance, autonomy and



open competition based on individual merit. The objective of the grant is not only to enable recipients to pursue a particular field of study, but to develop leaders who can contribute to promoting better understanding between the U.S. and Japan.

Japan is among 155 countries participating in the program, which annually awards 7,500 grants. For the Japan-U.S. program, approximately 50 to 60 scholarships each for Americans and Japanese are awarded annually, principally in the social sciences and humanities.

Fulbright has gained such high esteem in part because of the important posts that many alumni hold in the public and

private sectors as well as in the academic community. Many have also been internationally recognized, and among the 6,200 Japanese and 2,400 American alumni of the Japan-U.S. Fulbright program, there are five Nobel laureates and two Pulitzer Prize winners.

In addition to administering Fulbright grants, Fulbright operates an Educational Information Services (EIS) — a U.S. State Department-affiliated EducationUSA center — providing information about study and research opportunities in higher education in Japan and the U.S. Among its activities, EIS offers group information sessions for students seeking educational opportunities in the U.S.

For more details about Fulbright Japan and its activities, please visit www.fulbright.jp

Savor all of America's dynamic food culture

Enjoying great food with family and friends is often a part of Independence Day celebrations in the United States. With President Barack Obama's inauguration, the first family has planted a vegetable garden on the White House grounds and started serving healthier cuisine at state dinners, sparking a new food movement in America. This focus on healthy eating energizes America's dynamic food culture, which includes influences from cuisines throughout the world, including Japan.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Japan office named chef Nobu Matsuhisa as honorary U.S. food ambassador to Japan on June 19 in recognition of his unique ability to create a special connection between American and Japanese cuisine. Inspired by the White House garden, Matsuhisa unveiled several new Independence Day menu items at the ceremony, including Alaskan crab, and California rice salad and California green gazpacho.

Highlights of America's dynamic food culture include:

Craft beers — America is the epicenter of the global craft beer movement.

Fine wines — Since the "Judgment of Paris" in 1976, American wines have led the world.

Artisanal cheese — Cheese making has taken off in America with American artisanal producers earning global acclaim.

Meat and fish — American

beef, pork, turkey and seafood products such as Alaskan crab are the highest quality in the world.

Fruits — American cherries and strawberries, along with California and Florida citrus fruits add a beautiful and refreshing touch to any menu. Hawaiian papaya provides an exotic treat.

Vegetables — The California green gazpacho includes U.S. romaine lettuce, broccoli and celery.

Nuts and dry fruits — Healthy American almonds, walnuts, pecans and pistachios add a crunchy, rich flavor.

The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, in partnership with nearly 50 nonprofit American food associations in Japan, has been at the forefront of bringing what is new and exciting about American food to the Japanese people, and fostering our strong food and agricultural trading relationship. Please visit our Web sites: www.myfood.jp and www.usato.jp



myfood.jp

IIA promotes direct investment in the U.S.

Addilyn Chams-Eddine and Aaron Brickman
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-owned firms in the United States generate increasing amounts of U.S. exports (\$195 billion in 2006) and directly support millions of jobs (5.3 million in 2007). Japanese foreign direct investment (FDI) to the U.S. generated \$49.8 billion in U.S. exports and supported over 630,000 jobs in 2007. Between 2003 and 2007, Japan's FDI stock in the U.S. increased from \$157 billion to over \$233 billion, cementing Japan's position as the second-largest foreign investor in America.

Annually, mergers and acquisitions account for the majority of FDI jobs and capital transfers. However, new

"greenfield" investments contribute significantly to the U.S. economy as well. According to the online data base, fDi Markets, between 2003 and 2008, Japanese companies announced or opened nearly 400 new U.S. projects, yielding nearly \$24 billion in investment and about 53,000 new jobs. We greatly appreciate this investment from Japanese firms and want to encourage even more.

With the launch of Invest In America (IIA) more than two years ago, the U.S. joined the ranks of major economies that maintain national-level investment promotion entities. We want to ensure that we provide the best operational climate possible for international firms doing business in the U.S. Historically, the U.S. re-

ceives the world's largest share of FDI, including \$319.7 billion in 2008, a 16 percent increase over 2007. This growth demonstrates continued U.S. competitiveness despite the recent global economic downturn.

IIA's work focuses in three areas: promotion, policy and aftercare. IIA, and U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service officers around the world conduct seminars educating investors on how to enter the U.S. market. IIA also provides an ombudsman role to assist those foreign investors that may have questions with regard to federal rules or regulations governing FDI. In its policy role, IIA solicits and listens to specific issues raised by international investors.

The U.S workforce ranks as

one of the best educated, most productive and most innovative in the world. The U.S. offers a predictable and transparent legal system, outstanding infrastructure, strong intellectual property rights protection and enforcement, and access to the world's most lucrative consumer goods market. These advantages support firms' expectations of positive returns on FDI into the U.S.

To learn more, visit www.investamerica.gov, for links to studies and reports, and to sign up to receive IIA's monthly e-newsletter.

Japanese firms have experienced much success during decades of operation in the U.S. We look forward to increasing the FDI partnership with Japan.

ACS is at your service

The U.S. Embassy Tokyo's American Citizen Services (ACS) branch provides U.S. passport, notary, federal benefits, reports of birth, absentee voting assistance and other services. We highly recommend that U.S. citizens in Japan register with the Department of State at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. Registering makes it easier for the embassy or consulates to assist you in the event of a difficulty. If you are registered, please re-register online to

update your records.

We also encourage you to sign up for our monthly online ACS newsletter via our Web site. We will include your e-mail address in our system to send important information to you should world or local events necessitate.

For more information, including hours and downloadable forms, please visit our Web site, <http://japan.usembassy.gov/acs>. Happy Independence Day from ACS!



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