

U.S.–Japan International Exchange Symposium 2025

Building a Trusted and Collaborative Partnership through Multi-layered Engagement (11/20/2025)



Since the pandemic, Japan and the United States have resumed and strengthened people-to-people exchanges through initiatives such as recent summit meetings and the “U.S.-Japan Tourism Year.” Global events, including the recently held Expo 2025 Osaka-Kansai and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, are further boosting these ties. In addition, multi-layered personnel exchange and dispatch programs across the public and private sectors also contribute to mutual understanding between Japan and the United States. Amid rising geopolitical tensions and growing nationalism, multi-layered exchanges are vital for fostering trust and a collaborative U.S.–Japan partnership that supports global stability. This symposium brought together government officials and experts from both nations to discuss ways to deepen people-to-people exchanges and advance international exchange; it addressed, among other points, the following:

- The strongest bridge between Japan and the U.S. is built on human trust, not iron or concrete. Behind every infrastructure and digital link lies human effort, each serving as a form of diplomacy. Despite global uncertainties, there is confidence that Japan and the U.S. will continue their shared journey.
- An alliance is sustained by trust and empathy, making people-to-people exchange of the utmost priority. Millions of individual connections form the bedrock of this relationship. Governments should facilitate travel and deepen mutual ties rather than hinder these vital exchanges.
- To foster global peace, 431 U.S. cities have established partnerships worldwide. As seen with youth ambassadors at Expo 2025, the younger generation truly strengthens the U.S.-Japan bond. Volunteers starting in their teens provide the foundation for future citizen diplomacy.
- We invest in leadership to weave community bonds across the Pacific and address policy challenges. By intertwining individual threads, we build a community as resilient as fine fabric. We aim to solidify U.S.-Japan cooperation through mutual respect and overcoming differences.
- The 45,000 U.S. JET alumni are a powerful grassroots force for building Japan-related communities. “Purposeful exchange,” learning and solving problems together, is key to lifelong engagement. We develop individuals who strengthen Japan-U.S. relations through multifaceted bonds.
- The U.S. aims for 90 million visitors by 2027 to maximize economic benefits. Cross-government collaboration ensures a safe, enriching experience for all visitors. Mega-events will showcase American hospitality and expand exchange.

