

# INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

## INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

These visitors are invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. Their program is arranged by Cultural Vistas.

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**Accompanied by:** Ms. Etsuko Good, Mr. Frederick Harriman, Ms. Shiori Okazaki, Japanese Language Interpreters

**April 11 - 30, 2016**

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## PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES

The Department of State has outlined the following specific objectives for the project:

- To illustrate viewpoints held by Americans on civil rights of the disabled, and respect for diversity contributes to a dynamic civil society
- To have the participants find resources for teacher training in human rights with a focus on how theory becomes practice
- To enhance their understanding of federal and local government support for welfare and education for disabled children in the United States
- To have firsthand contact with disability organizations and communities to learn about their advocating activities, which will eventually empower Japanese counterparts. This is in line with the Mission Strategic Plan to advance human rights and advocate the value of diversity and inclusion in Japan.
- To strengthen partnerships with U.S. peers to increase awareness of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### **Japan**

**Ms. Reiko ICHIKI**

Associate Professor, Tsukuba University of Technology

**Mr. Daiki MICHISHITA**

Councilor, Hokkaido Prefectural Assembly

**Ms. Chieko UTSUMI**

Program Coordinator, Ai-no Jikko Undo (Love in Action)

**Mr. Kozo YAMASHITA**

Physical Education Instructor and Branch Representative, NPO  
Wahaha

**Mr. Munehisa YOSHITOSHI**

Associate Professor, Okayama University Faculty of Education

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

### **Japan**

<i>Name:</i>	<b>Ms. Reiko ICHIKI</b>
<i>Present Position:</i>	Associate Professor, Tsukuba University of Technology
<i>Concurrent Position:</i>	Visiting Lecturer, Mie University Department of Education Policy Advisor, Aichi Disability Forum Educational Advisor, Aichi Prefecture Council of Organizations for the Severely Disabled Steering Committee Member, National Council for Inclusive Education for Disabled Children
<i>Previous Positions:</i>	Lecturer, Aichi Mizuho University, 2002-2011
<i>Education/Training:</i>	M.A., Education, Tsukuba University Graduate School of Education, 1998
<i>Memberships:</i>	Association of Public Education Planning Studies Disabled People International, Japan Conference
<i>Address:</i>	4-3-15 Amakubo, Tsukuba Ibaraki 305-8572 Japan Email: reiko-giappone@nifty.com
<i>Languages:</i>	Japanese (native), English
<i>U.S. Travel:</i>	California
<i>Other Travel:</i>	Canada, Italy, South Korea
<i>Professional Background:</i>	As a senior member of multiple organizations for children with disabilities and their families, Ms. Ichiki lobbies the Government of Japan, as well as local governments, for more inclusive education policies. Furthermore, she advises teachers and teacher-training programs on the effective integration of students with disabilities into mainstream classroom environments, based on her knowledge of innovative overseas practices. As part of her public outreach and advocacy efforts, Ms. Ichiki influences thought leaders and the general public through lectures, most often on the value of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

## **Japan**

*Name:* **Mr. Daiki MICHISHITA**

*Present Position:* Councilor, Hokkaido Prefectural Assembly

*Previous Positions:* Political Aide to Takahiro Yokomichi, Member of the House of Representatives

*Education/Training:* Faculty of Law, Chuo University, 1998

*Memberships:* Member of Sapporo Lions Club

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3-1, Yamanote 3-jo 1-chome  
Nishi-ku, Sapporo 063-0003  
Email: Michishita@mail.goo.ne.jp

*Languages:* Japanese (native)

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel.

*Other Travel:* Belgium, China, Denmark, Italy, Norway, Taiwan

*Professional Background:* Mr. Michishita is a dynamic politician in the Hokkaido Prefectural Assembly. In this capacity as a sub-committee member that deliberates on budgets and by-laws of the Hokkaido Prefecture, he surveys the local region to determine concerns within the community and propose legislation. Throughout his career, and especially as a member of the Hokkaido assembly, he has been a vocal advocate for human rights and a champion for inclusive education. As a member of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), Mr. Michishita has supported diversity and inclusion, as well as the U.S.-Japan alliance through the U.S.-Japan Friendship Promotion League within the assembly.

## **Japan**

*Name:* **Ms. Chieko UTSUMI**

*Present Position:* Program Coordinator, Ai-no Jikko Undo (Love in Action)

*Concurrent Position:* Member, Committee on Barrier Free Town Planning, Aichi Prefectural Government  
Reserve Member, Examination Board for Recognition and Classification of Disability Levels, Nagoya City Government

*Previous Positions:* Coordinator, Center for Independent Living Kodaira, 2010-2013

*Education/Training:* Degree, English, Nanzan Junior College, 2007

*Memberships:* The Duskin AINOWA Foundation (Public Interest Incorporated Foundation for Leadership Education for the Disabled)  
Aichi Prefectural Association for Improvement of Life for the Severely Disabled

*Address:* 2-15 Eho-cho, Showa-ku, Nagoya  
Aichi 466-0037  
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*Languages:* Japanese (native), English

*U.S. Travel:* Hawaii, Nebraska

*Other Travel:* Finland, South Korea, Thailand, United Kingdom

*Professional Background:* Ms. Utsumi works to advocate for the needs of citizens with disabilities. As the youngest member of the Committee on Barrier Free Town Planning of the Aichi Prefectural Government, as well as a reserve member of the Examination Board of Recognition of Classification of Disability Levels of the Nagoya City Government, she makes policy recommendations to local governments and to authorities who can implement necessary solutions. As a person with a disability herself, Ms. Utsumi speaks from the perspective of the challenges that she had experienced in public schools, as well as her familiarity with lobbying for greater accessibility in school buildings, among other accommodations.

## **Japan**

*Name:* **Mr. Kozo YAMASHITA**

*Present Position:* Physical Education Instructor and Branch Representative, NPO Wahaha

*Concurrent Position:* Freelance instructor, volunteer, and speaker on physical education and activities for people with disabilities

*Previous Positions:* Trainer/Instructor, Fukuoka City Sport Center for Handicapped, 2008-2014  
Full-time Instructor, “Shii no mi gakuen,” 1993-2007

*Education/Training:* B.A., Physical Education, Fukuoka University, 1997

*Memberships:* Coach, Fukuoka City’s disabled basketball team, 2014-2015  
Fukuoka Prefecture/City designated sports instructor

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*Languages:* Japanese (native)

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel.

*Professional Background:* With over 20 years of experience working with children with disabilities, Mr. Yamashita currently serves as a senior instructor and representative at NPO Wahaha, which provides day-school, after-school class, and counseling for children with disabilities and their parents. As an officially designated instructor for people with disabilities in Fukuoka Prefecture, Mr. Yamashita also regularly delivers lectures and speeches to local officials and parents' groups. Previously, Mr. Yamashita was a lead trainer and instructor at the Fukuoka City-affiliated Sports Center for the Handicapped, and worked for 14 years at the renowned Shii No Mi Gakuen School for the Disabled, established in 1954 as the first in Japan dedicated to the education of children with disabilities. Mr. Yamashita's main focus is physical education, particularly for those with severe mental and/or physical disabilities, from elementary through high school levels.

## **Japan**

*Name:* **Mr. Munehisa YOSHITOSHI**

*Present Position:* Associate Professor, Okayama University Faculty of Education

*Concurrent Positions:* Associate Professor, Hyogo Education University Graduate School of Education Doctor's Program

*Previous Positions:* Associate Professor, Okayama University Department of Education (Special Education), 2007-2008  
Assistant Professor, Okayama University Department of Education, 2006-2007  
Lecturer, Kyoto University of Education Department of Education, 2001-2006

*Education/Training:* Ph.D., Education, Hyogo University of Teacher Education, 2004  
M.A., Naruto University of Education, 1996  
B.A., Sociology, The International University of Kagoshima, 1996

*Memberships:* The Japanese Association of Special Education  
Japanese Society for Special Needs  
Japanese Association for the Study of Developmental Disabilities  
Japanese Educational Research Association

*Publications:* Report for Okayama University Education Development Center Bulletin, 2014  
Report for Okayama University Education Development Center Bulletin, 2013  
Report for Japanese Association for the Study of Developmental Disabilities Journal, 2012  
Report for the Japanese Association of Special Education, 2011  
Report for the Japanese Association for the Study of Developmental Disabilities Journal, 2010  
Report for the Japan Association of Universities of Education Annual Report, 2010  
Report for the Japan Academy of Learning Disabilities, 2009  
Report for the Japanese Association for the Study of Developmental Disabilities Journal, 2008  
Report for the Japanese Society for Special Needs Education Journal, 2007  
Report for the Japanese Association for the Study of Developmental Disabilities Journal, 2006  
Report for the Japanese Association for the Study of Developmental Disabilities Journal, 2005

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*Languages:* Japanese (native), English

*U.S. Travel:* No previous U.S. travel.

*Other Travel:* Australia, Canada

*Professional Background:* Professor Yoshitoshi is a scholar in the field of special-needs education, with numerous academic publications on the topic. In his current position as Associate Professor at Okayama University, Professor Yoshitoshi teaches and researches special needs education and inclusive education for young people with disabilities.