

THE 12<sup>th</sup>

ANNUAL YOUTH FORUM

**Youth Forum JAPAN**

**December 6<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**Venue: Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan**



# The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Forum

~Living together in the Universal Age~

Date: Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 17:30-21:00 (registration begins from 16:45)

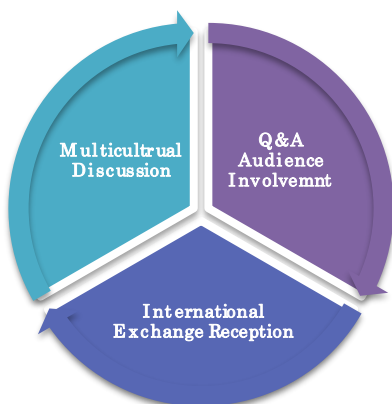
Venue: Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

## Greetings

Since its foundation in June 2005, the Youth Forum JAPAN has been well received as an opportunity to hear the voices of our future leaders. Each year, we explored the variety of themes that are deeply related to the current global arena. After each panelist, selected from a diverse background, shares on behalf of their culture; we challenge them to seek mutual understanding through a frank and open exchange of views among not only the panelists, but also the audience, impressing all who attended the gathering. This year, we are proud to present the 12th Annual Youth Forum focusing on “diversity”. Given recent issues of terrorism, refugees, hate crimes, and xenophobic policies we are delighted to welcome panelists from China, Germany, and the United Kingdom in addition to the panelists from Japan and United States. Now is an opportune time for young future leaders of the world to gather and discuss issues that accompany the development of countries.



## Mission: To explore beyond cultures & generations



Youth Forum Japan started as bilateral dialogue, but it continues as multilateral discussion. It provides people with chances to “*Listen*” to the worldwide voices, “*See*” multicultural ideas and “*Feel*” the diverse atmosphere.



# Honored Guests

## Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado

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Every year we have the honor of inviting Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado to join us at this Forum and to encourage the participating students with a speech in her beautiful English. The student participants all receive commemorative gifts from the Princess, and the committee members have a group photo taken together with her. We are all extremely grateful for these concrete signs of the Princess's personal interest in the Forum. Now we are approaching the end of this year with this Forum, and we will welcome the New Year with new resolve and

hope. We pray for Her Imperial Highness's continued good health, and hope she will continue to join us for this annual event. Thank you again from our hearts, Your Imperial Highness.

高円宮妃殿下には毎年ご臨席頂き、美しい英語のスピーチで学生を励ましていただいております。ユースフォーラムは妃殿下と共に歩んで来ました。活躍した学生は妃殿下から記念品を受け取り、実行委員は妃殿下とのグループ写真に加わるなど、妃殿下に直接身近に接する機会を得て感激しております。この年末のイベントで私達は希望をもって新しい年を迎えられます。これからも、いつまでもお元気で参加頂けることを願っております。

## Forum Outline and Program

### 17:30-19:20 Forum (MC: Mai Ueda)

Opening Remarks: Isshu Fujii (12<sup>th</sup> AYF Student Representative)

Keynote Address: Naoko Yamazaki (Former Astronaut)

Panel Discussion & QA Moderator: Kanako Date (12<sup>th</sup> AYF Executive Committee Chair)

### 19:20-19:30 Remarks by H.I.H.Princess Takamado

### 19:20-19:45 Break

### 19:45-21:00 Reception: Buffet dinner

Entertainment (songs by Asako Amanuma and Kanako Date with Azusa Takagi on the piano)

## *Special Guests*

### **Naoko Yamazaki**

**Former Japanese Astronaut at JAXA**

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Ms. Naoko Yamazaki joined the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA, current Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, JAXA) in 1996. In February 1999, Ms. Yamazaki was selected as one of three Japanese astronaut candidates for the International Space Station (ISS) by NASDA. In May 2004, Yamazaki was certified as a Flight Engineer and dispatched to NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC) in June 2004. She went through Astronaut Candidate Training at JSC and was qualified for flight assignments aboard the space shuttle as a Mission Specialist in February 2006. In March 2010, she flew to the ISS by the space shuttle Discovery and conducted mission for 15 days. In August 2011, she retired from JAXA.

## *Key Members of the 12<sup>th</sup> AYF*

### **Shunji Yanai**

***YFJ Chairman***

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Mr. Shunji Yanai is a member of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea since October 2005; Elected as the president of the Tribunal. He formally served in Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1961 to 2002. While he was in the ministry he became the Ambassador to the U.S. and the Vice-Minister.

### **Haruo Yamamoto**

***YFJ Representative Director***

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Mr. Haruo Yamamoto is the Founding member of the Youth Forum Japan. He attended the 16th and 17th JASC as a student of Keio Univ. After graduation, working with Mitsui & Co, spent almost 20 years abroad experiencing diverse life in multiple environments. After retirement, he served once as an executive secretary for JASC Japan, when he founded Youth Forum in 2005.

### **Kazuo Aichi**

***YFJ Special Advisor***

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Mr. Kazuo Aichi is a Chairman of Japan United Caregivers Association. He is former Minister of State and Lower House Member elected to the House of Representatives for eight terms, also holding the posts of Director General of the Environment Agency in 1990 and the Defense Agency in 1993.

## Isshu Fujii

*12th AYF Student Representative & YFJ Executive*



Isshu Fujii is a postgraduate student at University of Sheffield, MA in International Criminology in the U.K. He has a background of studying in the U.S. for six years during his childhood. When he returned from the U.S. he was surprising to see how “diversity” is treated differently inside Japan and challenges facing ahead. In the summer 2014, he participated in the 66th Japan America Student Conference as a delegate and executive committee member for the 67th Japan America Student Conference.

## Kanako Date

*12th AYF Moderator & YFJ Executive*



Kanako Date is a sophomore at Keio University majoring in political science. She participated in the 67<sup>th</sup> Japan-America Student Conference as a delegate. Her research interests are public health and human security. She received an award from Graduate School of management, GLOBIS University in a business contest for constructing a social business framework to lessen maternal mortality rate in Bangladesh. She attended the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Forum last year as a panelist and gave a presentation about a new strategy to redress the information gap of public health in developing countries.

## Mai Ueda

*12th AYF Master of Ceremony & YFJ Executive*



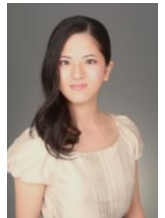
Mai Ueda is a senior at Sophia University studying legal studies of Global Environment. She has been learning tea ceremony and classic ballet for about 15 years and she has an interest in the Japanese traditional culture. She wishes to be involved in cross-cultural communications in future. She participated the 67<sup>th</sup> Japan-American Student Conference as a delegate. She currently works for American Japan Society and Rebuild Japan Initiative Foundation as an intern.

## Asako Amanuma & Azusa Takagi

*Entertainer (Opera singer / Pianist)*



Ms. Amanuma and Ms. Takagi both are master students at Ferris Jogakuin, Graduate School of Music. Ms. Amanuma was awarded with Eguchi Scholarship and Miyake Award during undergraduate and 1<sup>st</sup> K Music Competition Outstanding performance award year in 2016. Ms. Amanuma has also been performing for Youth Forum Japan since 2013. Ms. Takagi has performed in a concert hosted by Japan Piano Technicians Association and also accompaniment to



Ms. Yayoi Toda, a worldwide known violinist. Ms. Takagi was also awarded with Eguchi Scholarship.

## Panelists

### Philipp Maas

*Federal Republic of Germany*



Philipp Maas, born and raised in Düsseldorf located in the Western part of Germany at the Rhine River, graduated from the technical RWTH Aachen University with a Bachelor degree in Mechanical Engineering. In a cooperative Bachelor thesis with BMW he worked on the development of consistent inspection planning processes for the automotive assembly. As part of a double-degree master program between Keio University and RWTH Aachen University (Germany), he is currently continuing his studies in Mechanical Engineering majoring in Manufacturing Engineering with focus on production processes, manufacturing techniques and production management. Within Keio's Graduate School of Integrated Design Engineering investigates the machinability and deformation behaviour of hard-brittle ceramics in cutting processes. Apart from the academic side, the team-sport Lacrosse holds his main interest and he participated in various international tournaments for the German national team in Lacrosse.

### Yutaro Nakayama

*Japan*



Yutaro Nakayama is currently a graduate student majoring in developmental/LGBTQ psychology at University of Tokyo after graduating from International Christian University (ICU) in 2015. He participated in The 68<sup>th</sup> Japan-America Student Conference (JASC) as a Japanese delegate this summer, and discussed various social issues especially for minority identity in Japan, America and the world. He is specifically doing a research on same-sex parenting in Japan at graduate school, which is a quite new field especially in Japan. His research interests are same-sex parented families' experience and possible support to them from psychology perspective. In addition, he is enthusiastic about working for promoting and advancing diversity and inclusion (D&I) in the workplace as his future career.

### Dan Xiao

*People's Republic of China*



Dan Xiao received her bachelor degree in management science from Sun Yat-sen University. Now she is a double-degree graduate student of Keio and Fudan University. She majors in Public Administration, with research interests including collaborative governance, civil society and aging policy. In 2015, a thesis translated by her was published in *Fudan Public Administration Review*, and the book she co-translated—*Technology and Industrial Development in Japan* will be published soon. In 2016, she attended the 5th Youth Leader of Taiwan and Mainland Workshop. The honors she received during college comprise 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scholarships, Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis, Excellent Student, Super Prize of 'Challenge Cup' National Curricular Academic Competition, Top 15 excellent team of 2014 Chinese Student Research Contest, etc. She also has social practical experiences like internships in government and national enterprises, student union and volunteer teaching.

## Nicole Thomasian

*the United States of America*



Nicole Thomasian graduated from Brown University with a Bachelor's (B.Sc.) degree and honors in the field of neuroscience. During her time at Brown University, Nicole became interested in how medicine intersects with sociocultural identities across different individuals, groups and nations. Nicole also enjoyed the privilege of studying at Keio University for one semester, and she spent this part of her undergraduate experience cultivating her Japanese language skills and unpacking anthropological themes relating to contemporary Japan. Nicole is presently conducting research on a Fulbright Fellowship at Osaka University relating to how behavioral rehabilitation after stroke may impact neurophysiological outcomes in mice. After her time as a Fulbright Fellow comes to an end, she will matriculate into Brown University's Alpert Medical School as a part of her enrollment in Brown's Program in Liberal Medical Education (PLME). As an aspiring clinician, Nicole's hope is to one day be able to deliver integrative, individualized approaches to medical care that not only take into account one's health status but also factor in one's relational position in society.

## Monib Baber

*the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*



Monib Baber was awarded a MEng (Hons) in Aeronautical Engineering by Imperial College London in 2014. He consequently worked at Rolls Royce plc. as Kawasaki Heavy Industries Integration Manager, leading and developing the design engineering relationship for the two major engineering firms. He visited Japan for the first time in autumn 2015, on a business and holiday trip. Monib's interest in Japan was initially sparked through traditional origami and Nintendo. His professional interest is in strategic management and aims to pursue a career developing strategies for research into emerging and advanced technology. He is currently living in Japan on a scholarship from the Daiwa foundation.

## *12<sup>th</sup> AYF Executive Committee*

Student Representative	Isshu Fujii (University of Sheffield)
Chair / Moderator	Kanako Date (Keio University)
Vice Chair	Riko Shimizu (University of Tokyo)
Master of Ceremony	Mai Ueda (Sophia University)
Online Media Strategist	Yoko Inagaki (Tsuda College)
Media Creator	Daiki Utsugi (International Christian University)
Photographer / Editor	Kazuhira Saito (Kyushu University)
JASC Liaison	Avelino Fujimoto (Gunma University)
ISC Liaison	Yuki Kamo (Hitotsubashi University)



# *Special Thanks*

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- ◎ International Education Center
- ◎ Japan United Caregivers Association
- ◎ Fulbright Japan
- ◎ Keio University (Keio-Fudan Double Degree Program)
- ◎ The Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation

*Thank you for coming*

YFJ Official Website ⇒ <http://youthforum.jp/>