

## 日米教育委員会 サターホワイト事務局長インタビュー

今年の4月1日に日米教育委員会の事務局長に就任されたサターホワイト氏に、事務局長としての抱負、またフルブライトは人生そのものであるというお話を伺った。

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1990 M.I.T.

### Objectives as Executive Director of JUSEC

The opportunity to lead the Japan-U.S. Educational Commission, the Fulbright Commission of Japan, with a very talented staff of 22 people, considerable dynamism, and a very deeply respected, multi-faceted program, led me to believe that I could make a difference in U.S. Japan relations through educational exchange. I am gratified that all of my prior accomplishments - an academic background with a Ph.D., bilingual capabilities, experience in the corporate world, leadership and management skills - could be seen as a useful foothold to provide leadership to JUSEC. I've only been on the job since April 1st, so it's only just over six months, but I feel that I have now learned the job well enough to chart some directions for the future and I am feeling very good about the position.

My first goal is to deepen the mutual respect and understanding between the U.S. and Japan that has been nurtured through the Fulbright Program for more than half a century. My second goal is to help articulate the need for continued reform of the Japanese educational system. I'm an American citizen working in Japan, but as the Executive Director of a bi-national, educational, non-profit, non-government organization, I feel I may be in a unique position to speak out for continued educational reform, with tremendous respect for the efforts already made by the Ministry of Education, "Monkasho," but with a sense of continuing urgency for educational reform in Japan.

Thirdly, I know that we have a lot of interest on the part of Japanese corporate applicants in business and management issues, and we have many Fulbright MBA applicants. Being able to transition a focus of the Fulbright program towards a more practical educational experience that will help the Japanese economy moving forward is an opportunity we should not miss. Of course, the traditional Fulbright programs of liberal arts, humanities, and social sciences, will continue. But instead of completely resisting the shift, we might instead see the transition of the Japanese economy and needs of the Japanese economy going forward in a more global environment, together with the reforms of the educational system, as an opportunity. What role can we find to bridge the reforms of the educational system to the needs of the changing global economy and Japan's economic growth, to bring these two closer together? I want to be very conscious in articulating this emphasis. Education is not just for education's sake nor for the sake of the individual alone, but for the betterment of society, for the betterment of the economy of Japan going forward. In the end, this is also good for the global economy.

I think a fourth area is the awareness of the Fulbright program and its role in the bi-national relationship. It has been less visible in recent years. I say this not as a criticism, but as a challenge to more vigorously explore corporate financial support. We have been very pleased with the strong support of the Alumni Association and the Fulbright Foundation, but we are seeing a likelihood of reduced funding for our

scholarship programs and in this context I want to vigorously explore renewed visibility of the Fulbright program, and thereby, opportunities for corporate sponsorship. For 24 years we have had strong Japanese corporate support. We need to strengthen this even further, as a vital source of scholarship funding, in addition to the bi-national funding from the two governments.

The most interesting part of my job is clearly engaging in stimulating intellectual discussions with sharp, young minds. And I say "young minds," even though many applicants may be more senior scholars. The vibrancy of intellectual discourse is very exciting for me, because it indicates to me that whatever difficulties there may be in the structures and changes of the Japanese universities and the educational system, there are still incredibly bright people coming through the educational system. And we in the Fulbright program get to see many of the brightest.

The challenging side of my position is to articulate, and to actually help facilitate the educational and economic reform of Japan with diminishing resources for the Fulbright program. So, I want to do more, recognizing the challenge that our financial situation will be under increasing pressure with the possibility of fewer grants, but with hopes that we may accomplish even more.

#### **Fulbright program is my life !**

My first connection to the Fulbright program took place many years ago, in fact in 1970, when I was 18 years old. I had the great privilege of meeting Senator Fulbright. I had no idea that I would later have a Fulbright grant or be Executive Director of the Fulbright Program in Japan. But those were years in the United States of great debate over U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Senator Fulbright came to the campus of the university in which I was studying and gave a talk. I cannot remember, of course, all of what he said at that time, but he was a man of great stature and spoke with great eloquence. By coincidence, because I came into the meeting auditorium late, all of the seats in the auditorium were



full, except some seats were being added on the stage for the overflow crowd. I was seated one meter away from Senator Fulbright because I was late. I formed a deep impression of the Senator at a time of great turmoil in American society. Senator Fulbright spoke out very eloquently in an effort to lead the U.S. turmoil to a peaceful solution in Vietnam, to get the U.S. out of Vietnam. It's a longer story but well known that President Johnson criticized the Senator for his public opposition to the war. In short, I had the great privilege of meeting Senator Fulbright before I had any idea that I would, later, wear the Fulbright badge. I then devoted about twenty years of my life from that time to human rights and democratization work in the broader effort to bring about a more peaceful world.

Secondly, the Fulbright Program provided me with an opportunity to study in Korea. After three years of coursework for my Ph.D., when I had passed my general exams and was preparing for my actual thesis, I had applied for a Fulbright to Korea from the University of Washington. I was selected and then spent the period of 1986 - '87, one academic year, doing dissertation field work, at the Asiatic Research Center of Korea University in Seoul.

During that time, I was able to interview Mr. Kim Jong-Pil, one of the key plotters of the military coup d'état of May 16th, 1961. He had subsequently served in many capacities, including Prime Minister, and has been a contender for the presidency as well. It was crucial that I was able to get that interview, but it was because I was a Fulbright scholar that despite a

busy schedule he set aside time to meet with me.

I had an opportunity several times during the Fulbright year to hold discussions directly with the U.S. Ambassador on events not only about Fulbright, but about ongoing political developments in Korea. Our first meeting was supposed to have been a short, standing buffet reception with the Ambassador. It turned into a two and a half hour in-depth discussion, about Korean politics and U.S. policy. This brought the opportunity to have an extensive discussion for more than an hour one-on-one with the Ambassador later in the Fulbright year. I also recall that was the 25th anniversary of the Fulbright program in Korea. Professor Robert Scalapino came to Korea, as the principal guest speaker for the event. Professor Scalapino had a reputation for being fairly conservative as a scholar, but in his public lecture, commemorating the 25 years of the Fulbright Program in Korea, he was very direct in publicly calling for increased democratization of the Korean government. This was quite memorable.

There was a period in June 1987, when for three weeks, there were so many demonstrations for democratization, that tear gas was a measurable air pollutant over the city of Seoul. As a student of politics, I was out seeing hundreds of thousands of people in the streets demonstrating for a return to civilian democratic rule. The Fulbright grant, then, provided me the opportunity for in-depth research and a closer encounter with Korea, by enabling me to complete my graduate thesis and earn my Ph.D.

Overall the Fulbright program is my life. It's not just affecting my life. It is my life, now that I am serving as Executive Director in Japan. I see it as an honor, and a welcomed opportunity to return to the Fulbright program the gratitude I feel. I intend to leave a mark, a positive mark, in revitalizing and invigorating the Fulbright program to continue to make a difference going forward. I look forward to channeling my energies into upholding the spirit of the Fulbright program.