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MEDIA ADVISORY

Japanese Leaders Kick off U.S. Political Exchange in the District Delegates to Study U.S. Political System, Discuss Regional & International Issues

WASHINGTON – On Saturday, January 12, 2008, the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) will welcome a delegation of nine young, prominent Japanese political leaders to Washington, D.C. as they begin a two-week political exchange program. Joining the delegation as observers will be Takashi Imai, Chief Officer, Intellectual & Grassroots Exchange Divisions, Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and Jim Gannon, Executive Director, JCIE/USA. The U.S. Department of State funded program will also take the delegates to the state capitals of Indiana and Florida.

ACYPL began exchanging delegations with Japan through the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) in 1971, making the ACYPL-JCIE exchange one of ACYPL's longest standing bilateral relationships. Eleven members of the Japanese House of Representatives, including Speaker Yohei Kono, Vice Speaker Takahiro Yokomichi, and Mr. Hakuo Yanagisawa, Japanese Minister for Health, Labor and Welfare, are alumni of the exchange program.

Who: The following political leaders, aged twenty-five to forty from across the Japanese political spectrum, will participate:

- **Mr. Yamato Aoyama** (DPJ - Democratic Party of Japan) - Member, Ibaraki Prefectural Assembly
- **Ms. Hiyuko Fujita** (Delegation Escort) - Program Assistant, Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)
- **Mr. Hiroki Iwamatsu** (LDP - Liberal Democratic Party) - Staff Member, LDP Party Headquarters
- **Ms. Rika Kitagawa** (New Komeito Party) - Reporter, Hokkaido Branch, The Komei Shimbun
- **Ms. Junko Kiyono** (DPJ - Democratic Party of Japan) - Staff Researcher, DPJ Policy Research Committee
- **Mr. Masayoshi Kuboya** (DPJ - Democratic Party of Japan) - Assistant to Mr. Tsurunen Marutei, Member of the Japanese House of Councilors
- **Mr. Yasuhiro Masujima** (New Komeito Party) - Staff Member, System Development Division, New Komeito Party
- **Mr. Shingo Miyabara** (LDP - Liberal Democratic Party) - Assistant to Mr. Kenji Kosaka, Member of the Japanese House of Representatives
- **Ms. Keiko Ogawa** (LDP - Liberal Democratic Party) - Member, Nerima City Assembly

What: Program highlights will include:

- Meetings with U.S. Representative Ed Royce (R-Calif.), a 1984 ACYPL delegate to the former West Germany, as well as the Office of U.S. Representative Mike Honda (D-Calif.), and Debbie Hohlt, Federal Representative for the State of Indiana and a former president of the ACYPL Board of Trustees; and
- Discussions with officials from the White House Domestic Policy Council, the U.S. Department of State, the International Economic Development Council, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, AARP, and the Embassy of Japan.

When: January 12-16, 2008

Why: The purpose of this exchange program is to:

- Promote mutual understanding;
- Expose the delegates to the American political system at the national, state and local levels;
- Provide perspective on American culture; and
- Allow participants to engage in dialogue on international issues and forge professional relationships with their American counterparts.

About The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL)

Recognized by the U.S. Congress as a pre-eminent catalyst for introducing rising political leaders and policy makers to international affairs and to each other, the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) is a bi-partisan, not-for-profit international exchange organization based in Washington, DC. Since its founding in 1966, ACYPL has conducted programs and exchanges with more than 90 nations, producing a global network of several thousand alumni. Former ACYPL participants include 38 sitting members of the U.S. Congress, 6 sitting U.S. governors and ambassadors, cabinet ministers and parliamentarians around the globe. For more information on ACYPL, please visit <http://www.acypl.org>.

PLEASE NOTE – TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW WITH DELEGATES OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACYPL OR THIS DELEGATION, MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT MIKE GARRETSON AT 202-857-0999 x27 OR mgarretson@acypl.org.

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