

Summary (Part 2)
of USJI Seminars on

“How will key policies of the Hatoyama Administration impact U.S.-Japan relations?”

Congratulatory Speech, Ambassador Fujisaki

U.S.-Japan Research Institute (“USJI”) organized a two-day seminar titled “How will key policies of the Hatoyama Administration impact U.S.-Japan relations?” at Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C., on February 1 - 2, 2010.

Experts, policy-makers and observers from both public and private sectors in the United States, Japan and South Korea discussed key policy issues, such as energy, the environment, national security, and the East Asian Community, and assessed the policies of the new Japanese administration, under Prime Minister Hatoyama, on U.S.-Japan relationship of trust and cooperation.

Professor Naoyuki Agawa of Keio University kicked off the Tuesday morning seminar on “East Asian Situation and US-Japan Alliance” (seminar #2) by welcoming Japanese Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki to make the opening speech.

Ambassador Fujisaki commented on Japan-US relations and praised the USJI event. He said the US-Japan relationship is getting more attention recently due to the (Okinawa US Marine) base relocation debate. While some suggest giving more time for Japan with a new administration, others urge both sides to work on more urgent and important issues. He pointed out that it is very natural for a new administration in any country to review the policies of the precedent. Prime

Minister Hatoyama and the ministers have repeatedly stated that by the end of May, there will be a conclusion.

Ambassador Fujisaki praised great ambitious events organized by USJI, through the joint efforts of the five top Japanese universities. He compared the top five to the Ivy League in America. It is not likely that Harvard, MIT, Princeton, Stanford and Yale (in alphabetic order) would jointly create an office in Tokyo. The Japanese Ambassador compares USJI to a harbor, with the potential to grow into a big port, where young scholars and experts from Japan can drop in anchor to collect information about the United States and share with the community. The harbor has a lighthouse that guides Japanese scholars and network think tanks in Washington. He calls for support to USJI.