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UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH AND WORLD AFFAIRS HOST AN EVENING OF INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS:

“WALK IN U.S., TALK ON JAPAN” AND “THE REFUGEE CRISIS - SYRIA AND BEYOND”

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (OCTOBER 5, 2015) – The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in West Hartford, Connecticut and the World Affairs Council will host two panel discussions: “Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan” on October 13 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., focusing on critical global issues of security, economics, and education, followed by “The Refugee Crisis—Syria and Beyond,” from 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., a community forum, in the Crystal Room of Mercy Hall, located on the University’s main campus: 1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford. The events are free and open to the public.

“Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan,” an interactive discussion featuring guest panelist Ichiro Fujisaki, former Japanese Ambassador to the United States, “aims to promote the relationship between the two nations and keep it in the forefront of American minds by bringing a diverse team of Japanese citizens to engage in gainful dialogue,” said Greg Boyko, USJ Trustee and Honorary Consul General for Japan.

Panelists, who will engage attendees in discussion about Japan-U.S. relations, include:

- **Keizo Iijima**, retired from Thomson Reuters and the Bank of Tokyo, will speak on Abenomics, the economic policies advocated by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.
- **Akiko Takahashi**, who has worked in the financial affairs section of Nomura Holdings, will address issues of aging including longevity and nutrition.
- **Haruko Yuda**, a student at the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Public Policy, will speak on education.
- **Mai Iida**, an employee in the president's office of ISA Co., Ltd., will address disaster prevention and reconstruction.

The panel discussion, sponsored by USJ (President Rhona Free and the Office of International Studies and Programs) and the World Affairs Council, will be followed by light refreshments.

“The Refugee Crisis—Syria and Beyond,” a community forum, also free and open to the public, engages the campus and larger community in a dialog about the Syrian refugee crisis. The forum will feature Ellen Billard, executive director of Road to Mafraq and Chris George, executive director of Integrated Refugee Immigrant Services (IRIS).

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The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master’s and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University’s two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 25 majors and seven pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

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