

A Reexamination of the Fulbright Program in Japan Kagehide Kaku (USA 1986)

Biography

Mr. Kaku graduated from the University of Tokyo with a bachelor's of arts degree in economics in 1965. In the same year, Mr. Kaku joined the Bank of Japan team. Between 1968 and 1970, Mr. Kaku studied at the University of Chicago as a Fulbright grantee in the school of economics. In 1992, Mr. Kaku became the director of the research and statistics department at the Bank of Japan. He was promoted in 1994 to the director, bank supervision department. In 1996, Mr. Kaku joined the Daiwa Research Institute as the vice-chairman of the Institute. In 1998, Mr Kaku served as president of the Japan-United States Educational Exchange Promotion Foundation, which includes the Fulbright Foundation. Mr. Kaku left the Daiwa Research Institute in 2006 to become a professor at Tokyo University.

Background

In Japan, the Fulbright exchange program has been extremely valuable especially in the program's earlier days, when the opportunities to study in the U.S. were quite limited. The Fulbright program has also promoted student exchange. After half a century, of course, the situation for educational exchange has completely changed. Channels to study abroad are wide open. For example, in my personal case, I was working at the Bank of Japan, Japan's central bank, when I was granted a Fulbright scholarship in 1968. Those days the Bank of Japan made it a rule to send one staff member to the U.S. under the Fulbright program every year. But since 1970, the Bank of Japan has changed its policy so as to let a staff member study in the U.S. on its own budget instead of the Fulbright fund. That has been the case for many Japanese institutions, both private and public. How has the role of the Fulbright program in the new world changed?

Discussions Questions

- 1) What is the *raison d'etre* of the Fulbright program when there are so many other opportunities to study abroad?
- 2) What is the rationale of exchange programs for students and scholars with the U.S. as the axis in a multilateralized world?
- 3) What are the desirable qualifications for Fulbright grantees?
- 4) From which fields of study are Fulbright grantees to be selected?
- 5) What is the expected role of Fulbright program alumni in furthering the Fulbright program into the future?