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THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUPS

InReview





OUR MISSION, OUR MODEL, OUR PROGRAMMING

Founded in 1983, **The Congressional Study Groups** are non-partisan, non-advocacy legislative exchanges which facilitate dialogue between Members and Senior Staff of the US Congress and their international counterparts. Programming consists of intimate roundtables at home on Capitol Hill and study tours abroad, both featuring high-level representatives and experts from academia, the business community, and government. Our model has promoted an active, substantive discussion among all principals to foster the development of lasting relationships based on mutual respect and understanding.



The Study Groups are organized by the **US Association of Former Members of Congress (FMC)**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit civic organization. Initially founded in 1970 as an alumni association and chartered by Congress ten years later, FMC has grown over the decades to provide a rich array of programs that share the common goals of promoting civic education, encouraging public service, and strengthening representative democracy domestically and internationally. The Congressional Study Groups are thus a part of the seamless fabric of FMC programs that combine the experience and wisdom of those who served with the insights and interests of those who currently are serving.



OUR IMPACT

114th Congress

Regular **roundtable discussions on Capitol Hill** are the foundation of our programming. Maintaining a year-round outreach ensures that we are developing meaningful relationships instead of having occasional encounters.

62

Roundtables in Washington, DC

108

Unique Members of the US House and Senate participated in a DC program at least once

204

Unique Staff of the US House and Senate — primarily Chiefs of Staff and Committee Staff Directors — participated in a DC program at least once

Immersive travel experiences have immense value. Our study tours remove participants from their everyday circumstances and give them an opportunity to learn and share more candidly and deeply. In addition to developing ties with meeting partners, these bipartisan delegations form bonds among themselves which benefit their legislative work back at home.

14

Study tours abroad

34

Members of the US House and Senate traveled with us

41

Senior congressional staff — Chiefs of Staff, Committee Staff Directors, and District Directors — traveled with us

Our **Diplomatic Advisory Council (DAC)** is our outreach to the diplomatic community posted in Washington, DC. The DAC consists of key ambassadors who participate in and host our programming and serve as a direct link to our partners in national capitals abroad. Find the full list online at www.usafmc.org/DAC.

33

Ambassadors participated at least once in a DC program

11

Ambassadors hosted roundtables in their residences

Our **Senior Congressional Staff Advisory Council**, our **Business Advisory Council**, and the **Board of Directors of the US Association of Former Members of Congress** also guide and participate in our programs.

OUR PROGRAMS

At Home

Capitol Hill

Our home base and where the majority of our roundtables take place. Our programs here bring together visiting foreign officials, Members of Congress, senior congressional staff, the US administration, the private sector, think-tank experts, and the diplomatic community for productive dialogue on a variety of issues. Ambassadors posted in our nation's capital also host high-level discussions in their official residences. Of course, almost all of the incoming study tours we organize come through DC. And while we often engage former Members of Congress as moderators, in 2016, we turned the tables to feature them as candid experts on the US elections.

★ Washington, DC

33rd Annual Congress Bundestag Seminar

The pinnacle of The Congressional Study Group on Germany's program calendar each year. The Seminar alternates between Germany and the US. In 2016, Ted Deutch (D-FL), Co-Chair of The Congressional Study Group on Germany, hosted the delegation of Members of Congress and the German Bundestag in Florida's 21st District. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), Co-Chair of The Congressional Study Group on Europe, in eastern Nebraska.

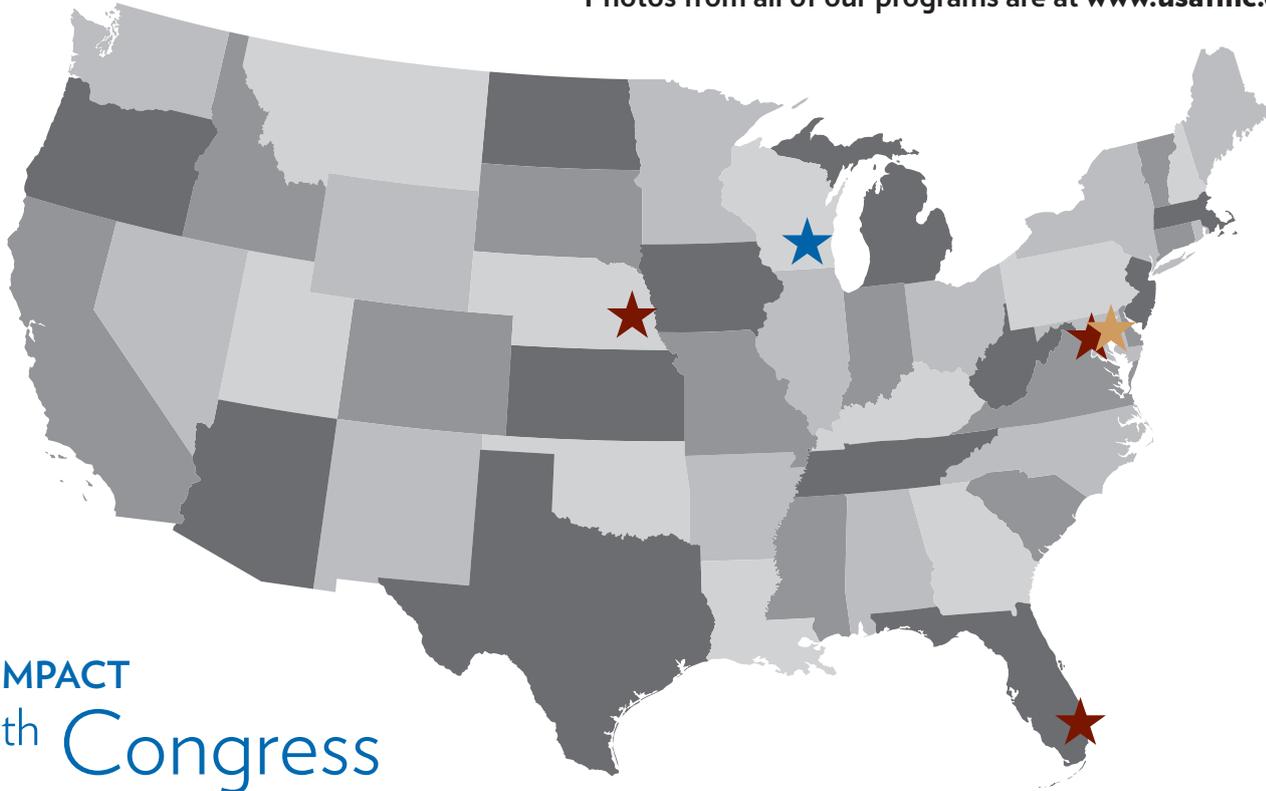
★ Boca Raton and Ft. Lauderdale, FL | Nebraska City and Omaha, NE | Washington, DC

2016 Battleground Study Tour

A special program in US election years. A visiting delegation of government officials, business leaders, and journalists – this year in partnership with the Atlantik-Brücke – visits a US state with exceptionally competitive presidential, federal, state, and local campaigns.

★ Delafield, Madison, Milwaukee, and Waukesha, WI

Photos from all of our programs are at www.usafmc.org/photos.



OUR IMPACT 114th Congress

38

Members of Congress added their names to the official Study Group rosters

50:50

A perfect record of bipartisanship participation at our programs

47

States and US Territories were represented at our programs

OUR PROGRAMS

Abroad

In celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the End of World War II, The Congressional Study Group on Japan was awarded the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation "in recognition of significant contributions to maintaining and deepening the Japan-US alliance."

—Presented by Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae, December 2015

Japan



2015, 2016 Congressional Member Study Tours

In partnership with Sasakawa USA, a total of 15 Members of Congress – led by Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Billy Long (R-MO), Co-Chairs of The Congressional Study Group on Japan – traveled to Japan during the 114th Congress, visiting Tokyo, Hiroshima, and Okinawa. In Tokyo, meeting partners included high-level officials such as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Ambassador Caroline Kennedy, Cabinet Ministers, as well as top business executives and journalists. In Hiroshima and Okinawa, the delegations learned about regional issues from prefectural governors and mayors, in addition to challenges facing the US-Japan alliance at visits to military bases. ★ Hiroshima | Okinawa | Tokyo

2015, 2016 Senior Congressional Staff Study Tours

In partnership with Sasakawa USA, two groups of senior congressional staff travelled to Tokyo, Fukushima, Hiroshima, and Okinawa for a weeklong program focusing on security, trade, energy, and social issues. Highlights included meetings with local farmers in Fukushima, an American comedian Patrick Harlan ("Pakkun"), roundtable conversations with students, and visits to Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology. ★ Fukushima | Hiroshima | Okinawa | Tokyo

Former Members of Congress Speaking Tours: 2016 US Elections

In response to high interest in the 2016 US elections from allies abroad, two bipartisan pairs of former Members of Congress visited Japan under Sasakawa Peace Foundation's Invitation Program to speak at public panels about the campaigns and possible implications for the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, the former Member teams met with elected officials, defense experts, and high school and university students. ★ Sapporo | Kyoto | Tokyo

Find the latest updates at www.usafmc.org/csg.

Germany



32nd Annual Congress-Bundestag Seminar

A core delegation of six Members of Congress led by Charles W. Dent (R-PA) and Ted Deutch (D-FL), Co-Chairs of The Congressional Study Group on Germany travelled to Dresden and Leipzig for meetings and in-depth, closed-door conversations at a critical time in the transatlantic relationship. Leipzig University hosted the delegation for a townhall with students. The study tour continued in Berlin for meetings with ranking federal officials, including Chancellor Angela Merkel and Bundestag President Prof. Dr. Norbert Lammert. ★ Leipzig | Dresden | Berlin

Senior Congressional Staff Study Tours

In partnership with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, three delegations of senior congressional staff have travelled to Germany during the 114th Congress. Each bipartisan group met with a range of ranking government officials, business representatives, academics, students, and civil society representatives in order to get as broad a perspective about current transatlantic issues as possible. ★ Berlin | Hamburg | Frankfurt

Inaugural District Directors Study Tour

With support from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through funds of the European Recovery Program, an inaugural delegation of District Directors went “beyond Berlin” to spend their entire trip in Hamburg. The program is an effort to broaden the geographic footprint of the transatlantic relationship, bridging the gap between federal policy and local needs. ★ Hamburg

Europe

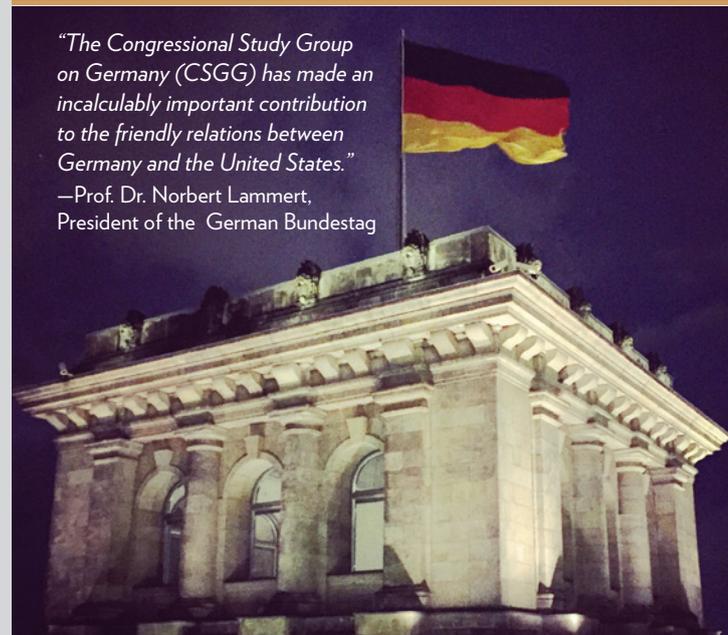


Inaugural Congressional Member Study Tour to Switzerland

In April 2016, The Congressional Study Group on Europe organized its first travel program, in partnership with the Embassy of Switzerland. The program focused on trade, innovation, and Switzerland’s unique place in the international community. ★ Bern | Zurich

“The Congressional Study Group on Germany (CSGG) has made an incalculably important contribution to the friendly relations between Germany and the United States.”

—Prof. Dr. Norbert Lammert,
President of the German Bundestag





OUR NETWORK

We believe dialogue builds trust, and trust builds relationships that breathe life into a shared vision for the future.

No matter the format or the location, people are the heart of The Congressional Study Groups. We could not possibly acknowledge everyone by name who has participated in at least one of our dialogues in the 114th Congress, but here is a glimpse of the individuals and organizations who are the “people” in our people-to-people exchanges. To each and every one, we say thanks for joining us.



US Federal and State Government Officials:

US Trade Representative; US Ambassadors to Germany, Japan, Switzerland, the UK, and NATO; Assistant Secretaries of Defense and State, Lead US Negotiator to the P5+1 Iran Negotiations; Members of the US Senate and House of Representatives; Governor of Wisconsin; Mayors of Boca Raton, Madison, and Milwaukee; Congressional Research Service

Foreign Dignitaries:

Chancellor of Germany; Prime Minister of Japan; President of the Swiss Confederation; various Cabinet Ministers and State Secretaries of Economics, Foreign Affairs, Defense, Justice, and Homeland Security; numerous members of national and provincial parliaments; numerous provincial governors and mayors in Germany and Japan

Foreign Ambassadors:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Vietnam [Learn more about the Diplomatic Advisory Council at www.usafmc.org/DAC]





Business Community:

American Chamber of Commerce in Japan; Federation of German Industries; German Chambers of Commerce and Industry; KEIDANREN; Keizai Doyukai; Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce; members of Business Advisory Council of The Congressional Study Groups [Learn more about the Business Advisory Council at www.usafmc.org/BAC]

Civil Society and Academia:

Atlantik-Brücke; Atlantic Council; Brookings Institution; Center for American Progress; Committee of 100; German Marshall Fund of the United States; German political foundations: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung; Japan-US Friendship Commission; Middle East Institute; Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology; Pew Research Center; Sasakawa USA; Stimson Center; Turkish Coalition of America; universities in Germany, Japan, and Switzerland; Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Media:

CBS Radio News; The Hill; The New York Times; POLITICO; RealClearPolitics; The Wall Street Journal; The Washington Post; representatives from Japanese and European press outlets

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OUR NETWORK

InProfile

InProfile is a regular interview series with selected “Friends of The Congressional Study Groups,” from Members of Congress, to Ambassadors, to NGO and philanthropic leaders. Each profile aims to put aside policy just for a few moments and highlight the person behind the position.

Excerpts from three profiles are here, and you can read the rest at www.usafmc.org/InProfile.



Dr. Karen Donfried
*President of the
German Marshall Fund
of the United States*

Dr. Donfried’s rise to prominence as a leading expert on US-German relations could have been waylaid early on by a group of elementary school students. As a young child, her family moved to Germany, so her father, a New Testament scholar, could complete doctoral studies at the University of Heidelberg. “I went to German kindergarten and we had a babysitter who was German,” said Dr. Donfried. “We came back to the US when I was four and I actually had an accent to my English and was teased by the other kids.” She went to speech therapy and vowed never to speak German again.



**The Honorable
Jim McDermott**
*US House of
Representatives
(D-WA, 1989-2017)*

“Zen Buddhism has a number of disciplines and one of them is, of course, meditation,” said Mr. McDermott. “And I was no good at that; I fell asleep. But painting intrigued me and to be a good painter you have to become one with the brush. And you have to be able to block out the rest of the world and focus on a piece of paper. Once you’ve put the ink on the rice paper, it’s done. So you have to know at that moment—you’ve got to be right with the brush and know that this is what I want the stroke to look like. It’s a way of focusing—it’s a meditational art form that requires you to—you can’t do it in a crowded room with a bunch of people talking. I guess you can, but never for me; it’s always been meditation.”



H.E. David O’Sullivan
*Head of the Delegation
of the European Union*

Though Ambassador O’Sullivan grew up in a comfortable, middle-class family, Ireland itself was a relatively poor and insular country in the 1950s during his youth. He came to California in early childhood, which proved to be a transformative experience. “I think I’ve described it in other places as that moment in the *Wizard of Oz* when the movie goes from black and white to Technicolor,” said Ambassador O’Sullivan. It’s an apt and rather literal description given that his only images of the United States came at a time when televisions only broadcasted in black-and-white. “And I acquired at that point a great love and affection for this country, which has never left me.”

OUR PARTNERS

We would like to thank our many partners, who help us to sustain and grow our programs.
We are grateful for their generous support and commitment to international dialogue and exchange.

Institutional Partners

Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA
German Marshall Fund of the United States
Japan-US Friendship Commission

Grant-Making & Program Partners

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Embassy of Switzerland
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Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung
Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung
Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Transatlantic Program of the Government of
the Federal Republic of Germany through
funds of the European Recovery Program
of the Federal Ministry of Economics and
Technology
Turkish Coalition of America
ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius

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Nissan North America
Representative of German Industry and Trade
Sojitz
Toyota Motor North America
Volkswagen Group of America
United Parcel Service*
Anonymous (1)

**Denotes a corporation that supports multiple Study Groups*



THE CONGRESSIONAL STUDY GROUPS

Programs of the US Association of Former Members of Congress (FMC)

1401 K Street NW, Suite 503, Washington, DC 20005, USA

(202) 222-0972 | www.usafmc.org/csg

