



The Nobuko Forum



Topics for discussion

- *Career-building*
- *Leadership*
- *Self-confidence*
- *Mentoring*
- *Creating female networks*
- *Public speaking*
- *Work-life balance*
- *Workplace diversity*
- *Childcare*
- *Mission and sense of purpose*
- *Serving overseas*
- *Entrepreneurship*
- *On-ramping and off-ramping*
- *Changing career courses*
- *Cultural differences in gender roles*

The Nobuko Forum is a panel discussion program moderated by Nobuko Sasae that seeks to empower young professional women by lifting up the experiences and insights of powerful women leaders from both the United States and Japan. It is designed as an interactive forum for multicultural and multi-generational participants to hear the personal stories of accomplished women and learn from their experiences. It is aimed at boosting women's self-confidence and encouraging them to be bolder in their thinking, behavior, careers, and leadership in order to unleash their full potential in life. The discussion session is followed by a networking buffet dinner. Attendees include current and future leaders in the U.S. and Japanese governments, international organizations, the diplomatic community, Washington-based cultural institutions and think tanks, the media, academia, and the corporate world.

Since April 2016, Nobuko Sasae has hosted bimonthly forums featuring two prominent guest speakers for each session.



*Hosted by Mrs. Nobuko Sasae
Chair and Moderator of
the Nobuko Forum
Conference Interpreter and Wife
of the Ambassador of Japan to
the U.S.*

Attendees

- *Japanese professionals and business leaders*
- *Prominent U.S. businesswomen, government and civil service women leaders*
- *Over 100 guests per event*



A leader should be decisive, inclusive, and have a sense of humor.

Ms. Wendy Cutler, Vice President & Managing Director of the Asia Policy Institute, Washington, D.C. Office; Diplomat and Negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (1988-2015)



A leader should have a sense of mission and passion.

Dr. Naoko Ishii, CEO & Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility; Deputy Vice Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance



Women open up possibilities when they mentor each other.

Ambassador Capricia Marshall, Ambassador-in-Residence, Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center; U.S. Chief of Protocol (2009-2013), White House Social Secretary (1997-2001)



Succeed by following the Five P's: Purpose, Passion, Planning, Patience, and Perseverance.

Ambassador Connie Morella, Ambassador to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2003-2005); Member of the U.S. House of Representatives (1987-2003)



Embrace confidence by letting go of perfectionism and turning your thoughts into actions.

Ms. Claire Shipman, Co-Author of "The Confidence Code" and "Womenomics"; Contributor to ABC News' "Good Morning America"



We can be confident in a graceful, rather than arrogant, way by acting with empathy.

H.E. Anne Anderson, Ambassador of Ireland to the United States; Ambassador to the United Nations in New York (2009-2013); Ambassador to France (2005-2009); Ambassador to the European Union, Brussels (2001-2005); Ambassador to the United Nations, Geneva (1995-2001)



The best thing about the Peace Corps is helping other people discover their own potential.

Ms. Carrie Hessler-Radelet, President & CEO of Project Concern International (PCI); Director of the Peace Corps (2014-2017)



Overseas assignments can be a chance to give a voice to women who have never had their voice heard before.

Ms. Pamela Reeves, Principal, Reeves Advisory; Senior Advisor in the Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State (2010-2013)



We are most effective when we create an atmosphere in which people feel comfortable being honest.

Ms. Avril Haines, White House Deputy National Security Advisor (2015-2017); Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (2013-2015)



When you let your genuine identity shine through, it will resonate with people.

Ms. Tina Tchen, Assistant to the President, Chief of Staff to the First Lady, and Executive Director of the White House Council on Women and Girls (2011-2017); Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement (2009-2011)



Work/life balance and your relationship with your kids are things that change over the course of your life.

Ms. Haruno Yoshida, Vice-Chair of the Board of Councillors and Chair of the Committee on Gender Diversity, KEIDANREN; President & Representative Director, BT Japan Corporation



Take a long view of life. You have time for multiple careers. Keep learning and growing!

Ms. Kathleen Ann Matthews, Chief Communications and Public Affairs Officer, Marriott International (2006-2015); Anchor, ABC News (1991-2006)



Reinvent yourself so that experience is valued more than age; age does not determine your true abilities.

Ms. Andrea Mitchell, Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent, NBC News (1994-present); Host of MSNBC's "Andrea Mitchell Reports" (2000-present)



To counter self-doubt, keep a "have-done list" to remind yourself of your successes.

Ms. Nina Easton, Chair, Fortune Most Powerful Women; International Co-Chair, Fortune; Global Forum Senior Associate, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)



I look for entrepreneurs who are humble, who want businesses that are both profitable and have a positive impact on society.

Dr. Sachiko Kuno, President & CEO, S&R Foundation (2000-present); Co-Founder, Halcyon (2017); Co-Founder, WE Capital (2016); Biochemical Engineer; Entrepreneur; Philanthropist



Successful entrepreneurs are resilient, innovative, and confident without being arrogant.

Ms. Kate Goodall, CEO, Halcyon (2017-present); COO, S&R Foundation (2013-present)



Know your worth, and don't focus on obstacles. Be confident and curious. Opportunity is out there!

Secretary Elaine L. Chao, U.S. Secretary of Transportation (2017-present); U.S. Secretary of Labor (2001-2009); President & CEO of United Way (1996-2001); Director of the Peace Corps (1991-1992)



When I was sworn in, I thought black women have come a long way from when slaves weren't allowed to read.

The Honorable Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress (2016-present); President of the American Library Association (2003-2004); CEO of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore (1993-2016)



There are as many sorts of women as there are women, so be yourself, because everyone else is taken.

Ms. Stephanie Stebich, Margaret and Terry Stent Director of the Smithsonian American Art Museum; Executive Director of the Tacoma Art Museum (2005-2017)



If you are happy in each chapter of your life, you'll be confident. Don't let someone else choose your path—pick something you love to do!

Ambassador Carla A. Hills, United States Trade Representative (1989-1993); Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (1975-1977)



Confidence comes from always choosing to do the right thing, even when it's hard.

Ms. Heather A. Conley, Senior Vice President for Europe, Eurasia, and the Arctic; Director, Europe Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies



Don't over-examine your actions. Sometimes you have to leap before you look.

Ambassador Caroline Kennedy, U.S. Ambassador to Japan (2013-2017); Author, Attorney & Diplomat