

2017 USC Global Conference convenes in Tokyo

President C. L. Max Nikias announces Beijing as the host city for the next in the university's series of Pacific Rim conferences



Student performers from the USC Kaufman School of Dance pose with USC President C. L. Max Nikias and his wife, Niki C. Nikias (center), along with USC Kaufman Dean Robert Cutietta, (left), and Vice Dean Jodie Gates, (right), as the 2017 Global Conference comes to close. *Photo by Daiki Suzuki*

TOKYO – The 2017 USC Global Conference drew to a close Saturday night with a gala dinner in the Grand Ballroom at the Grand Hyatt Tokyo. President C. L. Max Nikias reflected on the learnings of the conference and shared the destination of the next event.

“Our alumni and faculty and friends have been able to identify emerging issues and opportunities in this still-young ‘age of the Pacific’ ... as well as potential allies in addressing them,” Nikias said.

“And we look forward to seeing you all at our next Global Conference in the spring of 2020 ... in the great city of Beijing!”

Dancers and dinner

A crowd of nearly 500 gathered for the event, which featured talented student performers from the USC Kaufman School

of Dance. The gala dinner served as the finale of the three-day conference.

Nikias lauded the importance of the arts in reflection of the USC Kaufman School’s performance and in context to the event’s focus on innovation.

“I have long believed that science and technology are mainly the means to an end—but great art is our end, as individual human beings and as a global society,” Nikias said.

Participants at the Global Conference learned how USC, as the world leader in creative technologies, has been at the forefront of turning creativity into reality in sectors including the sciences, humanities, engineering, medicine, entrepreneurship, the arts and entertainment. Renowned scholars from USC engaged in discussions with leading Japanese experts to explore how to improve and enhance lives worldwide.

‘Creating the Future’

Those in attendance gleaned insight into “Creating the Future” from leading global executives and academics, including featured conversations with Kazuo Hira, president and CEO of Sony Corp.

USC’s Global Conference series is held in major world cities and brings together renowned academics and influential business leaders to present and discuss the latest research results across the full range of academic disciplines and their influence on the Pacific Rim.

The USC Global Conference returned to Tokyo for the first time since the city served as site for the first-ever conference in 2007. Subsequent conferences were held in Shanghai; Seoul, South Korea; Hong Kong; and Taipei, Taiwan.

Creating the Future: USC Global Conference in Tokyo



1. The 2017 Global Conference returned to Tokyo for the first time since the inaugural conference held in 2007. The 2020 Global Conference will be held in Beijing.
2. Hundreds of people attended panels and participated in thought-provoking discussions over the course of the three-day conference.
3. Kazuo Hirai, Sony chief executive officer and president, discussed technologies that will drive our future with Dean Elizabeth Daley of the USC School of Cinematic Arts.
4. Dr. Koji Murofushi, sports director for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo
5. Kazuo Hirai
6. General (Ret.) David Petraeus, a Judge Widney Professor at USC (left), and Yukio Okamoto, a career diplomat in Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, discussed the shared interests of Japan and the United States at the conference.
7. Dr. Steve Kay, director of convergent biosciences and Provost Professor in the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
8. Toichi Takenaka, chairman and chief executive officer of the Takenaka Corporation, and President Nikias
9. USC President C. L. Max Nikias
10. USC Provost Michael Quick
11. Willow Bay, dean of the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, discussed recent research on the effects of digital media on teen-parent relationships in the United States and Japan with James Steyer (far left), CEO of Common Sense Media.

Photos 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, USC; Photos 2-3, 5, 7, 11, Daiki Suzuki

