

## A Message from the President

Fiscal 2001 was the first year of the 21st century, and it marked the tumultuous launching of a new age.

Above all else, the destruction of the World Trade Center buildings in New York, the 9.11 Incident, constituted a massive shock to international society. We of the Japan Foundation consider this incident to be particularly unfortunate, since we carry out our programs upon the belief that a rich culture and society can be realized through mutual recognition and acceptance the highly diversified cultures and ideologies of the world.

Confrontations and disputes between the countries and regions of the world do indeed exist. But we firmly believe that the human race is capable of utilizing its tolerance and wisdom to overcome such difficulties. And we wish to continue to embrace this conviction as we go on to develop our programs in the future.

In December 2001, the Prime Minister's Cabinet made the decision for the Japan Foundation to become an independent administrative institution. It has completed its role of special legal entity, which it had been fulfilling for approximately thirty years since its founding, and it has now been reborn as a new organization. We are determined to continue to execute efficient programs, based upon our accomplishments of the past and with a flexibility that meets the demands of the new age.

Looking back over the programs of the past, one that deserves special mention here is the "Yokohama Triennale 2001," the first large-scale international contemporary art exhibition ever held in Japan. It was held for a 2-month period, with the participation of 109 artists from 38 countries around the world, and it attracted the rapt attention of the mass media, which gave generous coverage of the numerous original works it displayed. It also served to greatly enhance the interest of the general public in contemporary art.

Fiscal 2001 marked the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Center for Global Partnership. During the time since its inception, the Center has carried out a broad variety of programs, including cultural dialogue, aid for research, and regional and grass-roots exchange programs, for the purpose of further deepening the relationship between Japan and the United States and cooperative promotion based upon the global viewpoint of both nations. And a commemorative symposium was held in celebration and for initiation of a new start, titled "Considering the Future of the Japan-US Relationship."

The Center also cooperated in the commemorative events held in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the San Francisco Peace Treaty.

The carrying out of joint activities, not only in the realm of simple exchange, but also in the context of working toward the attainment of the common purposes of the people of different countries is extremely effective in the enhancement of mutual understanding. One program of this type that was carried out by the Center was a performance tour of Malaysia of "The Island in Between," a joint production by contemporary theatre people from Japan and Malaysia. The Japan Foundation provided aid and cooperation throughout the entire program, from the production stage to sponsoring of the performance tour. The Center hopes to further replete joint programs of this type with numerous other countries in the future.

Upon the occasion of the Japan-Korea jointly sponsored Soccer World Cup 2002, many Japan-Korea cultural-exchange programs were carried out with the aim of making “The Year of Japan-Republic of Korea National Exchange in 2002” for the revitalization of exchange between the two nations. One of the programs of the Foundation of this type was the invitation to Japan and carrying out of an all-Japan tour of the Korean musical “Line One,” for the purpose of introducing Korean arts to Japan.

In addition, the Foundation succeeding in making a contribution to Japan-UK understanding on the private-sector level through participative cooperation with Japanese private-sector enterprises in the large-scale cultural program “Japan 2001,” which provided a comprehensive introduction of Japanese culture in the United Kingdom.

The evaluation committee, which is made up of outside experts and was initiated in the previous fiscal year, has expressed significant opinions from a broad range of viewpoints on the stance of evaluation of cultural-exchange programs, based upon which serious considerations are being made within the Foundation toward determining the best means for concrete application of those opinions.

In the realm of the budget, there has been a continued decrease in the operation income that serves as one of the financial sources for the support of Foundation programs. Taking this situation as well as our conversion into an independent administrative institution firmly in mind, we must continue to make efforts toward effective operation in terms of budget, personnel, and programs.

Thus, we intend to continue to exert our best efforts toward the promotion of mutual international understanding and friendship through cultural exchange on into the future, and we humbly request your continued support and cooperation.



**Hiroaki Fujii**  
**President, The Japan Foundation**