

## **Introduction**

In this “Annual Report 2002” the Japan Foundation presents a report of its programs carried out in fiscal 2002.

This annual report gives outlines of and reactions to the multi-faceted international exchange activities that were carried out during fiscal 2002, and at the same time, efforts have been made to provide a three-dimensional grasp of the programs of the Japan Foundation through the presentation of all types of statistics by both region and type.

Fiscal 2002 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Japan Foundation, and it served as a turning point for further enhancement of activities. This was manifested in the broad range of programs carried out through the mutual participation of the citizens of Japan and Korea in a great variety of fields such as the arts, sports, and life culture, including “The Concert of Korean and Japanese Court Music” as part of the events held in commemoration of the “Year of Japan-ROK National Exchange” that was designated in conjunction with the co-hosting of the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan. This was also the year that saw the opening of the Seoul Japan Cultural Center as the 19<sup>th</sup> overseas office of the Japan Foundation.

In October 2003, the Japan Foundation became an independent administrative institution, providing a chance for a new start, and at present it is in the process of carrying out a large variety of reforms toward concrete development of increasingly effective and efficient programs.

We sincerely hope that you will all read this annual report and will not hesitate to give us your frank opinions concerning the proper stance for the Japan Foundation to take in the future.

The Japan Foundation