

Outline of Programs, by Region

East Asia

Overview

During fiscal 2002, the total amount of funds for Japan Foundation programs targeted to East Asia was ¥1,726.17 million. In terms of country, the amounts allocated to China and Korea were the largest, with ¥1,084.04 million for China, putting it in second place worldwide, and ¥5,826.7 million for Korea, putting it in third place. Also, in terms of fields continuing from the previous year, the highest ratio was in the fields of Japanese-language education and Japanese studies at 46.1% of all the programs for the entire region.

Concerning Korea, in conjunction with the Soccer World Cup co-hosting by Japan and Korea, fiscal 2002 was designated as the “Year of Japan-ROK National Exchange.” As for China, a “China Year” and a “Japan Year” were observed as part of the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-China relations, under the banner of which numerous cultural exchange programs were carried out throughout the year that were targeted toward promotion of mutual understanding and engendering a sense of mutual trust between the two nations.

Programs targeted toward Korea were greatly enhanced in terms of both quality and volume due to the events held for the “Year of Japan-ROK National Exchange” and the opening of the Japan Cultural Center, Seoul in March 2002. The Foundation carried out a total of 371 programs, ranging from such large-scale sponsorship programs as “The Concert of Korean and Japanese Court Music,” “Masterpieces of Japanese Art,” and a retrospective of films by 15 great Japanese directors, to the extending of aid of varying amounts. Most of the aid programs were those carried out under the support program for exchange on the grassroots level that was initiated in 2000, and there was notable activity in the area of exchange between the citizens of Japan and Korea as a result. On the open website called “Japan-Korea Exchange Express,” information was collected and introduced, and at the same time, the posting of reference information for the framing of plans for programs and of reading materials aimed toward exciting an interest in Japanese-Korean exchange was carried out for the purpose of exerting efforts toward effecting joint ownership of experience and know-how, and cooperation in the execution of programs on a broad scale.

With regard to China, various plans were developed with the focus on: i) the promotion of exchange among intellectual leaders and young leaders, ii) the nurturing of Japanese studies scholars to serve as a nucleus of people knowledgeable about Japan and the creation of an information network, and iii) support for Japanese-language education based upon diverse needs. Also continuing from the previous year, active support was extended to a Japanese-Chinese researchers’ forum as part of the program for intellectual dialogue, and sights were set on promotion of dialogue among the three nations of Japan, China, and Korea through the holding of “Future Leaders Forum: Japan-Korea-China 2002” and a Japan-China-Korea NPO Seminar. In addition, analysis of

the results of the “Survey on international organizations in Northeast Asia” was conducted and data on those organizations were posted on the Foundation website. The Foundation has supported the operation of the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies for numerous years, and during fiscal 2002, it held the international symposium “Evolving Japanese Studies” and a framework-raising ceremony was held for new facilities that are being built under gratis funding cooperation from the Japanese government.

Overseas Office Reports

KOREA

The Japan Cultural Center, Seoul

1. Overview

Fiscal 2002 can be said to have been a year in which the excitement of the society reached the zenith in the context of modern Korean history. What is more, due to the holding of a single international sports tournament, it was an extremely unique and special year for Korea.

While the year marked the end of the Kim Dae-Jung regime, giving rise to a general sense of uncertainty concerning the future, steady progress was made toward the establishment of democracy and a civil society, IT dissemination permeated the entire nation, and the “Hang Ryu (Korean Wave)” of popular culture was exported and has spread to all of Asia, filling the nation with an atmosphere of hope for entering the ranks of advanced nations of the world in both name and reality.

This “vigor” reached its zenith with the holding of the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan, but up until just prior to the actual opening of this Japanese-Korean co-hosting of the tournament, even as close as one month before the opening ceremony, the majority of the people of Korea had no clear idea of exactly when it was slated to begin. In spite of which, along with the holding of the opening ceremony and the subsequent unexpected victories of the Korean team that in the end put Korea in fourth place, the entire nation was transformed into a veritable crucible of excitement. Scenes of supporters in red T-shirts filling the streets were broadcast throughout the entire world, and as this mass communications coverage was fed back into Korea, it gave rise to a certain youthful and energetic nationalism.

In the midst of all this, a series of social problems emerged, including the death of a female junior high school student after being run over by an armored truck of the Korean-based American army giving rise to anti-American sentiments, Typhoon #15 which struck and killed more than 200 people, and such political scandals as the arrest of the president’s son. Even so, it can be said that the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan served to lend a generally cheerful atmosphere to Korean society as a whole.

Fiscal 2002 was then brought to a close with the presidential election held once every five years in December, and Roh Moo-hyun, who had suddenly risen to the fore during the period of

preliminary elections, won, serving as a symbol of the new society.

2. Cultural Exchange Programs with Japan

Due to the textbook issue and the visit to the Yasukuni Shrine of the previous year, the Japan-Korea relationship suffered its most serious setback in recent years, resulting in the canceling of numerous exchange programs and a freezing of “the fourth round of market opening to Japanese cultures” that was the final stage in the policy of “the liberalization of Japanese culture in the ROK.”

The aftereffects of this situation continued to prevail even after the beginning of 2002, but with the opening of the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan in June, as the Korean team continued to score victories after Japan lost its first match in the knockout stage, the entire Japanese society came out in full support of the Korean team. When news of this was conveyed to the Korean public, owing to the “victor’s grace” that then prevailed, there was a sudden shift to positive sentiments toward Japan throughout Korea. There were even letters published in Korean newspapers on “Why I became pro-Japanese” that would have been unimaginable in the past. At the same time, in Japan, the general sympathetic feelings toward Korea that had been on the rise were suddenly further enhanced, as a result of which, in addition to Korean cuisine and films, the spotlight came to be focused on such “new elegant aspects of Korean society” as trendy dramas and pop singers. In the midst of these phenomena, as though in an attempt to make up for the previous year, numerous groups throughout the entire nation participated in the “Year of Japan-ROK National Exchange,” bringing the total number of celebratory programs carried out, both large and small, to more than 800.

3. Activities of the Japan Cultural Center, Seoul

<Activity Policies>

Due to the delay in the decision on the problem of its status, the Japan Cultural Center, Seoul continued to be unable to carry out any large-scale activities even after the actual initiation of activities in March 2001. However, in March 2002, one year and a half after the initiation of negotiations, the governments of Japan and Korea made a decision concerning its status, and a formal opening ceremony was held at the Sejong Center for the Performing Arts on April 24, with around 300 invited guests, including people involved in the various fields of culture, scholars, and representatives of related organizations, in attendance.

With the solving of the status problem, the activities of the Center gained official recognition, making it possible to carry out far greater PR activities than in the past, and recently, the Center has been carrying out programs in the context of exhibiting the unique features of the Japan Foundation, keeping with the following policies in response to the vigorous and broad range of cultural exchange programs of all types that are being carried out through numerous channels between Japan and Korea, including the private sector and regional self-governing bodies.

- Focus on Reciprocity and Joint Productions
- Systematic Promotion of In-depth Understanding of Japanese Culture

- Work on Common Problems
- Focus on Multi-Nation Programs
- Active Utilization of the Website

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

Exhibition “Japan, Our Close Neighbor” (February through May 2002, Seoul)

Comprehensive reciprocal exhibitions were held for the introduction of the life and culture of Japan and Korea as part of the programs held in commemoration of the “Year of Japan-ROK National Exchange” at the National Folk Museum of Korea and the National Museum of Ethnology in Japan. The exhibitions were highly praised and drew 700,000 visitors in Seoul and 60,000 in Osaka. The Japan Foundation was responsible for the carrying out of the exhibition in Seoul, sponsoring not only the exhibition itself, but also a preliminary academic research project prior to the opening of the exhibition and an evaluation conference after it closed.

Masterpieces of Japanese Art (May through July 2002, Seoul)

This was an exhibition of 189 cultural properties from the Jomon period through the Edo period that was held at the National Museum of Korea as part of the programs carried out in commemoration of the “Year of Japan-ROK National Exchange.” This was the first time that masterpieces of ancient Japanese art, including 17 national treasures and 72 important cultural properties, were introduced in Korea, as a result of which, the exhibition elicited a strong response (attracting a total of 64,991 visitors). In reciprocation for this exhibition, an exhibition entitled “Dynastic Heritage of Korea” was held in both Tokyo and Osaka.

The Concert of Korean and Japanese Court Music (May 2002, Tokyo, Osaka, Seoul, and Pusan)

This is the first public joint concert tour ever made of the court music genres of Japan and Korea, and it was conducted as part of the programs carried out in commemoration of the “Year of Japan-ROK National Exchange.” The tour consisted of eight concerts and two lecture demonstrations given in four cities of Korea and Japan, attracting 6,335 people in Korea and 5,122 in Japan. The concerts were given generous coverage on television and in the newspapers of both countries.



The Concert of Korean and Japanese Court Music
(property of the National Theater of Japan)

Program for Exchange among Junior and Senior High-School Teachers (September & October, 2002, Japan and Korea)

Under joint sponsorship with the Korea Foundation, social science teachers of junior and senior high schools from both countries were extended invitations to visit each other's country for a period of two weeks, during which they observed schools, exchanged opinions, and attended classes on education and society. The "problem of historical awareness" continues to loom large in the context of mutual understanding between Japan and Korea, and this program received high praise from the participating teachers from both countries.

CHINA

The Japan Cultural Center, Beijing

1. Overview

For China, fiscal 2002 was a year during which the camp of new leaders established its lineup and began to indicate directions for the new millennium. At the general meeting of the 16th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in November 2002, there was a broad-ranging shift in the members of the leadership, and Hu Jintao was selected as the new General Secretary. As a result of the holding of the National People's Congress in March 2003, a framework was established with Hu Jintao as the General Secretary and Wen Jiabao as the prime minister. Jiang Zemin remains in the post of Chairman of the Central Military Commission, and due to the adoption of his "Three Representatives" theory as the major ideology of the new regime, it is predicted that he will continue to exert a strong political influence.

In terms of the economy, high economic growth has continued, centered on the coastal regions, and there has been an overall restructuring from a society in which there is a satisfactory supply of food and clothing to a society with a certain amount of latitude. In terms of foreign diplomacy as well, economic priority is the major strategy, and the shift is being made to realistic strategies based on a consciousness of the type of multi-nation diplomacy as that promoted by free trade agreements (FTA) with Southeast Asia. In terms of China's relationship with Japan, while there were a number of problematic incidents such as Prime Minister Koizumi visiting Yasukuni Shrine in April and a group of North Koreans taking refuge at the Consulate-General of Japan at Shenyang in May, cultural exchange programs were carried out vigorously in conjunction with the "Japan Year" and the "China Year" in celebration of the 30th anniversary of normalization of Japan-China relations, that served to both promote mutual understanding and to reconfirm the importance of fostering a trust relationship between the two nations.

In economic terms, the households that have achieved economic leeway have continued to increase the ratio of expenditures on education and entertainment and leisure activities. Also, in the realm of housing, there is a steady increase in families who have abandoned residing in the dormitories allocated to them by their employers in favor of purchasing condominiums even if they have to take out a loan to do so. At the same time, the economic gap between the coastal

cities and the interior agricultural villages is giving rise to an increasing deepening of the “three agricultural problems” (problems of the agricultural industry, the agricultural villages and the farmers themselves).

2. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

During fiscal 2002, activities were vigorously conducted in conjunction with the “Japan Year” and the “China Year” in celebration of the 30th anniversary of normalization of Japan-China relations. Executive committees were formed in both Japan and China for the Japan Year in China and the China Year in Japan 2002. The opening ceremonies were held on April 2, and a total of 320 cultural exchange programs were carried out in the two nations. In China, there was particularly vigorous activity during September and October with a huge series of programs introducing Japan’s first-class stage arts in China, including performance tours of the opera “Madame Butterfly” in Beijing, of “Takarazuka” throughout China, of the opera “Chanchiki” and of concerts by the Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa (all of which were carried out under the auspices of the Japan Foundation program for aid to overseas performances). In addition, a special concert was given by GLAY in Beijing on October 13, drawing a crowd of more than 35,000 people. Chinese young people and fans who came specifically to attend the event from Japan and other parts of Asia were fused into a single body as they gave a standing ovation to the artists, making this the main highlight of the “Japan Year” and the “China Year”. In this manner, this huge variety of programs that were carried out produced great results toward contribution to promotion of exchange and mutual understanding between China and Japan. The problem for the future lies in how to assure that these results do not simply end as a temporary phenomenon as is too often the case with such an intensive year of programs, and to link them to continued enhancement of exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and China.

3. Activities of the Japan Cultural Center, Beijing

<Activity Policies>

Support of intellectual exchange with Chinese intellectuals and young leaders

Through support of programs for intellectual exchange between Japan and China and among the various nations of Asia, along with continuing encouragement to already existing Japanese studies scholars and specialists on Japan issues, the Center exerts efforts toward promotion among scholars and researchers who have had very little contact with Japan in the past to get involved in Japanese studies. The Center also strives to promote personnel exchange in a large variety of fields among people with leadership potential, including not only scholars and researchers, but also businessmen and NPO personnel.

Creation of networks centered on intellectuals for nurturing scholars in and disseminating information on Japanese studies

On the other hand, one of the important matters to be addressed by the Center is the nurturing of Japanese studies scholars in the fields of the humanities and social science through provision

of training in the Japanese language to those who show an interest in Japan in order to provide them with a high level of Japanese-language administration abilities. New facilities that had been planned for many years were completed in March 2003 (with aid from Japanese ODA) for the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies (see p. 98) for which operational aid has been extended by the Japan Foundation for many years. The Foundation intends to strive toward further repletion of the books and materials owned by the Center, and exert efforts toward extending aid toward enhancement of promotion of the Center's Japanese studies information dissemination function to cover the entire nation of China.

Support of Japanese-language education that takes into consideration unique regional features and needs

In its efforts toward strengthening aid for intermediate education level Japanese-language teachers, the Center carries out Japanese-language education training sessions, centered on a resident Japanese-language education advisor. In addition, concerning Japanese-language education for higher education, including universities, the Center exerts efforts toward enhancement and development of Japanese-language education through cooperation and holding of all types of related programs, including training sessions and speech contests. Also, the Center continues to actively support the activities of young Japanese-language instructors who have been dispatched to the northeastern provinces of China.

Full-fledged introduction of Japan utilizing the mass media

In the attempt to reach the 1.3 billion population of China, active utilization of the audio-visual media for provision of information on Japan and introduction of Japanese culture is important. The active utilization of such media as television is of particular importance, and in this context concrete programs have been carried out, such as introducing a life-sized image of Japan under the programs for promoting exchange of television programs, for instance, with "Suzuran" and "Bus Stop," as well as holding a retrospective of Japanese films.

Development of programs in major regional cities

At present there are extremely few cultural programs that are carried out in the provincial cities, compared to those in Beijing and Shanghai. The Center actively works toward deepening its links with all the consulates-general in China and actively develops programs for the introduction of Japanese culture such as dispatch of personnel and touring exhibitions in provincial Chinese cities as well.

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

Traditional Japanese Music Concert Tour (September 1–16, 2002, Chaoyang Culture Center, etc., Tianjin, Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, and Guangzhou)

This program for touring traditional Japanese music was carried out in five cities under the joint sponsorship of the Japan Foundation and the chambers of commerce of the various regional

governments. The program for the concerts was divided into two sections, the first half consisting of pieces by such traditional Japanese instruments as shakuhachi, koto, and biwa, and the second half of collaborative contemporary experimentation with other genres. This made it possible to carry out effective cultural exchange programs that contributed to understanding of both the diversity of Japanese traditional music and its relationship with Asia. In conjunction with the concerts, exchange sessions were also held with the major focus on the Beijing Opera and lecture demonstrations for university students. All the venues were filled to capacity for the concerts, bringing the accumulated total of audience members to 4,000 for the five cities. The majority of the audiences was hearing Japanese traditional music for the first time, which resulted in silence and a sense of rapt attention throughout the performances, and after the actual performances were over, the audiences clapped in time with the background music. There was a strongly positive reaction in all the cities the concerts were staged, with generous coverage given to both the visit of the performing group to China and their concerts by the major newspapers and television stations there.

Leni-Basso Contemporary Dance Tour (March 1–7, 2003, experimental theatre of the Central Drama Conservatory, etc., Beijing and Guangzhou)

A performance tour titled “Finks” by the contemporary dance group Leni-Basso was conducted under the joint sponsorship of the Japan Foundation and the China Performing Arts Agency. Due to scheduling restrictions, only two performances were given, one each in Beijing and Guangzhou, but for the Beijing performance, a large audience of young people, mainly university students and people involved in the arts, gathered, and completely filled the 800 seats of the venue. Following the performance, a talk show was held by representative Akiko Kitamura for which the majority of the audience remained in their seats, and enthusiastic questions and answers were exchanged between Ms. Kitamura and the audience members. In the world of contemporary dance in Japan, there are numerous groups of young people who are searching for new ways and means for expression, Leni-Basso being a typical example. It is thought that this performance tour provided a strong stimulus to people involved in stage arts and to the younger generation in China. The numerous questions posed after the performance by newspaper journalists and artists expressing their desire to see more Japanese dance and requesting information concerning the dance scene in Japan demonstrated the intensity of the interest aroused by the performance.

Japan-China-Korea NPO Seminar (March 13 & 14, 2003, Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries venue, Beijing)

This seminar was held under the joint sponsorship of the Center and the China NPO Network, with the attendance of two panelists each from Japan, China and Korea. The panelists gave reports and made comments on the present situation and the problems faced by the NPOs of the three nations, after which they discussed the possibilities of future development and cooperation among the three countries. The participating panelists were Kazuho Seko (Executive Director, NPO Training and Resource Center) and Mieko Okamuro

(Program Officer, The Sasakawa Peace Foundation) from Japan; Park Won-soon (Executive Director, The Beautiful Foundation) and Park Tae-Kyu (Professor, Yonsei University) from Korea; and Qiu Zhonghui (Associate General Secretary, The Amity Foundation) and Yang Tuan (Professor, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) from China. In addition, more than around 70 people, mostly those involved with Chinese NPOs



The Japan-China-Korea NPO Seminar

attended as general participants. During the discussion section of the program, there was a vigorous exchange of questions and opinions among all participants. In recent years, the activities of Chinese NPOs have undergone rapid development, but there is still very little exchange with such East Asian nations as Japan and Korea. Thus this program can be said to have served to promote future exchange and joint programs in this area in the future.

Southeast Asia

Overview

During fiscal 2002, the total amount of funds used by the Japan Foundation for programs in Southeast Asia was ¥1,434.50 million. In terms of country, as was true in the previous fiscal year, the greater part of the amount allocated to programs went to Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Also, efforts were made toward cooperation throughout the regions of Indonesia, with the Japan Cultural Centre, Bangkok as a base, and the amount of programs targeted toward such other countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as Viet Nam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia is steadily increasing.

In terms of type, the majority of the programs are centered on the field of Japanese-language education, which represents more than half (53.6%) of the entire amount allocated to this region. Aside from cooperation in carrying out training for Japanese-language teachers and in development of teaching materials, a seminar was held for all the Japanese-language teachers in the countries, and aid was extended in the form of providing opportunities for teachers to exchange information and formulate a network with a view to incorporate the entire nation and all its regions. In Indonesia, instructor training sessions and a correspondence education program were initiated for Japanese-language teachers at high schools who have the possibility of becoming regional leaders in the future. In Thailand, the Japan Foundation served as the base for production of textbooks for intermediate education. In addition, in Malaysia, a platform program was initiated for the purpose of scouting and nurturing personnel capable of forming a core for Japanese-language education.

Continued activities are being carried out for introduction of the culture of the various

Southeast Asian countries to Japan and promotion of multi-nation exchange between Japan and the countries of ASEAN. As the result of three years of surveys and dialogue, the joint contemporary art project “Under Construction” produced by young curators from the various Asian countries, including those in Southeast Asia, was held as a comprehensive exhibition in Tokyo. In the field of intellectual exchange, the Asia Leadership Fellow Program and the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP) were carried out. The ASEAN-Japan Cultural Dialogue Forum was held as a follow-up program of the Japan-ASEAN multi-nationality cultural mission under the theme of “Public (public areas and public aspects) Crises,” under the joint sponsorship of Chulalongkorn University and Chiang Mai University in Thailand.

Overseas Office Reports

INDONESIA

The Japan Cultural Center, Jakarta (Pusat Kebudayaan Jepang)

1. Overview

During fiscal 2002, the biggest news on the domestic scene was the terrorist bomb incident that occurred on October 12 in Bali. Since almost all the victims of this incident were foreigners (particularly Australians), it attracted as much attention from the world at large as the 9/11 incidents did. Since that time, a series of small-scale bombing incidents have taken place, for example, at Jakarta International Airport and in front of the United Nations building, and, in addition, daily anti-American demonstrations by students and Islamic groups broke out in conjunction with the Iraq war that started at the end of March 2003, causing the security situation in the nation to become unsafe during the latter half of the year.

In terms of the economy, under the influence of these incidents, there was a huge slump in the tourism trade. In the context of the daily life of the people, announcements were made one after another of broad-ranging increases in basic expenditures such as electricity, telephone, and petroleum fuel, and confusion prevailed in all parts of the country with the occurrence of demonstrations.

In the field of culture, the Asian Conference on Religion and Peace that is held once every five years took place during the last part of June in Yogyakarta in Central Java, with a total of 500 people participating from 14 different religions and 21 countries. Government officials, including President Megawati, also attended, and there was an exchange of opinions concerning such matters as the role of religionists in solving the social problems faced by the countries of Asia, as well as the new terrorism, wars, nuclear threat, and confrontations between religions that have come to the fore since the 9/11 incidents.

In addition, after the days of the regime of former President Abdurrahman Wahid, the ban on Chinese culture has been gradually removed (including the ban on use of the Chinese language and Chinese mass media), and as part of this movement, the decision was made to re-designate

the Chinese New Year as a national holiday, beginning in 2004. In addition, in February 2003, an order was issued by the Minister of Education to add Chinese to the high school language course examinations, alongside Indonesian, English, French, German, Japanese, and Arabic, bringing the total number of languages to seven, resulting in great liberation of the activities of people of Chinese descent.

Other incidents of note include East Timor gaining independence from the provisional jurisdiction of the United Nations that began in 1999 and that had been annexed to Indonesia as its 27th state in 1975.

2. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs carried out a public opinion poll concerning the attitude toward Japan in ASEAN and published the results. In response to the question of whether Indonesia has a friendly relationship with Japan, 90% of the 800 people surveyed answered in the affirmative, and 77% expressed the opinion that this friendly relationship will continue to prevail in the future, clearly demonstrating that the size of Japan's presence in Indonesia has become even greater than it was in the past.

Also, according to the written report of a survey on public opinion concerning Japan (October 2002) drawn up by the UFJ Institute Indonesia on commission from the Embassy of Japan in Indonesia, there were extremely interesting answers to the question of "What area of Japanese studies would you like to know more about?", with 23% responding "culture and the arts" (in third place after "science and technology" at 43% and "economics" at 33%), and among all the answers 70% expressed an interest in "traditional Japanese culture."

3. Activities of the Japan Cultural Center, Jakarta

<Activity Policies>

(1) Development of programs for young people

In recent years, local attention has been focused on the importance of cultural education for young people, and work is being carried out to develop programs for them.

(2) Scouting of resident native Japanese who are specialists in Japanese culture and using them in development of programs for the introduction of Japanese culture

Up until now, the introduction of Japanese culture by native Japanese people was mainly in getting and carrying out the Foundation Headquarters' programs, but efforts are now being made toward scouting of Japanese natives who reside in Indonesia who are specialists in Japanese culture and toward carrying out self-initiated programs using such specialists.

(3) Active development of programs in regional cities other than Jakarta

Aside from the "Cinema Caravan" program under which Japanese films are screened at regional secondary and higher education organizations, the programs of the Center tend to concentrate mainly on the island of Java for a number of reasons, but assiduous efforts are being made to obtain the cooperation of overseas government organs and to carry out as many self-initiated programs as possible in regions other than the island of Java.

(4) Strengthening of public relations (PR) activities

The local newsletter *NUANSA* (related to culture) that is targeted toward the general public and *EGAO* (related to the Japanese language) are published as periodicals. They serve as PR materials for the Center's programs, and they are enjoying great popularity. Additionally, with the opening of the website, their PR effect has expanded further. At the same time, the previously insufficient publicity directed at Japanese natives residing in Indonesia is now being vigorously executed.

(5) Reconsideration of Japanese studies promotion policies

Continued and effective support is extended in the form of aid to a core organization, the Japanese studies department of the graduate school at the University of Indonesia which is the only institution in all of Southeast Asia that offers a doctorate course in Japanese studies. At the same time, the Center is promoting the building of a database on Japanese studies organizations in Indonesia, and looking for measures that cover Japanese studies organizations on top of the University of Indonesia. In these ways, work is being done toward raising the overall standards of Japanese studies in Indonesia.

(6) Program for support of Japanese-language education

This program is not for one-time projects, but it is targeted toward fields that require continued aid. Thus it is carried out with the idea firmly in mind of i) aid to Japanese-language education in the form of coverage not only for core organizations in all regions; ii) repletion of the various teacher training programs sponsored by the Center; iii) continuation and repletion of high school Japanese-language teacher training under joint sponsorship with the Indonesian national education bureau; iv) repletion of training for university professors; and v) strengthening of aid to the activities of all types of research organizations, including Japanese-language teachers' societies, and high school Japanese-language teachers' groups.

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

(Receiving of Headquarters Programs)

Kiyoko Yasui Storytelling Workshop (September 3–18, 2002, a total of 7 cities, including Jakarta, Bandung, Yogyakarta, Klaten, Solok, Bangkalan, and Makassar)

This workshop on storytelling was held in seven Indonesian cities, led by Kiyoko Yasui based on her experience in such activities as being part of a storytelling caravan at the refugee camp of the Thai Monk tribe. It was carried out under the joint sponsorship of local cultural groups located in those cities, and it consisted of both workshops for people involved concerning the way to read stories out loud and storytelling performances for local children. The performances utilized both picture books from which stories were read, and a panel theater (a method of storytelling that uses cut-out cardboard characters attached to a white sheet serving as a background), and they were extremely popular with the children who attended.

An exhibition of contemporary Japanese crafts—Thoughts on Materials and Shapes (June 14 through July 12, 2002, Jakarta, plus a workshop held in Bandung)

This was a large-scale exhibition that was held under the joint sponsorship of the Foundation Headquarters Exhibition Division and the Indonesia National Museum. It introduced the contemporary crafts of Japan through the presentation of 61 works by 18 craftsmen in a broad range of genres, including ceramics, glass, lacquer, bamboo, dyeing, and metalwork. In conjunction with this crafts exhibition, ceramics and glass workshops were held for local young contemporary artists in Bandung, with two of the artists whose works were displayed in the exhibition serving as instructors.

(Center Programs)

Japanese-language correspondence course for Japanese-language teachers in high schools (July 2002 through June 2003, under joint sponsorship with the national education bureau of Indonesia)

As of this time two-week teacher training sessions have been conducted under joint sponsorship with the national education bureau of Indonesia (in three regions per year) and it has been proven extremely difficult to raise the Japanese-language working knowledge of teachers up to the level necessary for holding classes since their proficiency is very low. In addition, the lack of sufficient Japanese-language working knowledge makes it difficult for them to even comprehend the training on teaching methods, making it impossible to achieve sufficient results in the majority of cases. Under these circumstances, provision of opportunities for continued training for enhancement of Japanese-language working knowledge is necessary. Also due to the situation wherein there is a large number of teachers needing Japanese-language training, it is thought that programs capable of supporting independent Japanese-language training for such teachers are necessary. Based upon this realization, a test program for correspondence education was initiated, with the state of North Sulawesi as a model region since it is thought that the level of Japanese-language teachers in high schools on the remote islands and the rest of this region is low compared with other parts of the nation. Course 1 (six months) was administered to 11 teachers who had insufficient comprehension of the first half of the elementary-level Japanese. Course 2 (six months) covering the second half of the elementary level was administered to six teachers who had passed Course 1 and five additional participants. In the future, it is intended for an evaluation of the program to be carried out and further administer the course in a different region.

East Timor Industrial Exposition (a program held in conjunction with the East Timor independence commemorative ceremony: May 16–23, 2002, Dili, East Timor)

East Timor gained independence on May 20, 2002. This industrial exposition was given as part of the celebrations related to the holding of the commemorative ceremony, and, in response to a request from the Embassy of Japan in Indonesia, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) participated jointly as one Japanese mission with a single booth for introducing the activities of the three groups. The Center distributed

materials relating to introducing the contents of the activities of the Japan Foundation, screened of videos introducing Japanese culture (related to traditional culture and the contemporary lifestyle of the Japanese people), and also got the employees of JICA and JETRO to give demonstrations of origami and traditional toys for the general population of East Timor. Particularly high praise was given to the origami demonstration that was given four times each day, with around 20 people participating in the actual experience of folding origami figures. Around 40 people, including spectators, gathered for each holding of the demonstration.

THAILAND

The Japan Cultural Center, Bangkok

1. Overview

In the midst of an overwhelming majority by opposition parties in the congress, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra reorganized government agencies and reshuffled the Cabinet in October 2002. In terms of culture, the integration of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of University Affairs and the establishment of a Ministry of Culture attracted attention. The newly established Ministry of Culture is expected to contain a contemporary arts office, and there are great expectations for it to make a large contribution to the promotion of Thai culture.

In the field of economics, preparation of a base for economic development is underway, as can be seen in the purchase of rolling stock for the Bangkok subway that is slated to open during fiscal 2004 and initiation of construction of the terminal building of the new Suwannaphum Airport slated to open during fiscal 2005.

On the cultural scene, the 2003 Bangkok International Film Festival organized by the Tourism Authority of Thailand on a far larger scale than ever before attracted intense attention.

In addition, the deaths one after another in April of Thanpuying Niramol Suriyasat, the famed entrepreneur of Toshiba Thailand Co., Ltd. who had an understanding of culture, and Assistant Professor Damrong Wongse-uppraj, Thai's national artist and a former Foundation fellow.

In all other areas, remarkable advance was made by Thailand into the international scene. Attention was also attracted by the appointment of former Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi as Director-General of the WTO office, and the rising to 16th position in the world rankings by the tennis player Paradorn Srichaphan. In addition, Thai orchestra conductor Budit Ungrangsee won first place at the renowned Maazel/Vilar Conductors' Competition in New York. The film "Blissfully Yours" directed by Apichatpong Weerasethakul was also a focus of attention when it won the jury prize in the "Un Certain Regard" category at the Cannes Film Festival, and "Mon-rak Transistor" directed by Pen-ek Rattanuwas was selected for screening during the "director's week."

2. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

In celebration of the birth of Her Imperial Highness Princess Aiko in December 2001, two

elephants were given as presents to Japan from Thailand and a receiving ceremony was held in Japan in October.

The Japanology section of the literature department of Chulalongkorn University announced that it was accepting only applicants who took the entrance exam in Japanese in May 2003. Thus great expectations are held for a considerable rise in the Japanese language level among graduates of this section in the future.

In recent years, exchange between Japan and Thailand has shown great vigor. In Thailand, during fiscal 2002, there was a remarkable number of exchange programs between universities, including such events as an exchange exhibition of works by students of Tama Arts University and Silpakorn University, an Aichi Prefectural University of Fine Arts and Music art exhibition (both of the above at Silpakorn University), and a Tokoha Gakuen University art exhibition (at the Rajabhat Institute Suan Dusit). Also, the Senzoku Gakuen College orchestra gave a concert at the Thai Cultural Center. On the other hand, in terms of programs from Thailand to Japan, the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra (BSO) gave the opening concert in the music festival sponsored by Japan's Agency for Cultural Affairs in September, and, on the drama scene, three actors from Thailand participated in the Hirosaki Gekijo production of "Indian Summer."

In addition, a Thai-language translation of Koji Suzuki's *The Ring*, popular among the young people of Japan, was published and served as the forerunner of a contemporary Japanese novel boom in Thailand.

Vigorous activity continues in the field of exchange between Japan and Thailand, and The Old Japan Students' Association, Thailand (OJSAT) that celebrated its 50th anniversary last year was awarded the Japan Foundation Special Prize for 2002.

3. Activities of the Japan Cultural Center, Bangkok

<Activity Policies>

As explained above cultural exchange between Japan and Thailand has taken on added vigor, and the Center works with the idea in mind that it will be necessary to develop programs that appeal to not only people who are knowledgeable about Japan, but also an increasingly broader spectrum of the public. The following are the activities carried out by the Center based upon both its policies of the past and this new consciousness.

- The Center provides opportunities for the presentation of the results of research carried out in Japan from the viewpoint that former Japan Foundation fellows are valuable personnel as a group that is knowledgeable about Japan, for the purpose of further increasing the effect of the Center's programs.
- Interest in Japan is rising not only in Bangkok, but also among the younger generation about the other regions of Thailand. Thus, active efforts are being made to develop all types of programs for people in the regions.
- The Center served an intermediary function by extending cooperation in provision of information on Japan-Thailand cultural exchange and related activities.
- In Thailand, government-related organizations and NGOs contribute vigorously to society,

and the Center extended cooperation to such NGOs from the viewpoint of encouraging intellectual exchange.

- The nurturing of avant-garde arts activities in Thailand is considered important for the creation of a base for exchange between Japan and Thailand. Thus, aid was extended to arts activities in Thailand.
- Continued aid was extended for intermediate-level Japanese-language education, as well as for the activities of the Japanese-language teachers' societies of the various regions that have recently taken on added vigor.

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

"Fake Me"—an exhibition of works by Montri Toemsombat (October 11–31, 2002, art gallery of the Japan Cultural Center, Bangkok)

This exhibition was given as a homecoming event by Montri Toemsombat who received a fellowship through the Japan Foundation Fellowship Program (Artists) and resided in the city of Fukuoka during fiscal 2001.

The gallery floor covered with green tin roofing with a Bonsai made of entangled barbed-wire on it gave the impression of inorganic matter, while at the same time, a small house with shocking pink fake fur interior impressed the viewer with strange warmth. A video camera was installed inside the small house, and images of a musician whose body was wrapped entirely in bandages playing a violin were shown on the monitor. This exhibition gave visitors an almost painful sense of tension and provided a strange illusion. It exerted a powerful impact on both Thai people involved in the arts as well as foreign journalists, and it was reviewed in a large number of art magazines.

Montri's reputation subsequently spread to various foreign countries from which he received numerous invitations to participate in all types of international exhibitions. Thus, through his invitation to Japan in the Japan Foundation Fellowship Program and the holding of this exhibition, he became known as the Thai artist most knowledgeable about Japan, and he is continuing vigorous activities toward exchange with Japan and other foreign countries.



The "Fake Me" Exhibition

Lao book reading encouragement activities and workshops for nurturing writers and editors (September 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003, Vientiane, Laos)

The Center exerts efforts toward the carrying out of cultural exchange programs in not only Thailand but also neighboring countries. One example in fiscal 2002 was the extension of aid for carrying out this project by the Shanti Volunteer Association and the National Library of Laos as part of the programs of the Asia Center for the purpose of promoting joint productions under plans

drawn up by the Center for the purpose of promoting mutual understanding within the Asian region and solving commonly held problems.

In Laos, the lack of books in the Lao language is a serious problem. Since it is thought that the basic cause lies in the fact that books of sufficient quality corresponding to their price are not published and that books do not sell in Laos, this project was initiated in January 2003 in the form of five workshops for the nurturing of Laotian writers, illustrators, and editors. In the first workshop, 46 writers and book illustrators participated and attended a lecture on theoretical methods for writing books. The aim was to eventually lead to the result of actual publication of books.



Laotian writer's workshop in Bangkok

Conference for exchange of information among advanced and intermediate level education organizations (February 28, 2003, the Japan Foundation Bangkok Language Center (BLC))

During the past several years, even in the realm of intermediate level education organizations, numerous Thai schools have begun to teach Japanese, and the number of students who have studied the Japanese language in intermediate education organizations and continue their studies in advanced education organizations is on the increase. At the same time, there is lack of knowledge among advanced education organizations about the realities of the curricula that those students entering advanced education organizations from intermediate education organizations have followed. Since the selection methods for being admitted to university from intermediate education organizations is different for every Japanese-language departments at the various universities, it is almost impossible to give proper guidance to such students on how to advance their studies. As a result, many voices are being raised concerning the lack of mutual information.

It was for this reason that a conference for information exchange was held with the participation of four representatives from universities that offer a major in Japanese language and six representatives from intermediate education organizations that carry out Japanese-language education. On the day of the conference, concrete discussions were held centered on information concerning the curricula and entrance exams of the various organizations, as a result of which all the participants expressed high praise for providing a significant venue for exchange of information. Minutes of the conference were collated as reference materials and distributed to the Japanese-language education organizations throughout Thailand.

MALAYSIA

The Japan Cultural Centre, Kuala Lumpur (Pusat Kebudayaan Jepun)

1. Overview

During fiscal 2002, the international economic situation remained in a weakened stagnation, but according to the economic report published by the Malaysian Ministry of Finance, the nation's GDP has grown by more than 4%. The deficit amount of the federal government increased slightly from 18.422 billion ringgit in fiscal 2001 to 20.253 billion ringgit in fiscal 2002. However, the international revenue and expenditure credit balance increased from 3.662 billion ringgit in fiscal 2001 to 14.191 billion ringgit in fiscal 2002. A comparison of the indices of the Kuala Lumpur stock market at the end of August reveals a rise in the comprehensive share index from 687.16 in fiscal 2001 to 711.36 in fiscal 2002, and in the market capitalization as well there was a large increase from 466.11 billion ringgit in fiscal 2001 to 529.53 billion ringgit in fiscal 2002. In terms of the per capita income as well, there was a nominal increase of 6.3% over the previous year to 13,683 ringgit.

In fiscal 2002, Malaysia solidified its international reputation as a leader among the countries of ASEAN and the Islamic nations in the fields of economics, society, and international exchange. During fiscal 2002, the number of foreign visitors to Malaysia showed a decrease of 5.8% from the previous year, but the concrete number of 12 million people can serve as a yardstick for the trends in this area.

Also, according to the *2002 Malaysia Living Standards Report* published by the Economic Planning Unit of the Malaysian Prime Minister's Department, during the 11 years from 1990 to 2000, the nation's living standard rose steadily. The indices established as subjects of the survey consisted of the 11 areas of income distribution, work life, transport and communications, health and hygiene, education, provision of housing, environment, home life, participation in society, public security, and culture and leisure. Taking the 1990 index as 100.0 points, an increase of 8.4 points was seen for the fiscal 2000 index of 108.4. The increase was particularly marked for work life with 19.13 points and provision of housing with 16.32 points. However, public security showed a worsening by 16 points, leaving this area as a problem to be addressed in the future.

On June 22, 2002, Prime Minister Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad who had headed the nation's government for more than 21 years officially announced his retirement for October 2003. Thus fiscal 2002 will be remembered as the countdown year for the end of the Mahathir era.

2. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

Fiscal 2002 was also the year during which Japan moved from second place as a major trade partner with Malaysia to third place behind Singapore. However, based upon the Malaysian Look East policy, the relationship between the two countries became firmly established even in terms of programs for cultural exchange. Since the introduction of the Look East policy, the sum total from fiscal 1984 to March 2003 who graduated from the University of Malaya preparatory education

course and advanced to Japanese universities came to 2,098 students, and 2,153 students graduated from the University of Technology Malaysia preparatory education course to advance to specialist schools in Japan. Concerning fiscal 2002, visas were issued to a total of 2,002 Malaysian university students for study in Japan, including those who completed the preparatory education courses at these Malaysian universities. In terms of culture and education this stands as proof positive of the long-term maintenance of a cooperative relationship between the two countries.

The Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism, Malaysia, continued to co-sponsor with the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia and the Japan Foundation Japan Cultural Centre, Kuala Lumpur, the Japan festival, which has become an annual event, and the Bon dance competition held in conjunction with this festival attracted around 40,000 participants in fiscal 2002.

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Look East policy, an international conference entitled “Malaysia’s Look East Policy: Challenges and Contributions” was held in April 2002 under joint sponsorship with the Embassy of Japan and the Malaysian government. The 20 years of the Look East policy have elicited high praise, while at the same time, despite recognizing the problems that have built up, it was confirmed that Japan and Malaysia will continue vigorous cooperation in the future toward the solution of these problems with eyes set firmly on the new age.

In addition, an accepted degree confirmation list of 46 overseas universities was published by the Malaysian government as part of the government policy for calling back Malaysian university students studying abroad. In terms of Japan, it should be noted here that a total of 240 degrees were from 80 universities were authorized.

3. Activities of the Japan Cultural Centre, Kuala Lumpur

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

Dumb Type performance tour (June 28 & 29, 2002, National Theatre of Malaysia)

The performance group Dumb Type that enjoys high praise for its radical pioneering of audiovisual expression performed its “Memorandum” at the National Theatre of Malaysia. This was a joint production by the Japan Cultural Centre, Kuala Lumpur and the National Theatre, that also received the cooperation of the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia.

The performances were given as the opening event of the annual Japan Festival in Malaysia, with Ambassador Masaki Konishi and Dato’ Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir, Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism in attendance. This is the first time for Dumb Type to give performances in Southeast Asia, and its pioneering of multi-media expression served as a strong stimulus to local people related to the arts.

From the planning stages, preparations were made for performances in Singapore as well under close collaboration with the National Arts Council, Singapore (for participation in the Singapore Arts Festival that is held every year in June), and it was due to this plan that it was possible to realize the Kuala Lumpur tour as well. The Foundation intends to seek for more tie-ups with overseas organizations of this type in the future.

Contemporary Performing Arts Workshop by Oriza Hirata (February 24–28, 2003, National Arts Academy)

Oriza Hirata, director of the theatre company “Seinen Dan,” gave a workshop for a total of 20 students of the Malaysian National Arts Academy and the University of Technology MARA as part of the Southeast Asia Touring Workshop of the international arts joint production program sponsored by the Performing Arts Division. In addition, a recital was given by the students who participated in the workshop on the final day, February 28, at the Petronas Gallery. Following the recital, a talk session was held



Oriza Hirata and the theater workshop participants

between Dr. Hatta Azad Khan, Director General of Istana Budaya, and Oriza Hirata for the purpose of providing a deeper understanding of the aims and contents of the workshop.

Planned by Oriza Hirata to skillfully draw out continuous interest of the participants, the workshop was elicited high praise from both the participants and people involved in theater who attended as observers. It is hoped that this workshop will serve as an impetus toward the carving out of a long-term relationship in the future.

A Japanese-language education seminar (March 22 & 23, 2003, The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur Language Centre)

This seminar was carried out under the theme “Considering Evaluation and Methods for Evaluation” with Professor Kyoko Murakami of the exchange student center of Nagoya University and Associate Professor Masashi Negishi of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in attendance as keynote lecturers. Also, eight sectional meetings were held, and the evaluation methods used at the various educational organizations in Malaysia were presented by their Japanese-language teachers. In addition, a session was held on the final day for presentation of the present situation at and the problems faced by the various educational organizations to provide an opportunity for exchange of information among the participating teachers.

In response to the keynote lecturers, vigorous questions and answers were exchanged due to the fact that the majority of the teachers have trouble finding appropriate evaluation methods. This was the first time that sectional meetings were held, and as a consequence it was realized that there were problems among the many teachers who were reluctant to present their reports in front of other people. However, it is thought that it was an extremely effective means for nurturing a stance toward independent involvement by the various teachers, providing grounds for it being continued in the future. Due to the fact that this seminar sponsored by the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur Language Centre is the sole opportunity for Malaysian Japanese-language teachers to gather together in one place, there is a desire to continue carrying out this program in the future for the purpose of providing an opportunity for not only obtaining

knowledge, but also for mutual exchange of information among the teachers and the formulation of a network.

THE PHILIPPINES

Manila Office

1. Overview

During fiscal 2002, due to the strong opposition against the foundation of the administration of President Arroyo, who took office in the previous year, making it impossible for the administration to establish itself firmly, President Arroyo announced at the end of the year that she will not enter the race in the presidential election of 2004. The Arroyo regime did indeed demonstrate the desire to solve the public security problem, but it was unable to dispel the opposition of such anti-government factions as the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), and frequent bombing incidents continued to occur in and around the capital city of Manila.

The actual economic growth ratio reached 4.6%, a figure very close to the predictions of the government. Due to the worldwide cooling in investments, however, it is pointed out that such structural problems as the high unemployment ratio, the burgeoning financial deficit, and the graft among government officials still remain unsolved in the background of the apparently favorable Philippine economic climate.

In terms of foreign diplomacy, the American intention to provide thoroughgoing cooperation in anti-terrorism activity was made clear and joint military training was carried out on Basilan Island, creating a situation in which the American military is participating in the cleanup operation of the domestic anti-government forces.

2. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

In February and March, the annual Philippines-Japan Festival was held. Fiscal 2003 was also designated as the ASEAN-Japan Exchange Year, and as the Philippines was given the responsibility for related events during February, a broad variety of programs was carried out. The University of the Philippines theater company DULAANG UP performed the Kabuki play “Kanjincho” under the guidance of a Japanese specialist. The result was a full-fledged Kabuki performance that was given in both Japanese and Tagalog. A group of students of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies gave performances of traditional Philippine dance not only in and around the capital but also in regional cities for promotion of exchange among the young people of both countries.

During September, the first experimental Philippine version of the official information processing examination “Japanese IT Standards Examination Philippines (JITSE-Phil)” was administered. People who passed this exam are considered to have an equal level of ability to those who have passed the Japanese “official information processing examination.” A total of 719 employees of Japanese enterprises sat for the exam and 38 passed, bringing the success ratio to

5.3%. Great expectations are held for native Philippine IT technicians, and further development of Japanese-language education in this field is predicted.

3. Activities of the Manila Office

<Activity Policies>

The number of people entering Japan from the Philippines is the greatest of all the countries of Southeast Asia, and the following points are stressed in the attempt to deepen mutual understanding in the context of the resulting close relationship between Japan and the Philippines and to form a mutually positive impression of each other.

- Efforts are exerted toward including response to new needs in considerations for provision of support to Japanese-language education centered on nurturing of Philippine natives as Japanese-language teachers.
- Efforts are made to introduce Japanese culture on a comprehensive level appealing to the younger generations and toward more in-depth joint productions and exchange by both Japan and the Philippines in the field of stage arts.
- Efforts are made toward the carrying out of programs utilizing Japanese studies and Asia Center programs that take into consideration promotion of exchange with the entire Southeast Asia region in a broad range of fields.

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

A concert tour by Shigeko Suzuki entitled “Presence: Musika Para sa Puso at Damdamin” (February 12 & 13, 2003, Philippine Culture Center, Pasay)

This was a two-day series of concerts given at the Philippine Culture Center on February 12 & 13 by vocalist Shigeko Suzuki and four band members (Kazuki Watanabe, Yoshiteru Ito, Toyoji Kuriyama, and Noriaki Kobayashi) as the opening event for the Philippines-Japan Festival 2003. (The concert on February 12 was given immediately after the opening ceremony of the Philippines-Japan Festival.) Shigeko Suzuki sang such popular songs as “Colors of the Wind,” “Tears in Heaven” and “Black Bird,” as well as such Japanese songs as “Furusato” and “My Grandfather’s Clock,” and some of her own original compositions. A total of 300 people attended on the first day and 380 on the second day.

In the midst of the numerous highly expressive local singers, Shigeko Suzuki’s unique style gave her audiences a fresh impression, making it truly in line with the title of her concert “Musika Para sa Puso at Damdamin” (meaning “music that permeates deep into the heart” in Tagalog). In addition, the high level of the performances of the band members on guitar, piano, bass, and percussion enjoyed high praise from the audiences.

Pappa Tarahumara Dance Workshop (December 6–8, 2002, Philippine Culture Center, Pasay)

Three members (Hiroshi Koike, Sachiko Shirai, and Mao Arata) of the Pappa Tarahumara that creates new stage works transcending the genres of dance, drama, art, and music were invited to carry out workshops for Philippine dancers and actors.

The workshop was not limited to the learning of dance technique, but went through the process of creating a work that brought to life the individuality of each of the participants. Thus it appears that the participants were able to experience a new facet of stage art different from that in which they are normally involved.

Japanese Film Festival (September 3–20, 2002, in and around the capital city of Manila; November 14–22, 2002, the cities of Baguio and Vigan; February 26 through March 21, 2003, in and around the capital city of Manila)

During the first half of fiscal 2002, six comparatively new films were screened under the theme of “Life, Love, Laughter”. They were “Nabbie’s Love” (directed by Yuji Nakae), “Adrenaline Drive” (directed by Shinobu Yaguchi), “Sing Your Heart Out” (directed by Kazuyuki Izutsu), “Tomorrow” (directed by Kazuo Kuroki), and “Osaka Story” (directed by Jun Ichikawa) and “Watashi wo Ski ni Tsuretette” (directed by Yasuo Baba). Reflecting the preference for comedy of the Philippine people, huge audiences gathered for the screenings. During September, screenings were held in and around the capital city of Manila, and during November, they were screened in the Northern Luzon cities of Baguio and Vigan as an outreach program.

During the latter half of fiscal 2002, six films (“Cure”, “Charisma”, “Serpent’s Path”, “Ningen Gokaku”, “Barren Illusion” and “Katte ni Shiyagare!! Godatsu Keikaku”) by internationally renowned director Kiyoshi Kurosawa were screened as part of the Philippines-Japan Festival 2003.

South Asia

Overview

During fiscal 2002, the total amount expended on programs for South Asia was ¥433.29 million. A breakdown of this figure by country reveals that the greatest amount of around ¥230.34 million was spent on India, with Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Pakistan following in that order. In terms of fields, programs for Japanese-language education, personnel exchange (including dispatches and invitations to Japan), and Asia Center programs made up the main pillar of expenditures for this region.

Since fiscal 2002 marked the 50th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations by Japan with India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, and the 30th with Bangladesh, a large variety of commemorative programs were carried out both in Japan and in these countries for the purpose of promoting mutual understanding.

Tours were made of the regional cities of South Asia by a wadaiko group called Yamato that carried out joint concerts with local traditional drummers in all the areas visited. Also, a performance tour of the same area was carried out by the Fusanosuke Kondo Group. In addition, an exhibition of Japanese dolls and a Japanese film festival were toured in the same area.

In Japan, groups of musicians and folk music scholars from three Southeast Asian countries (India, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan) were invited to give concerts and seminars. The Sri Lanka Film Festival was held with the attendance of film director Lester James Peries and his wife, and

huge crowds attended all screenings. The India Film Festival also attracted huge audiences. An invitation to Japan was extended to the Pakistani woman poet Kishwar Naheed to give a lecture for the Takeshi Kaiko Memorial Asian Writers' Lecture Series.

In the field of intellectual exchange, such projects as the Asia Leadership Programs, a round-table discussion by research organizations in China and India, and an Indo-Japan Writers' Caravan were carried out.

Overseas Office Reports

INDIA

The New Delhi Office

1. Overview

During fiscal 2002, while the massacre of numerous women and children by an extremist group occurred in the states of Jammu and Kashmir in May and the India-Pakistan national boundary border transgression terrorism has caused a heightening of political tension between the two countries, negotiations with other countries have proved fruitful, and there has been a general subsequent movement toward easing of tension. During September and October, overall success was achieved in the elections for the assemblies of both states, and during the middle of October, the decision was made by both India and Pakistan to withdraw all military troops stationed in their mutual national border areas.

Concerning India's economic growth, while it is maintaining a comparatively high growth ratio in the context of the overall world economy, that same economic growth ratio tends to be influenced by the agriculture industry where the volume of harvest is set by the amount of rainfall during the annual monsoon season, so it cannot be said to be absolutely stable. During fiscal 2002, while, on the one hand, the growth ratio in the mining industry was higher than that of the previous year, due to the small amount of rainfall during the monsoon season, the volume of agricultural produce dropped, bringing the actual GDP growth ratio down to 4.3%, the lowest it has been since the economic crisis of fiscal 1991.

2. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

Fiscal 2002 marked the 50th year of Indo-Japan Diplomatic Relations, and numerous commemorative programs were carried out in the cities of India throughout the entire year. As a result, there was interest in Japanese culture, that had been formerly limited to a small number of people with specified interest in Japan and people involved in culture, engendered among the general urban populace.

In the field of theater, the Hindi theater company of the Osaka University of Foreign Studies was awarded the Indian National Award for its five years of activities since its founding, and in spite of its being an amateur theater company, it succeeded in becoming a participant in the 2002 Bharat Rang Mahotsava, an all-India theater festival.

In terms of Japanese-language education on the university level, centered on the University of Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University as core organizations, such regional universities as Banaras Hindu University, Vishva Bharati University, Pune University and Bangalore University also carry out Japanese-language education, all of which enjoy great popularity among both students and the general public. In recent years, the Indian IT industry is prospering, and economic relations with Japan have deepened. In this context, the demand for Japanese-language proficiency is on the rise, demonstrated by the rise in the number of people sitting for the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test that was administered throughout India in December 2002 to 3,196, a nearly 1.5-fold increase over the 2,117 of fiscal 2001.

3. Activities of the New Delhi Office

<Activity Policies>

In India, where the population exceeds the one billion mark, programs are developed under the following five activity policies centered around the big cities in such areas as Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, and Bangalore with the target focused on the elite class that has great influence on both the international and domestic scenes, the middle class, and the younger generation that will become the standard bearers of the next generation.

- Strengthening of intellectual and general public exchanges
- Responding effectively to the increasing demand for Japanese-language education
- Formulating an image of Japan that maintains a good balance between traditional and contemporary elements
- Strengthening of audio-visual media exchange through the screening of films, etc.
- Expansion of regional and other targets for carrying out of programs

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

Concerts by the wadaiko group Yamato (April 29, 2002, Taj Palace Hotel; April 30, 2002, Shri Fort Auditorium, Delhi, and a regional tour to Chennai and Kolkata)

Concerts were given in Chennai, Kolkata, and Delhi as part of the South Asia Tour. In Delhi, a concert was also given on April 29, as part of the ceremony in commemoration of the 50th year of Indo-Japan Diplomatic Relations. Also in the South Indian city of Madurai, a workshop was held in conjunction with a local traditional percussion group and a joint session was carried



A concert by the wadaiko group Yamato

out in front of a general audience.

In all the cities where concerts were given, record-breaking audiences gathered and great praise was received, contributing to the overwhelming success as the main event of the ceremony in commemoration of the 50th year of Indo-Japan Diplomatic Relations. Following the carrying out of the program, the concerts became the subject of conversation among large numbers of people, as a result of which it can be said that it has already entered the realm of a legendary tour.

Japan Week (October 23–29, 2002, India Habitat Centre, Delhi)

The Japan Week was carried out in celebration of the 50th year of Indo-Japan Diplomatic Relations for the purpose of comprehensive and intensive introduction of Japanese culture, under the joint sponsorship of the Embassy of Japan in India, the Japanese Association Delhi, and the Japan Foundation New Delhi Office. Alongside numerous self-initiated programs of the various areas, the Japan Foundation obtained the cooperation of various local groups to carry out such sponsorship and aid programs as performances by “Monju no Chie Netsu,” an Indo-Japanese literature exchange symposium, and a Japanese film festival. In addition, the Japanese Association Delhi held participatory workshops in tea ceremony and origami, and during the same period, it published a *Collection of Essays in commemoration of the 50th year of Indo-Japan Diplomatic Relations*.

As always, the sponsorship and aid programs of the Japan Foundation cast a spell on numerous fans of Japanese culture, and in addition, through the various workshops and demonstrations with handmade works participated in by the members of the Japanese Association Delhi, a rare opportunity was provided for the general citizens of both Japan and India to meet face-to-face in their exchange activities, resulting in a significant and large achievement.

Fusanosuke Kondo Blues Concert (October 28, 2002, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and a regional tour in Mumbai)

This was a concert tour of the group called The Place that is headed by blues musician Fusanosuke Kondo. Alongside of standard American blues pieces, the program was also supplemented by the introduction of popular Japanese songs.

The high quality of the performance of these veteran Japanese musicians fascinated the Indian audiences with their overwhelming power. In Delhi, since the concert was targeted on students who are fond of popular music, it was given as a joint project with the Indian Institute of Technology, but an unexpectedly huge audience of more than 2,000 people gathered, making this an appropriate event for commemoration of the 50th year of Indo-Japan Diplomatic Relations.

Oceania

Overview

The total expenditure on Japan Foundation programs for Oceania during fiscal 2002 was around ¥352.31 million, the majority of which was spent on programs for Japanese-language education, followed by Japanese studies and personnel-exchange programs for the extending of invitations to Japan and dispatch of people overseas.

The number of students of the Japanese language in Australia has exceeded 300,000, putting it in 2nd place among all the countries of the world, and it has gone over the 40,000 mark in New Zealand as well, putting it in 7th place. These numbers consist mainly of students of organizations of elementary and intermediate education (according to a Japan Foundation survey made in fiscal 1998), demonstrating the intensity of the background of interest in Japanese culture. On the other hand, one of the Asian-language education programs of the federal government was canceled at the end of 2002. Comprehensive support for Japanese-language education in Australia and New Zealand is carried out in the form of the dispatch of Japanese-language advisors to the education ministries of the various states, programs for teacher training, and the various types of programs of the Japan Cultural Centre, Sydney.

Also, in the island countries of Oceania as well, the number of Japanese-language students is on the increase in relation to economics and tourism, and support is extended, centered on the donation of Japanese-language teaching materials, the Japanese speech contest support program, the training of Japanese-language teachers, and the Japanese-language Training Program for Specialists such as diplomats.

In addition, in Australia and New Zealand where Japanese studies are being carried out at advanced education organizations, such programs as fellowships are carried out to nurture researchers, and to extend aid for the support program for seminars and conferences furthering Japanese studies, and it is through these programs that the strengthening of exchange and a network among researchers is promoted.

In the field of arts exchange, aid was extended for the 13th Biennale of Sydney and the Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (ART 2002) that were held in Australia, and cooperation was extended to the holding of such film festivals as the Melbourne International Film Festival, the Brisbane International Film Festival, and JAPANIME 2, and touring screenings of Japanese films were sent to six cities in Australia, all of which received high praise. In addition, the exhibition “Contemporary Japanese Architecture 1985–1996” was toured in New Zealand.

At the Japan Foundation Asia Center, programs are being developed for cooperation in the expansion of exchange among the countries of Oceania and Asia and the building of a network. During fiscal 2002, aid was extended for the “Asia-Oceania Forum: Seeking After the Stance for a Social and Cultural Viewpoint in the Field of Environmental Education” that was sponsored by the linguistics and comparative culture department of the University of Queensland.

Overseas Office Reports

AUSTRALIA

The Japan Cultural Centre, Sydney

1. Overview

On October 12, 2002, a terrorist bombing incident occurred on Bali island in Indonesia that took the lives of over 80 Australian victims. The Howard administration immediately set out to investigate the incidents, demonstrating a stance toward carrying out a persistent battle against international terrorist activities. The basic line of Australia's diplomacy is to aim for security in the Asia-Oceania region on the basis of an allied relationship with America. This incident served to further promote a clear direction toward placing importance upon alignment with the United States that was advocated by the Howard administration that had just been reelected for its third consecutive term in the previous year with this as the firm basis of its political platform. Australia also took an active role of participation in the attack on Iraq in March 2003.

Concerning its relationship with Asia, one of the major political policy problems continued to be the necessity for deepening Australia's relationship with Asia in a broad range of areas including not only economics, but also politics and security. In February 2003, an FTA was signed with Singapore, and Australia actively participated in such regional multi-nation framework activities as APEC, an ASEAN Regional Forum, and an ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC). Also, in recent years, Australia has steadily deepened its relationship with China, centered around the fields of economics and trade. This fiscal year as well, in August 2002, an Australian enterprise venture made a successful bid on the liquefied natural gas supply project of China's Guangdong Province, and in the following month of September, Li Peng, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (and former prime minister), made an official visit to Australia during which he made an appeal for further development of the Sino-Australian relationship.

Concerning Australia's relationship with Japan, Japan is not only Australia's biggest trade partner, but against the background of the broad common profit elements of regional political stability and maintenance and strengthening of the multi-faceted trade system as well, a broad-ranging and close relationship is being maintained. Upon the occasion of his official visit to Australia in May 2002, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi came to an agreement with Prime Minister John Howard concerning the building of a "Australia-Japan Creative Partnership." Aside from the Australia-Japan Joint Business Conference that was held in Sydney in October of the same year, in the following month of November, an "Australia-Japan Conference for a Creative Partnership" was held in Tokyo. In addition, Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess made an official visit to Australia in December.

Australia's domestic economy realized high economic growth for an extremely long time beginning in fiscal 1992. During fiscal 2002 as well, on the basis of a bullish tone in individual consumption, steady positive growth was maintained quite favorably in both business and housing investments. On the other hand, under the influence of the rise in food prices due to the drought in

Australia during the summer of 2002, there was fear of a reduction in the number of tourists after the beginning of 2003 due to the attack on Iraq and the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) scare, giving rise to a sense of uncertainty concerning the future.

2. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

In the multi-culturist nation of Australia, cultures that have been brought into the country by immigrants are pulsing with life in daily life, particularly in the large cities. Concerning Japan, most Australians think of it as a “country full of the fragrance of tradition and culture” (96% according to a survey taken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1998). Alongside of the group of people who have an interest in the traditional arts of Japan, such areas as Japanese contemporary art, films, and animation are rapidly gaining popularity in recent years, centered on the younger generation. The presence of Japanese creators and works is extremely large in the international art festivals, art exhibitions and film festivals given throughout the nation, including JAPANIME 2 that introduced Japanese animation films (during October and November 2002 in Sydney and Melbourne), all of which attracted huge audiences.

At the same time, foreign language prospers in school education, and in the wake of the government policy for placing importance upon Asian languages, represented by the LOTE (Languages Other Than English) and NALSAS (National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools) programs, the number of students of the Japanese language increased steadily from 180,000 in 1993 to 310,000 in 1998. However, at the end of 2002, the federal government discontinued the NALSAS program that was slated in the beginning to continue until 2006, as a result of which, voices were raised among people involved in Japanese-language education, Japanese studies, and Asian studies expressing concern over the drop in interest of the general populace in the Asian area, including Japan and the retreat of multi-culturist government policies.

Standard bearers for cultural exchange between Japan and Australia are widely diversified. For example, Australia holds third place in the world after the United States and China in the number of sister city relations with Japan by country (99 in 2002). Also, groups have been organized by Australian people themselves who have an interest in such aspects of Japanese traditional culture as flower arranging, tea ceremony, and the martial arts, and in most cases, they strive to promote and disseminate their chosen art. The wadaiko group TaikOz headed by Ian Cleworth and shakuhachi player Riley Lee are representative individuals in this trend. At the same time, there are numerous Japanese artists who are active in Australia whose activities are particularly remarkable in such fields as dance, theatre, film, art, and design. Joint performances between Japanese and Australian artists are also being carried out with great vigor, even to the extent that they carry the banner for a part of the daily life of the multi-cultural society and culture of Australia.

3. Activities of the Japan Cultural Centre, Sydney

<Activity Policies>

The majority of expenditures of Foundation programs for Australia consists of aid for Japanese-language education and Japanese studies, with stress placed upon such activities as improvement of

teacher training, the promotion of continued courses on the elementary, intermediate, and higher education levels, and the creation of a network between the Centre library and university libraries. In terms of intellectual exchange programs, the major theme is how best to contribute to the cooperative efforts of Japan and Australia toward solving of commonly held problems throughout the entire Asia-Oceania region. Aside from these areas, in the field of art-exchange programs, in order to carry out programs efficiently on a limited budget, the Centre aims for joint sponsorship and cooperation with domestic art and film festivals, as well as utilization of native Japanese artists who are residents of Australia. In addition, the development of programs in the vast nation of Australia requires cooperation with the Embassy of Japan and the consulates of the various regional cities.

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

2002 Intensive Seminar for Japanese-Language Teachers (July 8–12, 2002, and January 13–17, 2003, Sydney Language Centre, Sydney)

This Intensive Seminar for Japanese-Language Teachers is held twice every year. In July, the seminar was attended by 24 elementary-level Japanese-language teachers, and in January, by a total of 24 intermediate-level Japanese-language teachers, from all over Australia and New Zealand. The Centre strives to promote understanding of Japan through all types of cultural programs, including enhancement of Japanese-language administration abilities and developmental research on teaching methods and materials.

Rakugo in English (August 2002, Brisbane, Sydney, and Perth)

This was a performance tour to three Australian cities of Rakugo in English (Kakusho Shofukutei, Kaishi Katsura, Asakichi Katsura, and Kazume Hayashiya) that was produced by Kimie Oshima. Rakugo is an art of humor that has a nearly 300-year history of refinement. Kimie Oshima is convinced that its humor is accessible to the entire world, and her efforts were rewarded with a veritable tempest of laughter at all the venues where performances were given.



Rakugo in English

Performance Tour of “The Cat Who Ran” (January 2003, Perth International Festival)

This is an original work of the Japanese theater company Seigei that was presented in an English version by the Barking Gecko Theatre Company that is based in Western Australia, and in which the Centre extended cooperation under its aid program. After a three-week run, it toured a large number of schools. This can be referred as one example of success in promotion of joint productions between Japanese and Australian artists.

North America (U.S.A. & Canada)

Overview

During fiscal 2002, expenditures on programs for North America amounted to around ¥1.54519 billion, representing a huge ratio of the total spent on Foundation programs for the United States, and the amount spent on programs for Canada maintained practically the same ratio as it had in the previous year.

In terms of Japanese studies—related programs, the AAC (American Advisory Committee), the Foundation’s counseling organ in the United States, worked for improvement of programs through the carrying out of screenings of applicants and provision of advice. Concerning Canada, programs for extending aid to Japanese studies in joint programs with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada were carried out. During this fiscal year, a new short-term fellowship program was established for the purpose of extending invitations to American and Canadian scholars and research for collecting materials and creating surveys, under which invitations were extended to ten people from United States and two from Canada.

In the field of Japanese-language education, continued support was extended to the nurturing of teachers and researchers and the formulation and strengthening of networks among them.

In the field of introduction of Japanese culture and arts exchange, programs were carried out for the promotion of solidarity and cooperation among local cultural and arts organizations. During fiscal 2002, the Exhibition of Historical Japanese Photographs was held under the joint sponsorship of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston at that museum and at the Cleveland Museum of Art. In addition, the Hiroshi Hori Puppet Company – Lecture Demonstration toured six cities of North America under the program for dispatch for introduction of Japanese culture. Also, under the public solicitation program for America “Performing Arts Japan,” aid was extended to performance tours of outstanding Japanese stage arts and joint productions between Japanese and American artists.

In the field of the intellectual exchange program of the Center for Global Partnership, during fiscal 2002, an active approach was made to various outside organizations for initiation of the program style called “Request for Proposal (RFP)” that is aimed at the realization of projects in special fields and forms. During this fiscal year, the focus was trained on the two fields of “life ethics” and “international civil society,” and efforts were made toward development of the most effective programs possible.

Also, in the field of regional and grassroots exchange, a program called “Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI)” was established for the purpose of dispatching grassroots exchange coordinators from Japan to regional areas of America that have comparatively few chances to carry out exchange activities with Japan. During fiscal 2002, four coordinators were sent to the southern part of the United States for promotion of understanding of Japan and exchange between Japan and the United States through provision of general information on Japanese culture and contemporary society.

Concerning the US-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON) that served as the executive office in Japan for the Japan Foundation, conferences on such subjects as digital culture were carried out and the multi-media website prototype called “Crosscurrents” (“The

History of Japanese-American Culture: The 50 Postwar Years”), which had been jointly produced by the United States and Japan, was presented.

Overseas Office Reports

CANADA

The Japan Foundation, Toronto (serving as a Japan Cultural Centre)

1. Overview

The GDP growth that had stagnated in the previous year showed an increase to 3.4% during fiscal 2002. The Liberation Party regime of Prime Minister Jean Chretien that is now in its third term in office held a G8 Summit in June at Kananaskis in the State of Alberta. After arousing public opinion over the replacement of Finance Minister Paul Martin who had succeeded in dissolving the accumulated deficit of \$42 billion, Prime Minister Chretien himself announced that he will not run in the next party chief elections. In December, overcoming the objection of the Alberta state government that it would exert a shock on the petroleum industry, the Kyoto Protocol was ratified.

Also, it was announced that 18.4% (over half of which reside in the two big cities of Toronto and Vancouver) of the population of the entire nation were born in foreign countries, marking the greatest percentage of the past 70 years. On the other hand, the problem of insufficiency in the systems dealing with the various problems of such new residents and their children, including education in inherited languages, the official language, and vocational training, has been frequently pointed out in the press.

On the cultural scene, the first completely Inuit film in history titled “Atanarjuat” (The Fast Runner) was released and received high praise on the international scene, and it was awarded the Camera d’Or new director’s award at the Cannes Film Festival. In October, the novel *Life of Pi* by Montreal writer Yann Martel received the British Booker Prize, making this a year of brilliant activity for Canadian authors in the world of literature as well.

2. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

A broad range of films by such veteran Japanese directors as Takeshi Kitano, Tetsuo Shinohara, Shinya Tsukamoto, Sachi Hamano, Hayao Miyazaki, as well as those by such young Japanese directors as Daisuke Tengan, Hidenori Sugimori, Hiroshi Ando, and Takashi Tsukinoki, were introduced at Canada’s three major films festivals in Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. Attention was also attracted by short films directed by Takashi Ishida and Shiho Kano and a documentary by Seiichi Motohashi. In addition, a retrospective of the films of Akira Kurosawa was shown in various places throughout North America, demonstrating the deep-rooted popularity of this master-director.

In fiscal 2001, the Centre held a full-fledged exhibition entitled “Re-Design: Daily Products of the 21st Century” that was curated by Kenya Hara for the Toronto Design Exchange, an organization

for the promotion of design, and it proved so popular that it was extended to a full two months. Also, at the Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, the display of an audio-visual installation entitled "Tokyo Countdown" that was created by Canada's star designer Bruce Mau became the subject of general conversation. Also, works by Takehito Koganezawa were entered in the Montreal Biennale.

In terms of stage arts, performances were given throughout Canada by the Kim Itoh + the Glorious Future and the Ryuzanji Company, and they were given generous coverage by the mass communications media. In the field of music, Eiji Oue conducted the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and Kaoru Yamamura gave a piano recital as part of the vigorous exchange programs that were carried out during the year.

3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, Toronto

<Activity Policies>

Canada is a gigantic nation that covers an area that is 27 times that of Japan, resulting in great regional differences. It has two official languages, English and French, with French dominating in Québec, while English is commonly spoken in all other regions. Thus, it has a multiculturalism that allows for the coexistence of the large number of ethnic groups with different cultural backgrounds that make up this immigrant nation into which huge numbers of people have immigrated from all parts of the world since the 1970s. As the sole Japan Foundation organ in all of Canada, the Japan Foundation, Toronto exerts concerted efforts toward taking this unique nature of Canada into consideration in order to effect the smooth carrying out of Foundation programs in cooperation with the Japanese embassies and Canadian public organizations, and consulates in the various parts of the country.

Concerning the Special Grants for Japanese Studies in Canada, which is a joint program of Foundation Headquarters and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the Japan Foundation, Toronto carries out such activities as the establishment of program policies through discussions with Foundation Headquarters. Also, concerning the operation of the program for extending aid to Japanese-language education through the Tanaka Fund Program for Japanese-Language Education, for which the Japanese government donated funds to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada through Foundation Headquarters, the Japan Foundation, Toronto extends appropriate advice and cooperation to that Association for the purpose of coordinating this program with the unique programs for aid to Japanese-language education of Foundation Headquarters. Concerning the Japan-Canada Fund that the Japanese government donated to the Canada Council for the Arts for the purpose of promoting arts exchange between Canada and Japan, the Japan Foundation, Toronto carried out information exchange for the purpose of achieving solidarity and coordinating its programs with the art-exchange programs of the Japan Foundation.

In addition, the Japan Foundation, Toronto pays particular attention to the deepening of solidarity and cooperation with the organizations related to Canadian culture and arts to the greatest possible extent through the carrying out of programs for arts exchange and for the introduction of culture with the purpose of introducing Japanese culture on the broadest possible scale to the multicultural

nation of Canada. At the same time, in the context of programs for aid to Japanese-language education and Japanese studies, the Japan Foundation, Toronto provides support for the nurturing of next generation Japanese-studies scholars and local Japanese-language teachers, and it also places importance upon providing support for the formulation of all-Canadian networks among teachers, researchers, and librarians who are responsible for materials on Japan.

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

Performance series of an English version of "Godzilla" (September 17 through October 13, 2002, The Factory Theatre, Toronto)

This performance tour of the contemporary Japanese drama "Godzilla" was introduced in the form of a formal dramatic reading as a joint sponsorship project between the Japan Foundation, Toronto, Foundation Headquarters, and the Crow's Theatre as a fiscal 2000 pilot project of the Performing Arts Division of Foundation Headquarters. It drew audiences numbering 2,266, and attracted so much attention that it was given generous coverage by Canada's three major newspapers and two information periodicals. Also, the project spread out in a diversified manner that included the publication by a Canadian publishing company of a revised translation of the script for performance, and the extending of an invitation to the playwright Yasuhiko Ohashi to participate in the international writer's festival held in Canada.



The actor who played the leading role in "Godzilla" being interviewed by the press

An exhibition of works by Taku Satoh (October 17 through December 14, 2002, The Japan Foundation, Toronto)

The Japan Foundation, Toronto sponsored the holding of "The Invisible Designer: Interrelation of Product and Environment in Design by Taku Satoh" as the 5th project in its Japan Graphic Design Exhibition series. The exhibition was structured around the theme of delving into the possibility of relationships between things and the environment, in the context of which products, printed materials, posters, and audio-visual works by Taku Satoh were displayed. During the run of the exhibition Taku Satoh himself was dispatched to Toronto by Foundation Headquarters for carrying out a total of three lectures and exhibition tours in and around the city of Toronto.

The 15th Annual Conference of the Japan Studies Association of Canada (October 4-6, 2002, University of Calgary, Calgary)

The Annual Conference of the Japan Studies Association of Canada, a national organization of Canadian Japanese studies scholars, was held under the title of "Japan in a Changed World." The meeting received aid from Foundation Headquarters under its program for aid to Japanese studies research and conferences, and it obtained the participation of not only Japanese studies scholars, but

also people involved in the government and business from both Japan and Canada, who presented a total of 29 theses and research reports. During fiscal 2001, a panel was officially added in the field of culture and linguistics, and during the present fiscal year, presentations were made in a broad range of fields, including six related to literature, four to linguistics, eight to business and economics, five to political economics, three to history, two to geography, and one to gender studies.

Administration of the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (December 1, 2002, York University, Toronto and Douglas College, Vancouver)

The cooperation of York University and Douglas College were obtained for administration of the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test, and there was an increase in examinees from 580 in the previous year to 604 in 2002 (238 in Toronto and 366 in Vancouver).

THE UNITED STATES

Overview

The terrorist attacks that occurred in September 2001 shook the very foundations of American life. In his State of the Union address to the nation at the beginning of 2002, President George W. Bush renewed his declaration of the “war on terror,” even giving the name of specific countries as the “axis of evil.” Subsequently, America continued to take concrete measures and action in accordance with this policy. Symbolic incidents in this context included the declaration of the National Security Strategy of the United States of America (in September 2002) and measures of the Department of Homeland Security (in January 2003), and the beginning of the war against Iraq (in March 2003). It is a fact that the carrying out of these actions was aided by the high support ratio of the American people for the Bush regime, that was clearly manifested in the great number of seats in both the lower and upper houses that were won by the Republican Party in the interim elections of November 2002. However, it cannot be denied that America now faces the difficult problems of the post-war reconstruction of Iraq which are impossible to even predict at present, and the long road toward peace in the Middle East in general.

On the other hand, the American economy, that began to move upward during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2001, continued to move steadily in that overall direction during fiscal 2002. This has been a great help in promotion of the “war on terror” of the Bush administration, but it is also a fact that there has been a sudden worsening in the realm of governmental finances, and there is concern over the possible influence this will have on the future.

The New York Office

1. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

According to a Gallup Poll that was carried out as a joint survey with the *Yomiuri Shimbun* in

September 2002, the percentage of those who stated that the relationship between Japan and America is “good” was 54% in Japan and 66% in the United States. The percentages for the answer that the other country “is trustworthy” were 49% in Japan and 78% in the United States. Thus the ratios in both cases are higher in the United States. This demonstrates that there are extremely amicable feelings toward Japan among the general populace in the United States, and even during fiscal 2002 that began and ended with the “war on terror,” these figures appear to be backed up by the number of cultural exchange programs carried out in all parts of the United States by both the Foundation and other private and governmental sponsors. The following is an introduction of some examples.

In the field of art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art held a retrospective exhibition of works by Shiko Munakata, and a group exhibition entitled “First Steps: Emerging Artists from Japan” was held at the PS.1 Contemporary Art Center (New York) that drew attention to the cutting-edge young artists of Japan.

In the field of stage arts, the musical “Pacific Overtures” (New National Theater version) directed by Amon Miyamoto received great praise in both New York and Washington, and Sankai Juku’s “Hibiki” and “Macbeth” directed by Yukio Ninagawa were invited to the Next Wave Festival of the Brooklyn Academy of Music (New York). In addition, tours of the United States were made by Dairakudakan (butoh), Mizuto Abura (mime), Hiromitsu Agatsuma (tsugaru shamisen), and Ku Na’uka (contemporary theater), making this a year during which the presence of Japanese stage arts in the United States was on an unprecedented scale.

Director Hayao Miyazaki’s animation film “Spirited Away” won an Academy Award, “The Ring,” a remake of the Japanese horror movie (original novel by Koji Suzuki) was a huge hit, and English versions of two Japanese manga magazines were published. All of these are incidents that symbolize the intensity of the popularity of Japanese pop culture in the United States.

Before and after the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11, numerous grassroots level cultural exchange programs were carried out between Japan and the United States.

2. Activities of the New York Office

<Activity Policies>

The New York Office serves as the management office for programs related to Japanese studies, joint Japan-US programs for the introduction of performing arts, and programs for friendly exchange between the United States and Japan. In terms of other Foundation programs, the New York Office is in charge of the area formed by the 37 states situated east of the Rocky Mountains, while the Los Angeles Office is responsible for the other 13 states. In addition, the Los Angeles Office handles all Japanese-language education programs for the entire country.

In the United States, considering that there are great differences in specific social and cultural characteristics in the great metropolises, as well as the regional differences, there is a broad variety of disparate needs for cultural-exchange programs. In order to carry out programs in response to this situation in the United States, the New York Office has obtained the cooperation of overseas governmental agencies and established committees and councils made up of experts in the fields of Japanese studies and Japanese-American performing arts exchange, in its attempt to promote

effective programs that are appropriate to local situations throughout the nation.

Also, due to the increasing diversification of channels for cultural exchange between Japan and the United States, the Office also extends aid and cooperation to such individual education and research organizations as universities, as well as art museums, art centers, and cultural groups such as the Japan-America society. It also supports the carrying out of self-initiated programs with full respect given to the initiative of the people involved in cultural exchange on the American side, and extends aid for the carrying out of other programs for the purpose of formulating a mutually complementary and cooperative relationship with such organizations.

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

The Japan Foundation Annual Film Festival (February 6 through March 31, 2003, four universities, including the University of Mississippi)

This is an annual touring screen series sponsored by the New York Office with the cooperation of local universities carried out for the purpose of introducing Japanese culture in areas that have few such opportunities to come into contact with it. During fiscal 2002, it toured four universities in three southern states Mississippi (University of Mississippi), Florida (University of Florida), and North Carolina (East Carolina University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

Four films were screened under the theme of “Japan and Its Youth,” including “Village of Dreams” (directed by Yoichi Higashi), “Aiko Sweet Sixteen” (directed by Akiyoshi Imazeki), “Bounce Ko Gals” (directed by Masato Harada), and “Kishiwada Bad Boys” (directed by Kazuyuki Izutsu). This provided a valuable opportunity for people who normally have no chance to come into contact with Japanese films, as a result of which all screenings enjoyed high praise, making this an effective program for the introduction of one aspect of contemporary Japanese culture.

Performing Arts Japan (April 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003)

This program was carried out for the purpose of introducing the outstanding stage arts of Japan to not only such large cities as New York and Los Angeles, but also on a broad scale throughout all parts of the United States, and at the same time promoting new joint productions between artists of Japan and the United States. The New York Office serves at the main executor of this aid program. During fiscal 2002, five companies, including Kim Itoh + the Glorious Future (contemporary dance at the Japan Society), Hachioji Kuruma Ningyo and Shinnai Joruri (traditional performing arts at the University of Hawaii), toured 20 cities of the United States, attracting a total of more than 20,000 attendees. Also, seven joint productions were given, including Eiko & Koma, Yasuko Yokoshi (both of the above are contemporary dance), Mabou Mines (avant-garde theatre), and Bang on a Can (contemporary music), all of which received high praise from both their audiences and the press even as works in progress.

The PR program at the 46th Annual Members Conference of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) (January 11–14, 2003, Hilton Hotel, New York)

As a part of the information exchange program of the Performing Arts Division, publicity concerning

the stage arts of Japan was carried out for presenters (people in charge of arranging programs for theaters) in the United States, at the Annual Members Conference of the APAP, which is the largest Arts Fair in the world. On January 12, a seminar was held for a gathering of presenters who have an interest in the stage arts of Japan. Explanations accompanied by videos of the separate works and artists were given by Kentaro Matsui (Setagaya Public Theatre) on contemporary theatre and Mitsuo Tamura (Station Co., Ltd.) on the latest news on Japanese music, both of whom were dispatched by the Foundation Headquarters Performing Arts Division. On January 13, the Japan Society provided the venue for a showcase presentation of Gagaku and Bugaku under the title "The Sounds of Japan." Great expectations are held for the broadening and diversification of channels for introducing the stage arts of Japan in the United States in the future as a result of these PR programs.



Annual Members Conference of the APAP

The Los Angeles Office

1. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

The number of Japanese-Americans and Japanese citizens living on the West Coast of the United States has always been great, and particularly in the Los Angeles area, it is estimated that the Japanese-American population numbers around 250,000, constituting the largest Japanese society in the entire United States. It goes without saying that they hold an important position for the introduction of Japanese culture and promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and the United States.

The second (*nisei*) and third (*sansei*) generations play a major role in the passing on of traditional Japanese culture, including tea ceremony, flower arranging, Japanese classical dance, and the martial arts. There are also people among the younger generations of the fourth (*yonsei*) generation and beyond who are visibly active in such comparatively new fields as wadaiko, Butoh, and animated films.

Among the general populace of the West Coast area as well, there is an interest in such conventional aspects of Japanese culture as traditional performing arts, martial arts, history, and literature, and recently there has been a rise in such aspects of pop culture as animation, TV games, and karaoke, in Japanese cuisine, including sushi, and in the activities of Japanese professional baseball players, resulting in the permeation of Japanese culture into the daily life of the people. This influx of popular culture is expected to bring about a steady increase in the number of students of the Japanese language in the future as well.

2. Activities of the Los Angeles Office

<Activity Policies>

Film viewing is one of the simplest and most familiar forms of entertainment in the United States, and even from the viewpoint of cost-effectiveness and introduction of Japanese culture, film is an extremely advantageous genre. Up until recently, Japanese culture was hardly ever introduced in small and medium-sized cities in the inland states, but due to increased opportunities to screen films there, active introduction of Japanese films has been carried out, utilizing the films owned by the Japan Foundation film library.

In the large cities of the West Coast, where there is a concentration of American specialists on Japanese culture, flank support has been provided mainly through small scale aid projects for the art museums, theater and movie houses where such specialists work.

In the field of Japanese-language education, alongside the holding of workshops and the conventional programs for Japanese-language teachers, the development of programs directly centered on students of the Japanese language was initiated.

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

Performances by the Hiroshi Hori Puppet Company

Hiroshi Hori manipulated his own original life-size puppets, performing a dance piece on the theme of "The Tale of Genji," and he also gave a lecture on his original kimono designs. The Los Angeles venue was filled by an audience of 450 people who were completely fascinated by the elegant dance of the puppets and gave a standing ovation at the end of the performance. Since puppet theater is only given for children in the United States, and the use of life-size puppets is also extremely unique, the performances drew the rapt attention of not only the general American public but of people involved in theater as well.

Short Shorts Film Festival 2002

The premier screenings of this Short Shorts Film Festival that was initiated in Japan in 1999 were given at The Egyptian Theater in Hollywood for two days. The works of twelve young film directors, from all of parts of the world including Japan, were selected from more than 1,000 applicants and screened all together. The films exerted a huge impact on Hollywood film industry people, and high praise was given to the Japanese group for contributing this event to the film world as a whole.

The first issue of the Japanese-language studies magazine WAHOO

The first issue of a gratis magazine published in English primarily for American junior and senior high school students to promote enjoyable study of Japanese culture and the Japanese language was put out. Since there has never before been a study magazine of this type, it has elicited a strong reaction from all directions. The program also succeeded in attaining great efficiency through the acceptance of publicity from private sector enterprises and the provision of articles.

Latin America (incl. Mexico and Central & South America)

Overview

The amount expended on the carrying out of Foundation programs for the Central and South America region was about ¥636.83 million, constituting about 5% of the expenditures for programs for the entire world. The Soccer World Cup that is a matter of great interest to Latin America was co-hosted by Japan and Korea in June 2002. Then in October, the first APEC conference ever held in Latin America was in Mexico, enhancing the interest of the people in Japan.

In the midst of this, the first full-fledged performance tour of Bunraku ever given in Latin America was held during September and October in six cities of Brazil and Mexico. In Mexico, a Japanese culture month called “Presencia del Japon” (Presence of Japan) was held for three months from August through October in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations with Japan. A total of more than 60 programs, including Foundation-related programs, were carried out, including exhibitions, performances, lectures and screenings of Japanese films, all of which attracted large audiences. The Bunraku performances that were given at the large-scale International Cervantino Festival for culture and the arts constituted the largest program given during the culture month project.

Various programs were given in Japan and Cuba in celebration of the 100th anniversary of initiation of exchange between the two nations. The Foundation sponsored jazz concerts, tsugaru shamisen concerts, and demonstrations of such traditional Japanese music as the shakuhachi, as well as a special retrospective of films directed by Yoji Yamada and an exhibition of “Japanese Kites and Tops.”

In addition, in accordance with an agreement reached at a Cabinet-level meeting between Japan and the Caribbean nations, a Caribbean fair was held in Japan and Japan Weeks in the Caribbean were held in the Caribbean nations. Aside from invitations extended to the chancellor of the University of the West Indies and a professor of the ethnology department of the State University of Haiti to attend an international symposium entitled “The History and Culture of the Caribbean Sea Area,” the Foundation extended aid to a “Caribbean Music Fair” by groups of musicians from the three nations of Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, and Jamaica, and support was also given, under the program for introducing Japanese music through performances in the Caribbean of pieces by Japanese composers.

In addition, the Foundation participated in such large-scale arts festivals as the São Paulo Biennale, the São Paulo International Film Festival and the Brasilia International Film Festival, as well as international book fairs in Guadalajara, São Paulo, and Buenos Aires, striving to carry out programs with a highly multiplied effect.

While many of the countries of Central and South America initiated Japanese-language education as a means of passing down the language to the descendants of Japanese emigrants, in the countries where there are already several generations of people of Japanese descent, teaching Japanese has moved to be treated similar to a foreign language. In accordance with this situation in the various countries, the Foundation promotes support centered on Japanese-language education in

the form of training for Japanese-language teachers, aid for Japanese-language speech contests, and donations of Japanese-language teaching materials. At the same time, work is also carried out toward the carrying out of programs for the establishment of core organizations in Japanese studies, the nurturing of researchers, the formulation of networks through the dispatch of Japanese visiting professors, and the donation of books.

In the field of personnel exchange, importance was placed upon programs that will lead to the future promotion of exchange between Japan and the Latin America region. In this context, invitations were extended to such people involved in culture as the vice-president of the Nicaragua academy of linguistics and the curator of the National Historical Museum of Brazil, and office chiefs of the arts festivals of Latin America to give them opportunities to exchange opinions with people in related fields in Japan.

Overseas Office Reports

MEXICO

The Mexico Office

(Fundación Japón en México)

1. Overview

In October 2002, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting was held in Los Cabos and it was brought to a successful close under the initiative of President Vicente Fox Quesada. The conference had the effect of greatly intensifying interest in the countries Asia-Oceania, including Japan, not only in the field of economics, but also in the fields of culture and academics.

In terms of economics, the economic growth ratio for fiscal 2002 rose from the negative growth of the previous year to a positive growth ratio of 0.9%. And the inflation ratio was also kept to a low 5%. While the level of economic dependence on the United States has risen since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was signed in 1994, progress is also being made in the negotiations toward signing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Japan. Mexico has already signed the same type of agreement with more than 30 countries and it is expected that the signing of the agreement with Japan will result in a weakening of the trend toward dependence on the United States and an expansion of business chances for Mexico in the Japanese economy, bringing larger profits to both nations.

In the midst of this situation, a fiscal 2002 work report was made by Sari Bermudez, President of the National Council for Culture and Arts. This report pointed out the steadily increasing trend toward improvement in the cultural programs in Mexico on the whole, stressing the achievement of an increase in the book reading population through the building of libraries and aid for publishing under a national program, a broad increase over the previous year in aid for overseas artistic activities by Mexican artists, and a trend toward annual increase of the number of visitors to such major

international festivals as the Festival International Cervantino.

2. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

In terms of noteworthy events related to Japan during fiscal 2002, the first one that comes to mind is the Japanese culture month called “Presencia del Japon” (Presence of Japan) that was held for three months from August through October, under the sponsorship of the Embassy of Japan in Mexico and local Japan-related groups. A total of more than 60 programs, including Foundation-related programs, were carried out, such as exhibitions, performances, lectures and screenings of Japanese films, all of which attracted large audiences. The holding of the Soccer World Cup in June and the APEC meeting in October served to greatly enhance interest in Japan among the people of Mexico.

In the field of academics, the University of Guadalajara extended an invitation to former Ambassador Eikichi Hayashiya to give a lecture entitled “Japanese Immigrants to Mexico.” In April, the Department of Asia-Pacific Studies of the same university held an academic forum entitled “Mexico and APEC”, resulting in an increase in interest in the Asia-Oceania region, including Japan, within the academic world of Mexico.

In the field of the arts, the highly successful “Translated Acts,” an exhibition of Asian Contemporary Art, including the works of five Japanese artists, was held at the Carrillo Gil Museum in October.

3. Activities of the Mexico Office

<Activity Policies>

During fiscal 2002, as a result of the three-year reconsideration of the Office PR functions, the Office newsletter *EL PATIO* and the design of its website were entirely revamped and further completed. In particular, the newsletter which had formerly been published on a quarterly basis and is now published three times a year, and the supply of content has been greater than before. In concrete terms, the cover design was renovated, and more information has been added to the Japanese-language education page, the event page, and the special page for Foundation programs through the provision of information by the Japanese-language education advisor attached to the Office in terms of the lead article and information on regional Japanese-language education. As a result, the newsletter and the website have become firmly established as sources of information, not only in Mexico itself, but also among the Japanese-language education and Japanese studies organizations and the overseas diplomatic facilities in all the Spanish-speaking countries of Central and South America.

In the field of Japanese-language education, the advisor affiliated with the Center began his second year in the post. He held a training session for the purpose of enhancing the Japanese-language working knowledge and proficiency of Mexican teachers of the Japanese language, participated in training sessions at regional Japanese-language education organizations, and carried out a survey of those organizations, making great progress toward establishing himself firmly in the local world of Japanese-language education. In addition, the newly-created Mexican Japanese-language education

network went into operation, making the advice and the adjustments of the advisor of increasingly great importance.

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

Screening of films directed by Yoji Yamada (August 2–7, 2002, Mexican National Film Archive)

Five films directed by Yoji Yamada were screened at the Mexican National Film Archive, and the director himself gave a lecture at the screening of his movie “Otoko wa Tsurai yo—Boukyo Hen.” This event attracted a crowd that almost completely filled the 200 seats of the venue. This was the first time that these films had ever been shown in Mexico and audience response was positive, with laughter heard frequently during the screenings. Following the screening-lecture event, a press conference and a cocktail party were held, all in an atmosphere of goodwill.

A memorial exhibition for Ikko Tanaka (August 13 through September 1, Casa del Tiempo)

This exhibition was held in memory of Ikko Tanaka who passed away in January 2002. A number of his posters that are owned by the Poet’s House that sponsors the International Biennale of Poster, Mexico were on display. At the opening ceremony, three Mexican graphic designers and architects who were close to Ikko Tanaka gave lectures on his artistic style and his personality, providing a multi-faceted introduction to this representative Japanese designer.

Bunraku Latin America Tour (October 12 & 13, 2002, Theater of Fine Arts, Mexico City; October 15 & 16, Degollado Theater, Guadalajara; and October 19 & 20, Juarez Theater, Guanajuato)

This performance tour of Bunraku was carried out as part of a Headquarters Performing Arts Division sponsorship program (overseas performance), under the joint sponsorship of the International Cervantino Festival, Latin America’s largest-scale event of its kind. This was the first performance tour of Bunraku ever given in Mexico (nine performances in three cities), as a result of which it attracted large and highly enthusiastic audiences. Workshops were given in conjunction with the performances, giving Mexican people a chance to actually manipulate the puppets, making this an apt opportunity for introduction of Bunraku, one of Japan’s traditional performing arts.



Bunraku performance in Latin America

BRAZIL

The Japan Cultural Center, São Paulo

(Assessoria Cultural do Consulado Geral do Japão)

1. Overview

In October 2002, the year presidential election held every four years was won by Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of the opposition Worker's Party of Brazil bringing to a close the Cardoso regime of the Brazilian Social-Democratic Party that had been in power for eight years. Prior to this opposition victory, along with the increasing possibility of a win for Lula, foreign capital had flowed out of the country due to fears of a "Lula effect" or turnover in government economic policies, and the Brazilian economy reached a temporary impasse due to the resulting rise in the dollar rate and the country risk. However, President Lula announced "the public message for the nation" for the purpose of calming the market and gave such pledges as "presently existing contracts are to be strictly adhered to without extending the period of repayment of foreign debts or postponement of domestic debts," "the inflation goals are to be maintained," and "the interest rates are not to be suddenly lowered," as a result of which, he succeeded in maintaining economic stability.

The Lula government appointed the world-famous singer-songwriter Gilberto Gil to the post of minister of education. Gil achieved success in developing a vigorous cultural administration having been head of the state cultural agency in the past, and much is expected from his work under the new regime.

Governmental support of culture achieved particular results in boosting the film industry, greatly enhancing the reputation of Brazilian films on both the domestic scene and in the international market, and at international film festivals. "City of God" that was released during fiscal 2002 attracted crowds of 3 million people, breaking the record formerly held by "Central Station" and became a huge hit. The film also attracted attention when it was released in Japan.

This was also a year during which Brazilian contemporary art was in the spotlight more than ever before in the major art museums of Europe and the United States. In addition, in the field of architecture, an exhibition of the works (blueprints, models, furniture, etc.) of the still-active 95-year-old architect Oscar Niemeyer who is acclaimed as the last master-builder of the 20th century was held at the Jeu de Paume in Paris and the Serpentine Gallery in London, confirming again the greatness of his accomplishments.

During the past few years large-scale international exhibitions have been carried out almost on an annual basis in Brazil, and during fiscal 2002, the Xi' An Terracotta Warriors and the Forbidden City Treasures exhibition was held in São Paulo. The highlight of the exhibition were the 11 terracotta warriors and horse figures from the Emperor Qin's Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum, alongside exhibits that told the story of the 5,000-year history of China (a total of 450 items, including pots, folding screen, painted picture scrolls, costumes, furniture, etc.). This was the largest-scale exhibition of ancient Chinese art ever held overseas. The exhibition was sponsored by Brazil Connects. It was held for three months and attracted a total of 730,000 visitors.

2. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

During the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan, all of Brazil's major television stations dispatched camera crews to shoot programs on the culture and people of the two countries. This was the first time ever for such a concentration of programs introducing Japan to be broadcast in Brazil, providing an opportunity to enhance interest in Japan among the Brazilian people. During the World Cup tournament, numerous "Japanese Culture Festival" were sponsored by the Japanese government establishments and Japan-related groups in all parts of Brazil, resulting in far more active exchange than in normal years.

The "Ares E Pensares Balloon Art Exhibition" was planned by the São Paulo State Commerce Federation. It was an international art exhibition for which works were collected that utilize air in such forms as balloons and other air-filled objects, including works by such Japanese artists as Yayoi Kusama, Izuru Kasahara, and Risa Sato. Works by such renowned artists as Andy Warhol were also exhibited and drew huge crowds of visitors.

3. Activities of the Japan Cultural Center, São Paulo

The Japan Cultural Center, São Paulo plans and carries out self-initiated programs for the purpose of introducing Japanese culture, and it also accepts and carries out plans of local artists and people involved in culture for the comparison and juxtaposition of the Japanese and Brazilian cultures. It is known as a base for the dispatch of Japanese culture even among local Brazilian cultural organizations, as a result of which it receives an increasing number of requests for consultation and advice not only on Japan Foundation programs, but also in the realm of provision of information on culture in general and cultural program policies. In addition, in accepting and carrying out Headquarters programs, the Center exerts efforts toward the holding of workshops and related lectures, striving to both give birth to exchange among local artists and specialists and effect long-term continuation of that exchange. The Center attempts to expand the range of audiences and general interest in a greater number of related fields through the planning of compound programs.

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

Bunraku South America Tour (September 28 through October 10, 2002, National Theater, Brasilia/Cultura Artistica Theater, São Paulo/Rio de Janeiro Theatro Municipal, Rio de Janeiro)

This was the largest-scale program of the Japan Foundation during fiscal 2002. A company of 39 members, including five tayu performer, five shamisen players, 15 puppeteers, two percussionists, seven stage hands, and five producers and managers, toured the three Brazilian cities of Brasilia, São Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro, as well as Mexico. Six performances of "Tsurionna" (Fishing for a Wife) and "Sonezaki-shinju" (The Love Suicides at Sonezaki) were given in three cities and attracted audiences over 5,000 in number. Also, in conjunction with the full performances, lecture-demonstrations and a photography exhibition were held. This program was the final tour in the presentation of full-fledged performances of the three most famous Japanese classical performing arts of Kabuki, Noh, and Bunraku in Brazil.

Exhibition: Sharaku Re-Interpreted by Japanese Contemporary Artists (June 11, 2002 through February 9, 2003, São Paulo, Porto Alegre, Rio de Janeiro, Belem, Recife, Manaus, Brasilia, and Curitiba)

This exhibition opened in São Paulo and was subsequently toured to eight cities where Japanese government establishments are located. On display were unusual works newly created with the works of Sharaku Toshusai as their inspiration by 28 contemporary Japanese artists and graphic designers, and the exhibition attracted large crowds of visitors in all the places it was shown. It included the works of such renowned contemporary artists as Takashi Murakami and was given generous coverage by the mass media. In São Paulo, a lecture by a local ukiyo-e scholar was given in conjunction with the exhibition.



The exhibition Sharaku Re-Interpreted by Japanese Contemporary Artists

Interpretation of the Japanese Body II (March 25–27, 2003, The Japan Cultural Center, São Paulo)

This was one of the unique programs planned and carried out by the Japan Cultural Center, São Paulo aimed at providing an opportunity to introduce the process and results of the research and productions of Brazilian Japanologists and former fellows, based upon their experiences and studies in Japan. This was the second time the Center has held this compound program of lectures, etc., under the theme of “Interpretation of the Japanese Body.” Lectures on the theories and concepts of the Japanese body were given by Brazilian stage artists and researchers, and discussions were carried out on the means of expression in art, dance, theater, and literature. This time, a narrower focus than the general theme of the previous project was trained on the sub-theme of “The Aesthetics of Eroticism,” in the context of which analysis was made of the theory of the Japanese body, extending over a broad range of fields, including ukiyo-e, manga, and literature. It received high praise from the major newspapers for the unique freshness of its planning concept.

Western Europe

Overview

In terms of share of programs, the largest fields were office-related programs (39.8%), followed by Japanese-language education (25.6%), and personnel exchange (14.7%).

Fiscal 2002 marked the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris (The Japan Cultural Institute in Paris), and more replete programs were carried out than in normal years. Also, as part of the follow-up activities to Japan 2001 in the United Kingdom, active support was carried out by the London Office for the development of regional programs, placing the

greatest importance on Japanese-language education on the intermediate education level.

In conjunction with the co-hosting of the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan, there was a remarkable number of programs planned and executed for the introduction of the cultures of Japan and Korea as part of the East Asia region, including the “Japan-Korea Music Festival 2002” in France (joint concerts by taiko groups from Japan and Korea), and the “Japan-Korea Festival in Germany” (exhibitions, films festivals, and symposia). In the same vein, great praise was enjoyed by the “In Gesture and Glance: The Female Role Player in Asian Dance and Theatre” performance tour of the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and Germany, that introduced female impersonation as one of the traditional performing arts of China, India, Indonesia, and Japan.

On the other hand, fiscal 2002 was also a year during which the relationship between Japan and the EU progressed toward both deepening and expansion. A “Japan-EU roundtable for cultural exchange groups” was held under joint sponsorship with the cultural organizations and the culture departments of embassies of EU member countries in Japan, in order to “bring together people and cultures,” which is one of the major aims of the “Action Plan for EU-Japan Cooperation” that was adopted at the 10th European Union-Japan Summit in December 2001.

Overseas Office Reports

ITALY

The Japan Cultural Institute in Rome (Istituto Giapponese di Cultura)

1. Overview

Fiscal 2002 opened with Italy’s entry into the Euro alliance, and it was a turbulent year for the second Berlusconi administration which had been in office for just half a year. Foreign Minister Renato Ruggiero, who shaped the path toward accord with the EU and criticized skeptics in the Cabinet, resigned in January, subsequent to which the prime minister served concurrently as temporary proxy for the Foreign Minister for an eleven-month period. Under the influence of the pro-American stance of Berlusconi’s Italy, the isolation of Italy in the EU was pointed out and public criticism intensified day by day. The general public was dissatisfied with the various policy reforms proposed by the government, with particularly remarkable objections raised to the labor market reforms, resulting in the first general strike of the three major unions in 20 years breaking out in April over the repeal of Article 18 of the “Workers’ Statute” concerning the dismissal system law. In terms of the economy, along with the introduction of the Euro, there was a sudden rise in prices, the employment situation worsened, and private sector consumption dropped, bringing the GDP growth rate down to 0.4%, the lowest record in recent years. The unemployment ratio decreased from 9.5% in the previous year to 9.0%, but the huge gap between the northern and southern areas remained unabated, with the unemployment ratio average for people between 25 and 34 reaching 25.3% in the south part of Italy. This high unemployment ratio for the younger generation constitutes a continuingly serious problem.

2. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

During the past few years, there has been a quietly continuing Japan boom in a broad variety of genres, including cuisine, architecture, films, animation, fashion, and interior design, bringing about a sudden increase particularly in small and medium Japan-related cultural programs in all parts of Italy, including grassroots level plans for Japan Week events. Also, Japanese-language education was initiated in a number of universities in the southern regions and islands where there were very few Japanese-language education organizations in the past, and a remarkable number of private language schools have also begun to offer Japanese-language courses, centered on such big cities as Rome. At the same time and in conjunction with “Italy in Japan 2001–2002” and the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan, there was a sudden increase in opportunities to give coverage on Japan in the mass media. Even so, television as a medium that exerts a strong and broad-ranging influence still tends to broadcast only humorous stereotypical images of Japan.

In Japan, up until the end of “Italy in Japan 2001–2002” in May, fiscal 2002 was a year replete with all types of programs on Italian culture. Conversely, the main large-scale program related to Japanese culture that was held in Italy was an exhibition of 127 ukiyo-e entitled “Protagonists of the Stage in Osaka—the 19th Century Woodblock Prints” (at a number of venues, including the National Museum of Oriental Art in Rome).

3. Activities of the Japan Cultural Institute in Rome

<Activity Policies>

Fiscal 2002 marked the 40th anniversary of the Institute, and several large-scale celebratory programs were planned and carried out in such artistic fields as art, theater, and multi-media that the Italians find easy to enjoy and appreciate in the effort to further increase the number and types of people who have an interest in Japanese culture. Along with introductions of the traditional performing arts and classical culture of Japan that are overwhelmingly popular in Italy, active introduction of the outstanding contemporary Japanese culture that has been nurtured and developed against the background of those traditions has also been carried out for the purpose of conveying a living image of Japan to the Italian public.

In the field of Japanese studies and Japanese-language education, efforts were made toward promotion of high quality Japanese-language education that answers the needs of the recently diversified student population through strengthening of a network among scholars, and developing a better balance in Japanese studies that has tended to lean toward the humanities, including literature, in the past. It is with this purpose in mind that a series of lectures by young Japanologists was planned and carried out for the purpose of multifaceted and comprehensive inspection of contemporary Japanese society.

In addition, taking advantage of the continuing Japan boom that prevails throughout Italy, with the linked cooperation of organizations and individuals who have been carrying out activities firmly rooted in the various regions, importance was placed upon the development of Japan-Italy culture exchange programs throughout all of Italy.

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

“Black Out”—A contemporary photography exhibition (October 21 through December 13, 2002, hall of the Japan Cultural Institute in Rome)

This was a group exhibition of contemporary Japanese photography that was sponsored by Foundation Headquarters and curated by Taro Amano of the Yokohama Museum of Art. It was made up of works by eight young contemporary photographers who are the standard bearers of the Japanese world of photography, Risa Kayahara, Haruna Kawanabe, Koji Onaka, Asako Narahashi, Tomoki Imai, Keiji Tuyuguchi, Erika Yoshino, and Tomoko Isoda. Each photographer worked with unique themes and utilized different materials, sizes, and styles to create works full of youthful sensitivities. Thus the exhibition served to demonstrate the trends in the Japanese art of photography that is developing with increasing depth and breadth. It attracted attention with the extremely high quality of its works and presentation and attracted huge crowds of visitors made up of the general public, photography specialists, art critics, and Italian students of photography. The catalogue for the exhibition, with its fine eye to detail and quality finish, was also highly praised.

Concert tour by the Da. K. T. wadaiko group (November 12, 2002, Park Music Auditorium, Rome; and November 14, Civic Theatre of Sassari, Sassari)

The professional wadaiko group Da. K. T. that is active in Japan carried out its first European performance tour to Rome and Sassari. The three young drummers Hiroshi, Ajo, and Nori gave brilliant renditions of ten original pieces, including “Hiei,” that were a literal combination of highly enthusiastic performance, music, and sports. In addition to the infusion of contemporary sensitivities into traditional Japanese culture, the high artistic level of these performances attracted crowds filling the 1,000 seats in Rome and the 300-seat venue in Sassari to capacity and expressing their appreciation with everyone standing, clapping, stomping, and shouting throughout. The carrying on of traditional performing arts by young people means development into a form that suits the artist as a contemporary living being, and the demonstration of that spirit elicited high praise for revealing one form taken by Japanese culture.

A retrospective of films directed by Shinya Tsukamoto and an open discussion by the director himself (February 4 through March 25, 2003 (discussion held on February 18), hall of the Japan Cultural Institute in Rome/Municipal Cinema of Bologna/National Museum of Cinema, Turin)

This was a retrospective of films directed by Shinya Tsukamoto, one of the most popular contemporary directors in Italy. He won the Grand Prix in the Rome FantaFestival for his debut film “Tetsuo (The Iron Man),” and the Special Jury Prize in the Controcorrente (Upstream) Section of the Venice Film Festival for his latest film “A Snake of June.” The present “contemporary” Japanese retrospective was held as a contrast to the “classical” film retrospective during the autumn of 2002 of 17 films directed by Akira Kurosawa, also among “the most popular Japanese directors in Italy.” The contemporary retrospective consisted of nine works directed by Shinya Tsukamoto, ranging from his 8mm work “The Phantom of Regular Size” to “A Snake of June.” This was the first retrospective

in Italy of films by Tsukamoto who is said to be greatly loved by the Italians. As a result, it was given generous coverage by the mass media, and young fans flocked to the screenings, bringing for the first time such a type of audience to the Institute. Even after viewing the films, members of the 100- to 200-strong audience at each screening were observed in impassionate discussion of the charm of Tsukamoto's films.

In addition, an invitation was extended to the director to be interviewed in Rome by Italy's top Japanese film scholar R. Novielli, Researcher of the University of Venice "Ca' Foscari" in conjunction with the screenings. A record-breaking audience of 400 gathered to enjoy the gentle, straightforward, and entertaining style of Tsukamoto's speaking habits, as he explained his own view of films, his stance toward film production and his thoughts on each of his works. This project served as an opportunity to consider what exactly it is about director Tsukamoto that fascinates the people of Italy to such a great extent, and it also provided important hints for future promotion of cultural exchange between Japan and Italy.

GERMANY

The Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne (Japanisches Kulturinstitut)

1. Overview

The elections for the Federal Government were held in September 2002, and the German Social Democratic Party (SPD) became the top party by a small margin succeeding in maintaining its alliance with the ALLIANCE 90/THE GREENS and keeping a firm grasp on the reins of power. (In addition, Wolfgang Clement, former governor of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, was appointed to the post of Super-minister for Labor and Economy.) The new government was faced with the necessity to solve a veritable mountain of difficult problems, including the low economic growth rate, the high unemployment ratio, the increasing financial deficit, and the exhausted social security system. Due to the confrontation with the United States concerning the war in Iraq, domestic governmental problems were temporarily shelved. The German government opposed the war in Iraq, and in order to avoid isolation within Europe, it crafted a policy in tandem with France and Russia, further deepening the rift with the United States.

In the realm of economics, a record number of 19,000 enterprises went bankrupt during the first half of fiscal 2002, and the domestic production total was negative 0.2% during the first quarter of fiscal 2003 compared to that of the fourth quarter of fiscal 2002. In addition, the number of unemployed hit a new high of 4.6 million people in February 2003. Thus, gloomy news continued to prevail on the German economic scene.

In terms of society, the incident in which 16 people were shot and killed by a high school student in Erfurt in April shook the entire nation of Germany. The crime was committed out of anger toward a teacher who had not allowed the student to graduate and ended in the suicide of the perpetrator. The criminal was a member of the hunting club and was in legal possession of a

rifle. As a result, the Federal Parliament revised the Weapons Law in June raising the minimum age for legal possession of weapons from 18 to 21, and at the same time making it necessary for anyone under the age of 25 to have a doctor's certificate in order to gain permission to own a weapon. However, the majority of the people hold serious doubts as to whether this will prevent such incidents in the future.

In the realm of culture, there were remarkable decreases in cultural budgets among the financially troubled self-governing bodies, giving rise to the closing of theaters and the decrease in support for artists in all parts of the nation. In the midst of this situation, on the brighter side, the Pinakothek of Modern Art, Munich was opened in August, and construction of the new home of the German Historical Museum (designed by architect Ioh Ming Pei) was completed and self-planned exhibitions were started to be held there.

2. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

During the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan in May and June, it was decided that the next tournament in 2006 will be held in Germany. Also since most of the matches of the German team were held in Japan, a great number of German visitors came to attend, and German television and magazine journalists came to make special programs on Japan. The major contents of the programs (outside of the soccer matches themselves) focused on the lifestyles of contemporary Japanese people, particularly of the younger generation. In this context, most of the programs were one-dimensional and vague, but in that they conveyed directly from the site the contemporary customs of Japan, they made a large contribution toward provision of knowledge on contemporary Japan to the general German public.

The Documenta 11 in Kassel that was held from June through September was carried out under the direction for the first time of an African curator from Nigeria. It demonstrated the ways in which graphic artists deal with the various problems that arise in the context of world globalization. The result was an unprecedented total of 650,000 visitors during its run. The works of two Japanese artists, On Kawara and Ryuji Miyamoto, were displayed (with aid from the Foundation).

In the world of films, a commemorative retrospective of 36 films in honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of director Yasujiro Ozu was held in conjunction with the Berlin Film Festival in February 2003 (with cooperation from the Institute). Numerous retrospectives of Japanese films were also given throughout the nation, among which aid was provided by the Institute for those held in conjunction with the Japanese Film Festival Hamburg, the Cineasia Filmfestival Köln, and the FEMINALE International Women's Film Festival.

In the field of performing arts, the popularity of the taiko is burgeoning, as a result of which kodo tours Germany have been organized almost every year, and during the summer of 2002, the wadaiko group Yamato gave a week-long series of joint concerts with the Cologne Philharmonie, and they proved so popular that encore performances were added.

3. Activities of the Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne

<Activity Policies>

The major point of the future activities of the Institute is how best to maintain the all-German network that was nurtured and the effect of the programs that were carried out during the “Year of Japan in Germany.” Also, in response to the great attention engendered among the people of Germany in fiscal 2002 by the co-hosting of the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan, the Institute took the following activities policy in the carrying out of programs for fiscal 2002.

- Japan-Korea Programs: In the past, the activities of the Institute were focused on introduction of Japan only. In Germany, criticism has been raised that Japan has not carved out close cooperative relationships in East Asia. Thus it is important to show how Japan has responded to the reality of East Asia. Taking the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan that attracted the attention of the entire German public as an ideal opportunity, programs were jointly sponsored by Japan and Korea to show that Japan is a member of East Asia. Efforts were also made toward promotion of understanding of other international relationships with East Asia. In this context, it is important to develop not only arts programs, but intellectual exchange programs as well.
- Development of programs for all of Germany
- Arousing interest among the younger generations
- Pioneering joint-sponsoring groups and sponsorships
- Extensive provision of information and know-how

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

Japan-Korea Festival

The cooperation of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Germany and support funds from enterprises were obtained for carrying out three events in the autumn: an exhibition of Japanese-Korean media art, a Japan-Korea film festival, and a Japan-Korea symposium.

At the Japan-Korea film festival (September 16 through October 28), a retrospective of 31 films consisting of 16 each from Japan and Korea was screened under the themes “post-war scenery” and “portraits of youth.” The Japan-Korea jointly produced film “Apocalypse of Love” was also included in the lineup. After screening at the Institute, the festival was toured to Berlin and Frankfurt as well.

The exhibition of Japanese-Korean media art (September 13 through October 24) was given at the Institute with Chihiro Minato as curator and it consisted of new works by six Japanese and Korean artists (Takashi Ito, Risaku Suzuki, Naoya Hatakeyama, Kim Hae-min, Kim Yun-tae, and Park Hwa-young) who had displayed works in the Yocho exhibition that was held in Tokyo in the previous year. This was an attempt through audio-visual arts to delve into the dynamic memory and creation relationship between the two countries with their differing experiences.

The Japan-Korea relationship symposium was held for three days from September 25 through 27. It was held at the East-West College in Bruehl in the suburbs of Cologne with 70 participants who had responded to public solicitation. A total of ten panelists from Japan, Korea, and Germany

attended and held discussions on the three themes of politics and economics, history, and the future. The panelists were Hajime Izumi, Toshiki Sakai, and Susumu Kohari from Japan; Kim Ho-sup, Chung Jae-jeong, and Cho Kyu-cheol from Korea; and Hartwig Hummel, Sven Saaler, Isa Ducke, and Reinhard Zöllner from Germany. This project was for introduction of the present situation in exchange and the efforts being made toward mutual understanding between Japan and Korea—conditions that are little known in Germany. Considerations were made through comparison with the relationship between Germany and the other countries of Europe in terms of problems faced at present and the outlook for the future. Since this project was carried out immediately after Prime Minister Koizumi's official visit to North Korea, the panelists gave extremely timely reports on the relationship between Japan and Korea. After the presentations of the panelists, the participants who had a high level of awareness of the situation kept asking questions and making comments one after another that the time limit was exceeded on all three days due to such enthusiastic discussions. This symposium was carried out under the joint sponsorship of the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), the Japanese-German Center in Berlin, and the Department of East Asian History of the University of Erfurt.

Shomyo performance tour in Germany

For the past several years, performances by the Karyobinga Shomyo Kenkyukai had been held and plans made for a large-scale performance tour of Germany, which finally came to fruition in ten German cities in June 2002. The program was the "Dai Hannya Tendoku'e." The Cologne performance was given on June 2 at the Cologne Philharmonie. The houselights were lowered, unlike ordinarily, creating a mystical atmosphere and enveloping the audience of 1,200 in the concert hall and causing them to concentrate in total



Shomyo performance tour of Germany (Cologne)

silence as they listened and watched intently while the elegantly dressed priests blew conch shell horns, beat gongs, tossed their accordion-shaped sutra scrolls high up in the air and chanted the Shomyo. A symposium was held at the Institute in May for introduction of the various aspects of Buddhism as orientation on Shomyo that drew about 100 participants and greatly enhanced local interest in Buddhism.

Public Literature Readings

The Institute extended invitations to three literati, Natsuki Ikezawa, Haruki Murakami, and Shuntaro Tanikawa, to give public readings of their works for the purpose of introducing the contemporary literature of Japan to Germany. On October 1, Natsuki Ikezawa read from his *Downfall of Macias Guili* and answered questions, generating great interest among the German audience with his social criticism as a knowledgeable Japanese. He also gave readings and lectures

in Berlin, Frankfurt, and Innsbruck.

On October 1 in Berlin and October 4 in Cologne, Haruki Murakami gave a reading of his *Sputnik Sweetheart*. His local popularity attracted huge crowds not only in Cologne but in other parts all over Germany as well, and the reading at the Institute's hall was filled to capacity with an audience that consisted of both Germans and people who came expressly to attend from other countries. The audience was filled with an atmosphere of enthusiasm for the firsthand account of his view of literature and comments on society by the author himself. The project was given generous coverage by the press, creating a huge ripple effect leading to brilliant success for the tour.



Haruki Murakami giving a public literature reading

On March 18, Shuntaro Tanikawa and his pianist son Kensaku gave a performance of poetry and music consisting of wordplay, images from the paintings of Paul Klee, and byplay between father and son, providing a most enjoyable evening to the approximately 200 people who attended. The father-son team performed the same program on March 20 in Berlin as well.

Film screenings and lectures by Tadayoshi Himeda on his own works

Screening of films and lectures were given by the director in Munich and Cologne, in conjunction with the "Ainu Exhibition" that was held at the National Museum for Ethnology in Munich. Screening of the five films titled "Ainu no Kekkōn Shiki" (Ainu Wedding Ceremony), "Chise A Kar" (We Build a House), "I-Omante" (The Bear Ritual of the Ainu), "Echizen washi" (Japanese Paper from Echizen), and Echigo Okumiomotoe" (A Traditional Mountain Village) were given for three days from February 24 through 26 in Cologne, with explanations by the director. Tadayoshi Himeda is one of Japan's most important documentary film directors. Huge crowds of people involved in film gathered not only in Cologne, but in all the other cities as well, and discussions with the director continued late into the night after all the screenings. Tadayoshi Himeda is an astute observer of people, has a deep interest in the traditions that are in the process of being lost, and carries out meticulous fieldwork. His works were created against this background, and they elicited the empathy of local people involved in film and general audience members, making this one of the highlights of the fiscal 2002 programs carried out by the Institute.

FRANCE

The Japan Cultural Institute in Paris (Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris)

1. Overview

Presidential elections were held in France during April and May 2002 with the number of votes cast

for the extreme right-wing National Front party's candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen greater than those for Prime Minister Lionel Jospin of the Socialist Party, putting Le Pen in second place to fight the final battle with President Jacques Chirac who was ultimately reelected.

Jean-Pierre Raffarin was appointed prime minister. In the elections for the National Assembly in June, the rightists won an overwhelming victory over the leftists, and the bipartisan establishment was dissolved.

Under the Raffarin cabinet, a revision of the law made the 35-hour workweek that was adopted during the Socialist Party regime advantageous to employers, public security laws were stiffened (punishments made more severe), and a bill was presented to reconsider the working conditions of government officials. This series of law alterations served to increase social tension, and a teachers' strike ensued.

The unemployment ratio for fiscal 2002 was 9.1%, marking an increase of 4.8% in a single year. The financial deficit reached 3.04% in GNP, and since this exceeds the 3% limit set for the Euro bloc, finance tightening measures were adopted.

At the time of the American attack on Iraq in 2003, France took a united stance in opposition, and in Paris, 80,000 people participated in an anti-Iraq attack protest demonstration march.

Under the new administration, the curator of the Pompidou Centre Jean-Jacque Aillagon was appointed Minister of Culture. A policy for self-initiated independence of public cultural facilities was formed, and evaluation was made of the public cultural organizations, the regional offices of the cultural agency, and festivals.

2. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

Japanese animation has become almost daily fare on cable television, and the film "Spirited Away" proved extremely popular. Translations of Japanese manga line the shelves of bookstores, and children's card games are also popular. In the autumn an event called the Japan Expo was opened in Paris with invitations extended to Japanese cartoonists, and many young people participated in costume parties. There is also a rapidly rising interest in Japanese popular music.

During recent years, the contemporary art of Japan is attracting attention overseas as well, and this trend was also seen in France during fiscal 2002. The Cartier Foundation's Museum of Contemporary Art in Paris held an exhibition conceived by Takashi Murakami and entitled "Cute! Summer Vacation" (Kawaii! Natsu no Bakansu) during the summer and autumn. This exhibition introduced the works of Takashi Murakami, works of other contemporary Japanese artists, and other aspects of pop culture, becoming a subject of conversation among the general public.

Other exhibitions were also held that introduced the works of Yoshitomo Nara, Yayoi Kusama, and Kyupi Kyupi. In addition, from December 2002 through the first part of 2003, a large number of programs for the introduction of Japanese art, centered on contemporary art, was held, including exhibitions that introduced contemporary Japanese photography at three art museums, including the Institute.

In the realm of stage arts, one of the most popular events concerning Japan was the commissioning of a new work by Saburo Teshigawara by the Opera National de Paris and its presentation there.

Also, the opera “Coq d’Or” (The Golden Cockerel) was directed by Ennosuke Ichikawa and conducted by Kent Nagano at the Chatelet Theatre Musical de Paris for the second time.

3. Activities of the Japan Cultural Institute in Paris

<Activity Policies>

The Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris (The Japan Cultural Institute in Paris) far exceeds the level of the average foreign culture center, maintaining a presence that is befitting to a Paris culture organization. Also, since its activities are carried out in Paris, the world’s center of culture and art, the waves of esteem and influence of the events held by the Maison are sent out not only to throughout Paris and France, but to all the nations of Europe as well.

As a result, the activity policies for Maison programs are carried out with vigor and filled with outstanding contents throughout the entire year, with the main idea in mind of maintaining its reputation as a major base for the sending out of Japanese culture.

In addition, since fiscal 2002 marked the fifth anniversary of its opening, additional budgetary aid was provided by the support association of the Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris, with which even more affluent events were carried out than in normal years, in an attempt to further increase the interest of the public and enhance its reputation.

Concerning the contents of its programs, the Maison aims toward introduction of the diversity and richness of Japanese culture and arts, and encourages joint productions between Japan and France as well as Japan and Europe in the fields of culture and the arts. In addition, the Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris has the unique function of discovering new ways of viewing and new facets of Japanese culture that have not been sufficiently introduced to the rest of the world, and thus of developing outstanding self-initiated programs.

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

Isamu Noguchi—Sculptural Design (September 24 through December 14, 2002, The Japan Cultural Institute in Paris)

This was an exhibition of the collective works of Isamu Noguchi, a Japanese-American artist who was internationally active in a broad number of fields, including sculpture, design, etc. It was planned by the Vitra Design Museum in Germany and carried out by the Maison. The famed American stage director Robert Wilson created the concept for spatial composition of the venue.

Thus the exhibition introduced the multifaceted artistic activities of Isamu Noguchi and received great praise from the public with generous coverage given by the press marking a total of 18,722 visitors during its run.

It was introduced by an extremely broad range of mass media (newspapers, magazines, radio, and television) and media genres (art, interior design, and general information), resulting in extremely effective publicity for the activities of the Maison. Articles concerning the exhibition that were published in the major newspapers and magazines introduced the multifaceted activities of the artist, reviews of his works, the unique features of works that incorporated Japanese traditions to form a synthesis of East and West, and critique of the space composition design of Robert Wilson.

Japan-Korea Music Festival 2002 by Eitetsu Hayashi and Kim Duk-Soo (November 5–8, 2002, The Japan Cultural Institute in Paris)

This was a joint concert of the top drummer groups of both Japan and Korea: Eitetsu Hayashi and the Eitetsu Hayashi Unit from Japan and Kim Duk-Soo and SamulNori from Korea. The groups gave one individual concert each on separate days and joint concerts for two days. The concerts were held both in celebration of the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Maison and in conjunction with the Year of Japan-ROK National Exchange, and brought fascination to huge numbers of people through the elegance and power of their impact.

The venue was packed to capacity for all performances by people from many walks of life and many Korean residents of France. The performers were all in perfect rhythm and harmony with each other, and the audiences responded with great enthusiasm. Furthermore, the pieces performed jointly by the two groups received high praise. The reactions of those who attended were all positive, and the concerts enjoyed high praise. The results of an audience questionnaire reveal praise upon praise, conveying the excitement of those who attended.

A retrospective of Japanese films of the 1980s and 1990s (January 28 through February 15, and March 11–15, 2003, The Japan Cultural Institute in Paris)

About 40 Japanese films produced during the 1980s and 1990s, including masterpieces of the great Japanese film directors as well as works of young directors who have been lauded at recent international films festival in various countries were chosen to give an overview of the contemporary Japanese film industry.

The collection was welcomed as an opportunity to see renowned works that the French people have had few opportunities to see before. Among the films of the masters and the up-and-coming directors, those that proved most popular were Kon Ichikawa's "Sasame Yuki," Juzo Itami's "Tanpopo," Yoji Yamada's "Musuko," Masaru Konuma's "Nagisa," Yoshitaro Negishi's "Uho ho Tankentai," Shunya Ito's "Hana Ichi Monme," Masayuki Suo's "Shiko Funjatta," Kohei Oguri's "Doro no Kawa," Tatsumi Kumashiro's "Bo no Kanashimi," Yojiro Takita's "No More Comics," Yoshimitsu Morita's "The Family Game." The works of younger generation directors included Shinya Tsukamoto's "Gemini," Takashi Miike's "The City of Lost Souls (Hyoryu-gai)," and Naomi Kawase's "Moe no Suzaku." The Japanese film industry has not accomplished any remarkable growth since the 1980s, but this collection provided an opportunity to reconfirm the fact that it still produces outstanding works.

"Multi-Cultural Management"—a Lecture by Carlos Ghosn (May 29, 2002, he Japan Cultural Institute in Paris)

This lecture by Carlos Ghosn, President of Nissan Motor Co., Ltd., was given under joint sponsorship with the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in France. The program was in two parts: a lecture by Carlos Ghosn and a roundtable discussion with representatives of the sponsoring organizations, the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in France, and journalist Christine

Ockrent as panelists. The capacity audience listened intently to the energetic and clear words of Carlos Ghosn who spoke mainly about his experiences at Nissan, resulting in a deeply interesting presentation that went beyond the field of business and entered the realm of theory of exchange among disparate cultures. There were so many people who wanted to attend the lecture that the large hall was unable to contain them all, so a screen was set up in the small hall on which a simultaneous live broadcast was presented.

UNITED KINGDOM

The London Office

1. Overview

In the United Kingdom, 2002 was symbolized by the Golden Jubilee celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II.

While she had to endure such sad events as the death of her younger sister Princess Margaret in February and the Queen Mother in March, events related to celebration of the jubilee were begun throughout the nation during the first part of June. At the same time, the British team steadily won its matches in the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan, and all of England was enveloped in celebratory mood.

On the other hand, in the political arena, the opposition Labor Party won an overwhelming victory in the general elections of the previous year putting the Blair administration back into office for a second term. However, Prime Minister Tony Blair's reforms in the priority problem fields of medicine, education, public security, and public transportation did not go forward as planned and along with the deeply-rooted criticism of the government's response to the war in Iraq, the dissatisfaction of the general populace with the Blair administration suddenly intensified, causing general support for the government to be extremely unpredictable and making this a year full of problems both in domestic and foreign affairs.

In the field of culture, the free admission system was adopted from 2001 in the national museums and art galleries. As a result, compared to the number of visitors to all national art establishments during the seven-month period before and after the introduction of the system, there was an increase of around 2.7 million visitors (an increase of approximately 62%), and the Victoria & Albert Museum's renovated British Galleries recorded an increase of approximately 57%. On the other hand, while the government promised financial support in return for adoption of the free admission system, there are substantial limitations on that support, so that the majority of the national museums and art galleries are still in serious financial straits. In particular, the British Museum that boasts a history of 250 years was forced to decrease its staff by 15% to 150, compress its exhibit spaces, and cut its collection purchasing expenses by 80%, resulting in the temporary closing of its doors due to the first strike in its history. Thus the situation among the British museums and art galleries is most severe.

2. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

Once every ten years, a large-scale program for the introduction of Japanese culture is carried out under close cooperation between Japan and the United Kingdom: the Great Japan Exhibition in 1981, the Japan Festival in 1991, and Japan 2001 in the year 2001. The Great Japan Exhibition and the Japan Festival were centered on the capital city of London, but during the run of Japan 2001, more than 2,000 programs for the introduction of Japanese culture were carried out and it is said that an aggregate total of more than three million visitors attended. The major thrust was on introduction of Japanese culture in the outlying regions, as a result of which interest in Japanese culture and society among the British people spread out broadly from London into other parts of the United Kingdom during 2001 and 2002.

On the other hand, it cannot be denied that the longstanding stagnation of the Japanese economy has exerted considerable influence on British interest in Japan. For example, Japanese studies which have a long tradition of prosperity began to show signs of declining enthusiasm for a time, with interest in China, where there has been remarkable economic growth, on the rise instead, revealing itself in the form of development of Chinese studies and Chinese-language education. This situation has given rise to the frequent voicing of concern over the future of Japanese studies courses as the fields of Japanese studies and Japanese-language education go into a decline. In the midst of this situation, positive and vigorous activities have been carried out by the British Association for Japanese Studies (BAJS) organized by Japanologists in the United Kingdom and the British Association for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language (BATJ) organized by people involved in Japanese-language education, toward the strengthening of foundations and the building of a close-knit network.

3. Activities of the London Office

<Activity Policies>

During fiscal 2002, the biggest problem for consideration by the Office was how best to effect further expansion and development of the high interest in Japan that had been engendered by Japan 2001. In terms of the actual number of programs that were carried out, it is an undeniable fact that there were far fewer than those carried out in the previous year for Japan 2001. Efforts were exerted toward keeping the buds of interest in Japan and multi-level Japan-United Kingdom cultural exchange that had begun to bloom throughout the British nation from wilting, giving particularly careful consideration to maintaining a good balance between traditional and contemporary culture particularly in the development of regional programs, and toward active provision of aid to Japan-related programs in the fields of the arts and grassroots exchange. Also, in the field of Japanese studies, emphasis was placed upon providing opportunities for research in Japan to young and established scholars and researchers, and to further promote intellectual dialogue between Japan and the United Kingdom.

In addition, the Office worked toward further intensification of the interest in the Japanese language that had spread in conjunction with the holding of Japan 2001 through the holding of seminars, the provision of specialist advice and information, the publishing of a newsletter, and the

operation of a library specializing in Japanese-language education, centered on programs for aid for intermediate level Japanese-language education at Japanese-language education organizations. In addition, during fiscal 2001, the “TOBU: Learn Japanese” Internet Japanese-language teaching materials that were jointly developed with the BBC was awarded the BT Award for Broadband Content of the British Interactive Multimedia Association (BIMA) that is given to outstanding Internet multimedia.

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

In Gesture and Glance: The Female Role Player in Asian Dance and Theatre (February 21–23, 2003, The Place, London)

While there are differences in etiquette and style, the art of female impersonation has been passed down as a traditional performing art in the four Asian countries of Japan, China, Indonesia, and India. The project was carried out in the form of a joint stage performance by artists from these four differing traditions, along with workshops under their guidance for the general public. In the multi-racial city of London, there are very few chances to attend performances of Asian female impersonators. This project provided an opportunity for London audiences to discover the points held in common by Asian traditional dance in a single performance, and it received a strong reaction from both audiences and critics. In addition, the workshops proved so immensely popular that it became necessary to set a limit on the number of participants, and it received high praise as a cultural exchange program worthy of the Foundation.

Manga: Short Comics from Modern Japan (June 29 through August 10, 2002, Sevenoaks Library, Sevenoaks, Kent)

This was a touring exhibition of short manga works by 25 contemporary cartoonists. It was shown first in London during fiscal 2001, and then held in Sevenoaks, Kent during fiscal 2002. Interest in Japanese comics in the United Kingdom has grown rapidly in recent years, obtaining great popularity among a broad range of age groups, and receiving generous coverage in the local media.

Head Start Course (January 22–24, 2003, London Language Centre, London)

A three-day seminar was held for school presidents and teachers in charge of foreign language courses on the elementary and intermediate levels for the purposes of giving them experiential lessons in basic Japanese and providing them with information concerning introduction of Japanese-language education. All 14 participants gave the seminar high praise, and as a result of their participation in the seminar, their schools one after another made the decision to either introduce Japanese-language education into their curriculum or expand their present Japanese-language course system.

Publication: Degree Courses 2001–2002—A directory of Japanese degree courses in universities and other tertiary education institutions in the United Kingdom (published in December 2002)

This publication is a directory of the actual situation of higher education for Japanese-language and

Japanese studies in the United Kingdom that was compiled from the results of a survey carried out under joint sponsorship with the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation. It has received high praise from people involved in Japanese-language education, Japanese studies, and education in general in the United Kingdom as well as the rest of the world as significant survey material.

Eastern Europe

Overview

In Eastern Europe, the stress has always been placed on the fields of personnel exchange and Japanese-language education, accounting for the majority of the expenditures for such programs, and this was even more marked during fiscal 2002 with a rise to 80%. In particular, Japanese-language education expenditures amounted to 49.6%.

One item that deserves mention here is the awarding of the Japan Foundation Special Prize to the Warsaw University Oriental Studies Institute, Department of Japanese and Korean Studies. In recent years, it is said that there has been a Japan boom in Russia. The number of people who sat for the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) doubled over the previous year, demonstrating an intensification of interest in Japanese-language education. In response to this situation, the Foundation extended aid to a program for training local Japanese-language teachers and all types of programs for specialist training in the Japanese language.

In addition, the Japanese-language education advisor who is attached to the Budapest Office, the sole overseas office of the Foundation in the Eastern Europe area, travels to neighboring countries and aid is being extended for the promotion of Japanese-language education in those countries.

Compared with the previous fiscal year, there was a decrease in arts exchange in terms of performances and exhibitions, but Japanese stage arts performances were toured to the three Baltic nations under the title "Traditional and Contemporary," a screening tour of Japanese films to countries of Central Eastern Europe, including the Czech Republic, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Macedonia, and Poland, and aid was extended to such performances and exhibitions in Japan as "Modernism in the Russian Far East and Japan."

Overseas Office Reports

HUNGARY

The Budapest Office

1. Overview

Ten years have passed since establishment changes were brought about by democratization, during which the Hungarian social base has been prepared, things have settled down in both social and economic terms, and steady progress is being made toward joining the EU. Through the dissemina-

tion of mobile telephones, satellite television and the Internet, it has become possible to exchange large volumes of information, and the transport of people and things has become replete through air, rail and road transport. In the city of Budapest, large-scale shopping malls and high-rise hotels have been built, and the number of tourists from Japan is on the increase.

On the other hand, in terms of political trends, as a result of the general elections in April 2002, a middle-of-the-road leftist coalition administration was established by a coalition of the Hungarian Socialist Party and Alliance of Free Democrats. In the 1990 elections held immediately after democratization, the Hungarian Democratic Forum scored a victory, followed by that of the Socialist Party in 1994 and of the Fidesz Hungarian Civic Party in 1998. The main political authority changed with each general election, but even during fiscal 2002, the Hungarian people were still dissatisfied with the ruling party and continued to hope for further change.

In terms of economic data, the GNP for fiscal 2002 was \$5.372 billion (World Bank), the economic growth ratio for fiscal 2001/2002 was 3.5% (the GDP comparative ratio of increase or decrease over the previous year), and the unemployment ratio for fiscal 2002 was 5.6% (OECD).

In Budapest, annual large-scale cultural festivals are held in the spring and the autumn. Also, in the regional cities, such large-scale annual events as a puppet theater festival, a flower festival, a music festival on an island in the Danube River, a music and electronic media festival, and a film festival are held. A large number of cultural events, including ballets, concerts, and operas at the opera house, concerts sponsored by such music institutions as the Liszt Ferenc Music Academy, and all types of exhibitions are held throughout the year, bringing the presence of Budapest into the spotlight as the cultural capital of Hungary.

Ten countries will become new members of the EU in May 2004, including the five Central Eastern European nations of Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, and Serbia and Montenegro are also indicating a desire to join the EU. Thus economic, social, and cultural growth is predicted for the Central Eastern Europe region, including the five countries that are slated to join the EU first, and their importance is expected to intensify.

2. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

From July 16 through 19, 2002, the Emperor and Empress of Japan made an official visit to Hungary for the first time, and received a hearty welcome at all the places they visited, including the national congress, Hero's Square, the Hungarian National Gallery, the Hungarian Academy of Science, and a senior citizens home.

As the result of a dissemination of electronic media, a new trend toward understanding of Japan is seen among the younger generations in Hungary, in the form of a suddenly increasing interest in the contemporary and pop culture (music, animation, films, and art) of Japan. Also, the number of Japanese films distributed commercially is increasing every year.

On the other hand, high interest still prevails in the traditional culture of Japan in such martial arts as judo, karate, kendo, and aikido, as well as religion (Buddhism and Shintoism), tea ceremony, flower arrangement, bonsai, haiku, and Japanese classical music.

In all of these areas, this does not stop at a surface understanding, but among the people

involved, there are many who are attempting to approach the Japanese spirituality against the background of these cultural pursuits.

The advance of Japanese enterprises into Hungary in the form of building of factory facilities and capital investments is bringing about increased opportunities for the Hungarian people to come into contact with Japan, in the context of direct human links from the increase of Japanese people residing in Hungary, including families of Japanese people stationed there, tourists, and exchange students, and this phenomenon is effecting a broadening of understanding of Japan. Particularly in Budapest, the numerous Japanese exchange students in the field of music are spending their days practicing and studying diligently.

Among the 18 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) members dispatched to Hungary by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (name at the time of dispatch) in December 2002, nine were Japanese-language teachers. The unique feature of Japanese-language education in Hungary is that it flourishes on the elementary and intermediate levels, and support has been provided for more than the past decade by the staff members who have been successively dispatched there for that purpose one after another. Also, most of the staff members are also well-versed in martial arts and other sports and conduct hands-on interactive exchanges with adults and children of Hungary.

Regional self-governing bodies have also established sister-city exchange relationships with Japanese cities, in the context of which they carry out exchange programs between schools and self-governing bodies and hold events.

Fiscal 2002 marked the 15th anniversary of the Japan-Hungary Friendship Association. It started off with 20 members in 1987, and has now grown into a large organization with more than 600 members, and it continues to carry out regular events of all types.

3. Activities of the Budapest Office

<Activity Policies>

The most important policy of the Office since its inception has been the building of a broad network for the various fields of cultural exchange with Japan, not only in Hungary, but also in the entire Central Eastern European region. Beginning with fiscal 2002, the countries of Central Eastern Europe have entered a period during which great changes will be taking place for a number of years. In the midst of this situation, interest in Japan is on the rise, and the Office is aware that this is a time for considering how best and to what extent to respond to the resultant demands with the active presentation of as many programs as they can manage.

At the same time, the Office has expanded its library, holds small-scale lectures, and offers a Japanese-language course with the emphasis placed upon targeting people whose interest in Japanese culture is not very high at the present moment.

As part of its activities, the office keeps in close contact with the Japanese government offices in its neighboring areas, provides information, sends out tours of various projects, and plans such touring events as exhibitions of panels that it owns and Japanese film festivals. In addition, the Office actively dispatches its Japanese-language education advisor to the surrounding countries to collect

information and carry out publicity activities to raise awareness of the presence of the Office.

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs >

Demonstration of Okinawan Dance (September 28, 2002, Hungarian National Dance Theatre, a Headquarters program for dispatch and sponsorship for introduction of Japanese culture)

A company of ten people, including six Okinawan dancers (Takako Sato, Izumi Higa, Tomoyuki Hirata, Takana Kojima, Takeshi Kamiya, and Ayano Taira), 3 musicians (Masaya Yamauchi, Sanehito Takamiyagi, and Kazuyuki Nashiro) and one stage manager (Joji Yamashiro), visited Hungary and gave a demonstration-performance. The 250-seat venue was 90% filled, and the audience reaction was extremely favorable.

A lecture on Manga and Anime (February 18–20, 2003, a Headquarters program for dispatch and sponsorship for introduction of Japanese culture)

Takayuki Matsutani (president of the Tezuka Productions Co., Ltd.) and Rintaro (director of animation films) were invited to give a lecture on Japanese cartoons and animation. On February 18, before the lecture, the feature-length animation film “Metropolis” that was written by Osamu Tezuka and directed by Rintaro was screened, bringing the audience to the height of excitement.

On the first day of the lecture series, Takayuki Matsutani lectured on Japanese cartoons, pointing out the difference between cartoons and comics, utilizing explanatory OHP slides on the breadth and depth of the powers of expression of cartoons. After his lecture, the animation film “Jungle Emperor Leo” was screened.

On the second day, Rintaro based his lecture upon Matsutani’s lecture of the previous day, explaining the methods of expression of animation films. He also went on to explain the history of the ways that Japanese animators devise to forge their own unique means of expression in the midst of limited budget conditions. Following the lecture, the first episode of the TV anime series “Astro Boy” was screened along with four experimental animation films produced by Osamu Tezuka.

On all the days, the venue was filled beyond its 126-seat capacity by people who came to attend, and it became necessary to turn back many more wishing to attend.

Owing in part to the early time set for the beginning of the lectures, there were numerous young people among the audiences, serving as a reconfirmation of the steady spread in Hungary of manga and anime as aspects of Japanese culture. Many visitors expressed such opinions as the desire for more programs of this type to be carried out in the future and for a larger venue to be used for the next presentation, demonstrating the high expectations that the Hungarian public has for the Foundation.



Rintaro giving a lecture on Manga and Anime

The Seventh European Symposium on Japanese Language Education (September 6–8, 2002, Budapest University of Commerce, a headquarters support program for Developing Networks of Japanese-Language Teachers and Institutions)

This symposium was held under joint sponsorship with the Magyarországi Japannyelv Oktatók Társasága (MJOT) and the Association of Japanese-Language Teachers in Europe, with the participation of 150 people from 26 countries. The keynote address was given by Keiichi Yamanaka, professor of Toyo University, followed by lectures by Sepe George, professor of the University of Pécs and Osamu Kamata, professor of the Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, and five-person panel discussion. Readings of research papers, workshops, and an exhibition were also given in conjunction with the symposium. This was the first European Symposium on Japanese-Language Education ever held in the Central Eastern Europe region. Participants came from the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, the Ukraine, Turkey, and Kazakhstan, making it an event that imparted the impression that the European Japanese-language education network was expanding eastward.

Middle East and North Africa

Overview

The total expenditures for the Middle East and North Africa during fiscal 2002 amounted to ¥334.66 million. While there has been a slight annual decrease over the past few years, the Cairo Office has exerted efforts toward the steady carrying out of programs as a base for the whole region.

In terms of fields, programs related to the Japanese language dominate nearly half of the expenditures at 45.5%, followed by personnel exchange at 31.9%. Thus these two fields represent 3/4 of the total expenditures for programs. In the field of Japanese-language education, specialists were dispatched for long-term visits to Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, as well as Syria and Morocco, and support was extended to all types of programs, including donations of teaching materials, training of teachers and speech contests. In the field of personnel-exchange programs, experts from the various countries of the area, including the president of the University of Tehran in Iran and the vice-president of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel, were extended invitations to Japan for opportunities to exchange opinions with Japanese people in their field and to observe the situation in Japan.

In terms of programs for introduction of Japanese culture, such sponsorship programs as a performance tour by the puppet theater company Kawasemi-Za (Israel, Tunisia, and Morocco) and by the “In Gesture and Glance: The Female Role Player in Asian Dance and Theatre” (Egypt, etc.) were carried out and highly praised.

In terms of programs for the introduction of the cultures of the Middle East and North Africa regions to Japan, an invitation was extended to the National Ethnic Music Ensemble in Sudan to give concerts in Tokyo, Okinawa, Mie, and Gifu. In-depth exchange was accomplished through performances in not only Tokyo but also the outlying regions of Japan, as well as visits to schools and numerous other types of regional exchange. In addition, in consideration of the urgent need to

effect understanding of Islam, lectures entitled “Keywords for Understanding Islam,” and “Getting to Know Afghanistan” were given as part of the lecture series about Asia for that purpose. The former led to the publication of its contents in a book by Tsugitaka Sato entitled *Reading Islam with Keywords—History and the Present* (Yamakawa Shuppan Ltd.).

Overseas Office Reports

EGYPT

The Cairo Office

1. Overview

As the leader of the Middle East and Africa region, Egypt not only plays an important role in politics and diplomacy, but it also serves as a leader of the Arab world in terms of culture and information. Against the background of sharing a common culture and language with Arab society, Egypt continues to maintain a broad-ranging influence over the education and culture of the surrounding Arab nations, through publications, music, and audio-visual materials dispatched from Egypt and the presence of numerous Egyptians who hold posts in intellectual professions in the surrounding countries. In addition, in Cairo, the most prestigious Sunni faction Islam educational Al-Azhar organization, through which Egypt plays an important and central role in the world of Islam, accepts more than 20,000 foreign students of Islam from Southeast Asia.

In the realm of domestic politics, President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak continues to lead a stable administration. Comprehensive economic reform was initiated by the IMF during fiscal 1991 under the guidance of the World Bank, and the resultant conversion to a market economy set the national economy into a positive growth orbit during the 1990s, but it also brought on a deepening of the gap between wealth and poverty and unemployment. There has been a steady return to Islam among the general public during the past 20 to 30 years. Given the rapidly increasing young population, many young people in modern Islamic society have been unable to enjoy the benefits of increased prosperity nor availed themselves of economic opportunities, which has led to despair and feelings of isolation, and this has contributed to the resurgence of Islamism. However, the nation’s citizens lend no active support to extremist principles that advocate violence, and along with the effective public security policy of the government, there is a basic stability in that realm as a result.

At present, the greatest domestic problem in Egypt is the economy. Instability in investment of foreign capital continues to cause a gradual drop in the value of the Egyptian pound. At the end of January 2003, the government shifted from a controlled exchange rate system to a floating system, and this gave rise to a sudden additional drop in the value of the Egyptian pound and a rise in prices of imported commodities, causing the waves of general inflation to exert an oppressive influence on the daily lives of the populace.

After the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, the subsequent American military action against Afghanistan and Iraq have excited strong antipathy toward the United States

among the Egyptian public. Though the government has maintained a pro-American stance, the Egyptian public has always harbored strong anti-American sentiments that were suddenly intensified when the United States initiated military action against Iraq in March 2003.

Thus when it was announced in the Egyptian mass media that Japan supported the United States and the United Kingdom in their battle against terrorism in Afghanistan and the American military action against Iraq, there was a sudden spread of criticism against Japan for taking such a stance. Conventionally, Egypt has been strongly pro-Japan with no public criticism of Japan ever heard. Japan should therefore take serious note of this situation, as it can be said that the importance of dialogue and solidarity between Japan and the Arab countries is even greater than ever before.

In terms of domestic cultural events in Egypt, attention was drawn in the autumn of 2002 by the grand opening ceremony of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Library of Alexandria) that was built with aid from the international community. This new library that was lauded as a reconstruction of the fabled ancient Alexandria library is a large-scale and comprehensive cultural facility that houses an international conference hall, a theater, and a museum.

2. Programs for Cultural Exchange with Japan

Egypt already has a history of more than 30 years of Japanese-language education, during which it has maintained a steady path toward further development. During fiscal 2002, the pioneering Japanese language and literature section of the literature department of Cairo University extended invitations to scholars from the International Research Center for Japanese Studies and to hold a symposium on Japanese history and culture, getting involved in activities reflective of its position as a core Japanese studies organization in the Middle East in the context of the field of humanities. Also, a Japanese-language major course was initiated during fiscal 2000 in the foreign languages department of Ain Shams University, the prestigious institution of foreign language education, and great expectations are held for it as a new base for the nurturing of outstanding personnel. In addition, the buds of organizational Japanese language studies are also seen in the field of social science in the holding of the Seminar on the Dialogue among Civilizations with Japan with aid from the Foundation during fiscal 2002 at the Asian studies center of the politics and economics department of Cairo University.

In terms of introduction of Japanese culture, attention was attracted by the selection of the Japanese animation film “Spirited Away” for screening at the opening ceremony of the Cairo International Film Festival for Children in March. During fiscal 2002, an Arabic translation of Banana Yoshimoto’s novel *Tsugumi* was published. It is felt that there are possibilities for attracting the interest in contemporary Japanese youth culture and subculture.

In addition, Egyptian national television broadcast the NHK drama “Suzuran” from March through May 2002 as a program of the Foundation. The heroine, “Suzuran,” became a household name in Egypt, serving to engender pro-Japan sentiments on the grassroots level.

3. Activities of the Cairo Office

<Activity Policies>

During fiscal 2002, steady progress was made toward supplying the programs of the Office, and one of its basic policies was the aim of strengthening the extension of the range of its broad-ranging functions as a base for the region as the sole Foundation office in the Middle East. In terms of concrete projects, its major programs included aid for the Japanese-language department of Ain Shams University, forming tie-ups with the Asian studies center of the politics and economics department of Cairo University, cooperation with the programs for celebration of the opening of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and utilization of the Japanese-language advisor (particularly in the strengthening of the network of people involved in Japanese-language education in the Middle East region).

Concerning the above three aims, concrete programs were carried out for the strengthening of the relationship of the Office with each of those organizations, and results were obtained that will lead to further development of exchange in the future. In addition, during August 2002, the Japanese-language teachers of the various Middle East countries gathered in Cairo to hold a Symposium on Japanese Language Education in the Middle East, and expansion and strengthening of the network of the Association of Japanese Language Teachers in the Middle East was achieved.

<Examples of Fiscal 2002 Programs>

The Second Symposium on Japanese-Language Education in the Middle East (August 30 & 31, 2002, Cairo)

This was the second meeting, following the first that was held in the summer of 2001, for the formulation of a network of Middle East Japanese-language teachers. The people involved in Japanese-language education scattered throughout the countries of the Middle East gathered to exchange opinions and information, and to attend a lecture and workshop to discuss the unique common problems throughout the Middle East while formulating a horizontal network for mutual support in the aim toward development and promotion of Japanese-language education in the Middle East. During fiscal 2002, Japanese-language teachers from the seven countries of the Middle East participated, deepening their exchange and enhancing the trend toward strengthening of the network among people who are involved in Japanese-language education in the future. Emiko Hayatsu (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) and Rumi Sei (Tohoku Gakuin University) were invited to come from Japan to serve as instructors of the lectures and workshops held. Foundation funding was provided and the Office provided overall aid in terms of actual administration of this program.

A piano recital of contemporary Japanese music (October 31, 2002, Cairo)

This was a recital by pianists Satoko Inoue who has been actively performing works by contemporary Japanese composers for some time. It was held at the Gomhouria Theater in Cairo under the joint sponsorship of the Office and the Egyptian Ministry of Culture. The recital was planned by the Office for the purpose of introducing the contemporary creativity of Japanese culture. Since the Egyptian public is not familiar with contemporary music, the recital left a particularly strong

impression on the young people in the audience wanting to become artists.

“Imagining the Book,” an exhibition held in celebration of the opening of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina with the participation of Japanese artists (September 12 through October 29, 2002)

A total of eight Japanese artists participated in this international contemporary art exhibition on the theme of images of the word “book” given in celebration of the opening of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Satoshi Hasegawa, Saeko Hanji, Fumiko Shinkai, Chiaki Murata, Naohiko Watanabe, Megumi Yamamoto, Nobuho Nagasawa, and Kimiyo Mishima). A large number of artists from various countries of the world exhibited works, and those from Japan had a sufficient presence. Also, the contemporary art workshop conducted for the general public under cooperation between the Office and the Japanese artists proved extremely popular. The Foundation provided airfare, and the Office cooperated with the sponsors in both in the scouting and the work of setting up the display.



The contemporary art workshop

In Gesture and Glance: The Female Role Player in Asian Dance and Theatre (March 1 & 2, 2003)

Performances were given of “In Gesture and Glance: The Female Role Player in Asian Dance and Theatre,” a program that was planned and produced by the Japan Foundation Asia Center. Performances of this program for introduction of the dance and performance techniques of the female impersonators that still remain today in the traditional performing arts of the four countries of Japan, China, India, and Indonesia were given for two days at the small hall of the Cairo Opera House. This project was for the purpose of introducing the performing arts of various countries of Asia rather than the culture of a single country, and as a result it aroused interest among local people involved in culture and the arts, and the mass media, attracting huge crowds and ending in complete success. The members of the audience literally sighed at the beauty of the highly refined and elegant dances, among which Japanese dance was presented last and was greeted by particularly enthusiastic applause.

Africa

Overview

During fiscal 2002, the actual amount expended on programs for Africa (excluding Northern Africa) was ¥98.84 million, an approximate decrease of one-third from the previous year. This decrease was caused by an overall reduction in personnel exchange programs.

In terms of cultural programs for Africa, there has been high praise for such audio-visual proj-

ects as films and television broadcasts, Foundation sponsorship of overseas exhibitions (touring exhibitions), and book donations. Also in terms of sponsorship programs, pop music concerts were given in South Africa, and a tsugaru shamisen tour of Uganda and Madagascar was made.

There are not many countries in Africa that carry out Japanese-language education. Among them, in Madagascar, the Support Program for Japanese-Language Courses Abroad and the Japanese-Language Teaching Materials Donation Program were carried out for three Japanese-language education organizations, including the Nippo-Malagasy Association for Friendship and Culture. In addition, aid was extended under the Training Programs for Teachers of the Japanese Language, training for outstanding students of the Japanese language, and the Japanese-Language Teaching Materials Donation Program to Japanese-language education organizations in Kenya.