

## The Japan Foundation Southeast Asian Bureau to Be Established

**The Japan Foundation will set up a Southeast Asian Bureau in Bangkok, Thailand, in April 2007 to further strengthen the relationships that Japan has developed with the countries of Southeast Asia. The new entity is the first regional bureau of the Foundation since its establishment in 1972 and will be located within the Japan Foundation, Bangkok.**

Southeast Asian countries are indispensable partners to Japan in the current process of promoting regional collaboration and community building for peace, security, and economic prosperity. Given the dual tides of regionalism and globalization, the Japan Foundation has been incorporating multilateral approaches in its activities particularly in the fields of artistic exchange and intellectual dialogue in addition to traditional bilateral approaches, and the bureau will allow the Foundation to more effectively facilitate regional cooperation. The chief of the bureau will concurrently serve as the director of Japan Foundation, Bangkok.

Under the three guiding principles of collaboration, community, and creation, the Southeast Asian Bureau will lay a firm basis for a prospective East Asian Community through international cultural exchange. It will act as a catalyst to form an equal, future-oriented, and multidimensional partnership with the people of the 10 ASEAN countries and East Timor from the viewpoints of: fostering Japan's relations with the respective countries; supporting endeavors for community building among the countries of the region; and contributing to various global issues by sharing Asian cultural values, such as the spirit of tolerance, that have universal significance. As the formation of a peaceful and prosperous community in the region will ultimately reside in human efforts, the Bureau will give the highest priority to developing human resource and enhancing human security.

Takeji Yoshikawa has been appointed the first chief of the bureau. Yoshikawa, who joined the Japan Foundation in 1978, was stationed in Bangkok from 1981 to 1983 and from 1991 to 1994. As well as being involved for many years in the field of Japanese-language education, he has held the posts of director of the General Affairs Division and managing director of the Planning and Evaluation Department, among other positions.

### Media inquiries are welcome.

Contact: (Mr.) Kato, Regional Planning Div., Planning and Evaluation Dept., The Japan Foundation  
Phone: 03-5562-3539 Email: [Takeshi.Kato@jpf.go.jp](mailto:Takeshi.Kato@jpf.go.jp)