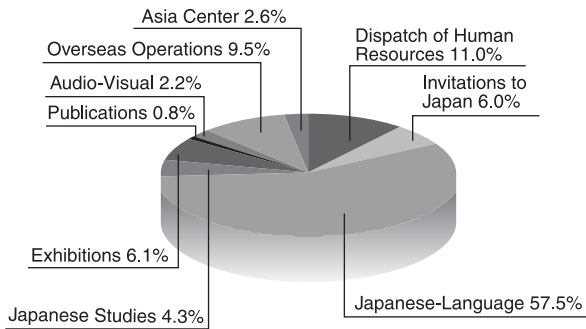


## Abstract



Total amount of operations: 432 million yen

The amount of operation expenses in Oceania was 432 million yen, out of which the ratio of Japanese-Language was the highest, occupying 57.5%. According to the FY2003 survey on overseas Japanese-Language institutes, the number of students learning the Japanese-Language in Australia is 382,000, the third largest in the world after Korea and China. In Australia, the Foundation focuses on education for international understanding at elementary and secondary schools and long-distance education carried out by connecting online the remote areas across Australia. The Foundation dispatched Japanese-Language advisors to the Ministry of Education for each state and supported teachers training, speech contests and preparation of teaching materials. It should also be noted that the number of students learning the Japanese-Language in New Zealand is over 28,000, ranking eighth in the world.

In the island countries in Oceania, demand for Japanese-Language education arises from economic ties and tourism. The Foundation aims to meet these demands by donating teaching materials, holding speech contests and providing special Japanese-Language training for teachers and diplomats.

The "Conference for Representatives of Japanese Studies Institutes in Australia and New Zealand" hosted by the Foundation was attended by 20 representatives from higher education institutes which offer Japanese

studies. Discussions were held on the present status of Japanese studies, and it was pointed out that the conventional Japanese studies has been repositioned as part of a wider scope of Asian studies, as the reorganization of regional universities and research institutes proceeds. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to review the direction of future support for Japanese studies.

In the intellectual exchange field, the Foundation is making efforts toward the resolution of common issues in the Asia-Pacific region. The Foundation provided a grant to the international conference "Labor by Immigrants from South East Asia" sponsored by the New England University, as a good example of the experience a country (Australia) contributing the resolution of a common issue in the region.

## ■ Report by overseas offices

### Australia

The Japan Foundation, Sydney

#### 1. General

In March 2003, the Howard administration sent Australian military forces to Iraq, in the face of public opposition. The administration also intervened in the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and other island countries in the South Pacific where security and economic conditions had deteriorated, and announced a regional union concept for Oceania led by Australia and New Zealand. When President George W. Bush called Australia the "sheriff of the region", apprehension and criticism arose in other Asian countries.

As for relations with Japan, Prime Minister Howard visited Japan in July. Although both leaders reconfirmed the structuring of a "creative partnership" between Japan and Australia advocated at Prime Minister Koizumi's visit to Australia in the previous year, the FTA (free trade agreement) negotiation did not progress. Japan remains Australia's largest trade partner, but the ratio has been declining and the presence of Japan in Australian economy is less strong. Japanese enterprises have been withdrawing from the Australian market, especially in Sydney. On the other hand, the number of technical immigrants and students from Japan is increasing, and according to the 2001 census, the scale of the

Japanese community in Australia is as large as 25,000, an increase of 11% from the preceding 5 years. A commemorating ceremony was held in Orange, New South Wales to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first sister city agreement (Lismore, New South Wales and Yamato Takada, Nara) attended by officials and citizens of the two cities.

## 2. Cultural Exchange between Japan

In Australia, cultures brought by immigrants are alive in every scene of daily life in the large cities. Contemporary Japanese culture has taken root in various fields including the arts, films, manga, food and fashion. The success of the photograph exhibition “FRUiTS”, with the theme of Tokyo street fashion, and the performance of “Tokyo Note” by the theatrical group “Seinendan” in Melbourne is evidence of such conditions.

In the education field, NALSAS (National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools), representing the federal government’s policy of focusing on Asian languages, was terminated at the end of 2002. It was feared that the number of Japanese-Language institutes and students would be reduced and that Australians’ interest in the Asian nations would decline, but although the number of Japanese-Language institutes showed a gradual decrease, the number of students has increased from 310,000 in 1998 to 380,000 in 2003.

The actors of cultural exchange between Japan and Australia also vary. For instance, Australia ranks third after the United States and China in the number of sister city agreements with Japan (99 cases in 2003). There are many cases where Australian people interested in the traditional culture of Japan, such as flower arrangement, tea ceremony and martial arts, organize cultural groups and make efforts to propagate and promote them. Activities of Japanese artists in Australia are also ongoing, particularly in the fields of dance, performing arts, movies, fine arts and design, and joint performances with Australian artists are frequently held here.

## 3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, Sydney

### <Activity policies>

As for support for Japanese-Language and Japanese studies that occupies the majority of operation spending, the Foundation focuses on improvement of teacher training, promotion of continued studies from elementary and secondary schools to higher education institutes and the formation of a network between the

library at the Foundation and libraries at the universities. In intellectual exchange projects, the Foundation’s major theme is how to cooperate with Australia and contribute to the resolution of common issues in the Asia-Pacific region. In the fine arts exchange projects, the Foundation coordinates and cooperates with international art festivals and film festivals, proactively utilizes subsidy projects and promotes fine arts exchange through the Japanese artists residing in Australia.

### <Examples of FY2003>

- **“Four Seasons in Japanese Fine Arts” Exhibition (August 16 – October 26, 2003, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney)**

This exhibition was held at the Art Gallery of New South Wales jointly by the Japan Foundation, Agency of Culture and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. The total number of visitors to this exhibition was over 34,000, considerably exceeding the expected 20,000. A large number of visitors expressed their appreciation of the exhibits that had never been shown before in Australia, their admiration of the traditional culture of Japan with a long history, and appreciation of the delicate sensitivity of the Japanese for the four seasons.

- **Forum commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japan Foundation, Sydney “Australians and Japalians: Celebrating Cross-Cultural Transformations” (October 25, 2003, Power House Museum, Sydney)**

The Foundation invited fashion designer Akira Isogawa and restaurant chef Tetsuya Wakuda as keynote speakers for the conference and focusing on how the people of Japan and Australia transformed cultural differences into positive elements of exchange and creation.

- **The 7<sup>th</sup> Japanese Film Festival (September – November 2003, Canberra, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide and Sydney)**

The Foundation showed the films *Spirited Away*, *Water Boys*, *Twenty-Four Eyes* and *All About Our House* in six cities in Australia. In Sydney, the event was jointly hosted by the Asia-Pacific Film Festival office and the Japanese Consulate in Sydney. Jiro Shindo, President of the Modern Movies Association, and film director Kaze Shindo were invited, and the films directed by Kaneto Shindo and Kaze Shindo were presented in a special showing. The Foundation also held a symposium on the current situation of film production and distribution in Japan and Australia. The event received positive reviews in Australian media.



Commemorating forum