

Invitations to Japan

The best method for ensuring that foreigners correctly understand the Japanese people and Japanese culture is to invite them to Japan to experience the reality.

From this perspective, the Japan Foundation offers opportunities to famous scholars from various countries for opinion exchange with specialists in Japan, as well as visits to relevant organizations and attendance at international conferences. Opportunities are provided for scholars and researchers to study in Japan, and for artists to present creative performances. These people are expected to talk about the reality of Japan in their fields and strengthen understanding of Japan.

The number of invitations in FY2003 was 482 (including those remaining from the previous year).

1. Invitations to Learned Persons and Specialists

(1) Short-Term Visitors' Program

The Japan Foundation has programs in which leading learned persons are invited to Japan for opinion exchange, joint research, creative activities and so on.

<Examples of FY2003>

Major invitees recommended from abroad (total of 32 persons)

You Hong June, Dean of the Graduate School of Culture and Arts, Korea; Zhao Youliang, President of the National Theatre Company of China; Joe Hasham, Artistic Director of the Actors Studio, Malaysia; Tulku Mynak, Director of the National Library of Bhutan; Wayne Baerwaldt, Director of the Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Canada; Magdalena Acosta, General Director of the National Cinematheque, Mexico; Luciano Monteagudo Tejedor, Director of Film Programming, San Martin Theatre of the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina; Akbar Mohamad Popal, President of the Kabul University, Afghanistan; Makarem El-Ghamry, Dean of the Foreign Language Department, Ain Shams University, Egypt; Susan de Aguerri, Director of the National Theatre Ruben Dario, Nicaragua and Andrzej Rottermund, Director of the Royal Castle of Warsaw, Poland.

Major invitees recommended in Japan (total of 26 persons)

Bahman Ghobadi, an Iranian filmmaker; Allan Daprow, an American contemporary artist; Brian Boyd, University Distinguished Professor, University of Auckland, Department of English and Tereba Togola, Director of Cultural Patrimony, Ministry of Culture, Mali.



Invitations to learned persons for a short visit

2. The Japan Foundation Fellowship (invitations)

The Japan Foundation Fellowship invites outstanding scholars, researchers, artists and other specialists in foreign countries and offers opportunities for study, research, creation and other activities in Japan, under the following six categories. In FY2003, the Japan Foundation decided to introduce the "Fellowship for Japanese studies for next generation Chinese" for FY2003 and 2004 with contributions by the Executive Committee for Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of Normalization of Diplomatic Relationship between Japan and China. The Japan Foundation also manages the database of fellows and a website mainly dedicated to bulletin boards as a means to develop the network among fellows.

Major invitees (56 continuing from FY2002)

Cho Myung-chul, research fellow, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy who energetically conducts research on the economy in northeastern Asia; Professor Leung Ping Kwan who is also known as the poet Yesi from Hong Kong; Katsue Reynolds, a professor at the University of Hawaii who is a representative Japanologist and social linguist in Hawaii, USA; Luis Alfonso Diaz, instructor at Santiago National University in Chile who is one of the few researchers of Japanese culture specializing in the study of Zen in South America; Aldo Tollini, an associate professor at the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Venice, Italy who is chairman of the Japanese Language Teachers Association of Italy and noted for his study of classical Japanese language and Tamiko Thiel, an American media artist who exhibits her extremely unique work at the Kyoto Biennale as a Japanese American and conducts joint works with the Kyoto Fine Arts Center.

(1) Scholars and researchers (2 – 12 months)

For scholars or researchers in the humanity or social science field who study matters relating to Japan (including comparative studies)

(2) Doctoral degree thesis writers (4 – 14 months)

For graduate school students who major in humanity or social science, have completed the courses required for a doctoral degree, are qualified to submit a dissertation and need to come to Japan to write the dissertation.

The fellowship in (1) and (2) above includes the following special fellowship:

- A. Young researchers in the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries (special fellowship) (2 to 12 months)
- B. Special fellowship for Japanese studies in the Southwest

- Asian region
- C. Fellowship for Sakhalin Region
- D. Fellowship for study of Japan for the next generation of researchers in China
- E. Fellowship for intellectual exchange in the Middle East
- (3) Artists (2 – 6 months)**
For musicians, painters, sculptors, stage directors, film directors, authors, screenwriters and other artists and curators who are engaged in production or research activities in Japan
- (4) Specialists in special regions (4 – 12 months)**
For specialists who conduct research on fields concerning the ODA subject regions, who are nationals or have permanent residency and need to come to Japan for instruction or joint research at research institutions in Japan
- (5) Artists-in-residence (2 – 6 months)**
For artists who participate in the artists-in-residence program in Japan
- (6) Short-term fellowship (21 – 60 days)**
For renown researchers from the North American region who come to Japan for short-term intensive research

3. Group Tours Program

- (1) Secondary-School Educators**
The objective is to promote understanding of Japan through school education in each country by inviting groups of social studies teachers from junior and senior high schools in foreign countries and offering opportunities to actually observe education, culture and society in Japan. The Foundation invited 210 teachers in FY2003.
- (2) Specialists**
This program invites groups of around 10 specialists who are active in various cultural fields in foreign countries. The Foundation invited five groups (50 persons) in FY2003, namely contemporary arts specialists from France (continuing from FY2003, 7 persons), art coordinators from China (5 persons), information specialists for Japanese studies (14 persons), directors of performing arts (Central and Eastern Europe) (6 persons), directors of performing arts (Canada, Australia, India, New Zealand and South Africa) (10 persons) and women’s magazine editors/journalists from the Middle East (8 persons).



Women’s magazine editors/journalists from the Middle East

4. Preservation and Restoration of Ancient Japanese Arts in Foreign Countries

The Japan Foundation conducts this project to transfer ancient Japanese arts classified as significant cultural assets from the collections of art museums in foreign countries in collaboration with the Tokyo Cultural Asset Research Institute. The Foundation brought back 4 ancient paintings for restoration (from the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, the Seattle Art Museum and the Honolulu Academy of Arts) and one piece of craftwork (from the Cleveland Museum of Art), and returned one restored painting (to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art) and one piece of restored craftwork (to the Philadelphia Museum of Art). The Foundation invited 5 curators from museums that have a collection of ancient art objects for execution of the above projects and offered opportunities to observe the restoration work.

