

Kyoto Office

The Kyoto Office was established at the same time as the Japan Foundation. It has been making efforts to form a network with the relevant organizations in the Kansai District, conducted orientations for the long-term invitees of the Japan Foundation fellowship who stay in the Kansai District, made appointments with men of culture on short-term invitation, supported the projects of the headquarters and conducted various independent projects for the past 32 years. It also relays applications for open programs by the headquarters, answers various inquiries and provides information to the headquarters.

As international exchange programs in the Kansai District have become increasingly active in recent years and formation of the network among various international exchange activity organizations is advancing rapidly, the Kyoto Office plans to deepen coordination with various outside organizations in the Kansai District. It also offers international exchange information from its library.

<Examples of FY2003>

- **Evening of international exchange “Noh and Kyogen Performance” (November 6, 2003 at the Kyoto Kanze Kaikan Hall)**

This annual event began in 1973 and has taken root as one of the major events in autumn in Kyoto. It has been co-hosted by Kyoto Shimbun since 1988, and The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai has been a co-host since 1997. The Kyoto Office invites foreigners residing in the Kinki Region, those engaged in international exchange programs and the students at The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai to offer an opportunity to experience traditional Japanese performing arts.

Titles in FY2003

Noh: *Kokaji* by Eikin Kongo of the Kongo School

Kyogen: *Bo Shibari* by Sennojo Shigeyama, Ookura School

- **FY2003 Essay Contest “Japan as I see it” (October 5, 2003 at Kyoto University Hall)**

The Kyoto Office invited essays that profoundly examine one field of Japanese culture in English and Japanese and hosted a contest as part of the exchange activities between foreign visitors to Japan and the Japanese people. The number of participants reached as high as 60, and most of them described the life of Japanese people from a fresh perspective.

- **UK film *Dream Girls* screening and seminar (August 1, 2003 at the British Council, Kyoto and the Kyoto Office auditorium)**

The Kyoto Office screened the UK film *Dream Girls* at the branch auditorium, held a seminar at the British Council, Kyoto by Yasuko Ikeuchi on the film from various viewpoints including the gender issue, and held a round-table talk with the audience (53 participants, 32 of whom attended the round-table talk). The theme of this documentary film was the Takarazuka Girls' Operetta Company, directed by a female, and this rare opportunity was received favorably.



Noh and Kyogen performance



UK film *Dream Girls* screening and seminar