

The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP)

US-Japan 150th Anniversary Symposium

On April 3, the Center hosted a symposium entitled “U.S.-Japan Relations: Past and Future” at the Yokohama Kaikou Memorial Museum. The symposium looked back over the course of U.S.-Japan relations in the 150 years since the arrival of Commodore Perry’s “black ships” in 1853 and the signing of the Treaty of Kanagawa between the two countries in the following year; it also considered how Japan and the U.S. can work together on solving problems facing the international community.



U.S.-Japan 150th Anniversary Symposium

Encouraging Regional Exchanges Between Japan and the United States

For this project five cities in different areas of Japan were selected, each with a sister city in the United States: Hanamaki, Yokohama, Kakegawa, Gero, and Okayama. Two individuals from each city were chosen to take part by assuming a central role in exchange programs, and international exchange personnel from each of the host sites were also involved. A total of six bimonthly study committee meetings and a public seminar in Yokohama were held in 2004.

— CGP has its own annual report, which may be consulted for further details.

Abe Fellowship and NPO Fellowship

The Abe Fellowship is a research fellowship that aims to cultivate minds capable of contributing to the development of intellectual exchange — between Japan and the United States and across the globe. The program seeks to build an international network of scholars in the social sciences and the humanities. In 2004, 13 fellows were selected under the program, which is cosponsored by CGP and the U.S. Social Science Research Council; there have been more than 200 fellows in total since its inception. The NPO Fellowship provides professionals working in the Japanese NPO sector with opportunities to participate in joint training with American NPOs.

Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI)

The Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) dispatches coordinators to American communities (mainly in the southern U.S.A.) with several goals: establishing contacts with areas that have relatively few opportunities for interaction with Japan, promoting better understanding of Japan there, and training individuals to help organize for such local exchanges in the future. In 2004 a total of eight coordinators were active under the program.



A JOI coordinator giving a presentation at an elementary school