



# Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange

Shared communications leads to global benefits

To foster better understanding of Japanese society and its culture, customs, and manners, the Japan Foundation supports the pursuit of Japanese studies abroad. To this end, we provide assistance and fellowships to researchers and offer support to institutions active in the field of Japanese studies. We also organize seminars and symposiums in quest of solutions to the common challenges facing our planet, and encourage intercultural dialogue. Thus, while promoting intellectual exchange, we seek to encourage unbiased perspectives on today's Japan.





## The Future Leaders Forum: Korea-China-Japan

First held in 2002, the Future Leaders Forum: Korea-China-Japan is designed to strengthen the bonds of trust among the three countries that dominate Northeast Asia. The gathering seeks to enable future leaders to get to know one another better and build personal ties that can endure for decades.

The second forum took place in 2004, organized by the Japan Foundation in partnership with the Korea Foundation and the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations. There were a total of 14 participants (five each from Japan and Korea, four from China) from such fields as politics, civil service, business, academia, and the media. They visited Seoul, Beijing, and Fukuoka as a group, held discussions among themselves, exchanged views on a wide range of subjects with eminent individuals in the three countries, and toured representative industries in each nation. In this way they not only engaged in intellectual exchange but also became better acquainted on a personal basis.

In the process of spending days together and discussing important issues, the participants also sought to develop a shared vision of a future course for the region. In particular, they

engaged in constructive dialogue about the possibility of an “East Asian community,” considered political and social conditions in each country, and examined questions of economic cooperation on an institutional basis in the area. Hence, the forum was of no small significance.

Every effort was made, too, to ensure that the results of the forum received the attention they deserved: for example, a Progress Report was circulated at a public symposium held in Fukuoka. Nor did the participants confine their time together to the official daytime program; they also got together in the evening for *karaoke* and socializing, and became so close, in fact, that they talked about personal matters among themselves.

The opening of the 2004 forum, which took place in Korea, was attended by some of the participants from the previous gathering, which further strengthened ties among these future leaders. If participants in these two forums held to date can maintain the network they have established, and put it to beneficial use in their respective fields, they may be able to make a substantial personal contribution to stability and development in the Northeast Asian area.



Forum in Fukuoka



Socializing together in Seoul

## The Asia Leadership Fellow Program

Established in 1996 with the International House of Japan, this program provides a maximum three-month fellowship in Japan to experts from various countries in Asia. Five to eight individuals are chosen each year for their outstanding leadership qualities.

In 2004 seven fellowship recipients came to Japan over the period from September 1 to October 30 to participate in programs focused on the theme “Identity, Security and Democracy.” Recipients (with titles current at the time) were as follows:

Karina Africa Bolasco (Publishing Manager, Anvil Publishing, Inc., and poet, The Philippines)

Kinley Dorji (Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper *Kuensel*, Bhutan)

Faye Chunfang Fei (Director of the American Studies Program, East China Normal University, China)

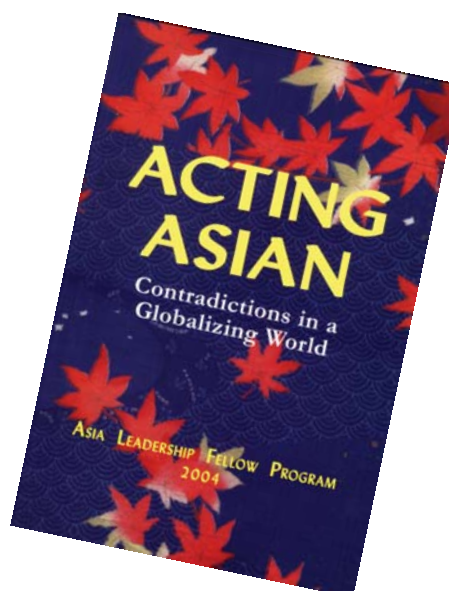
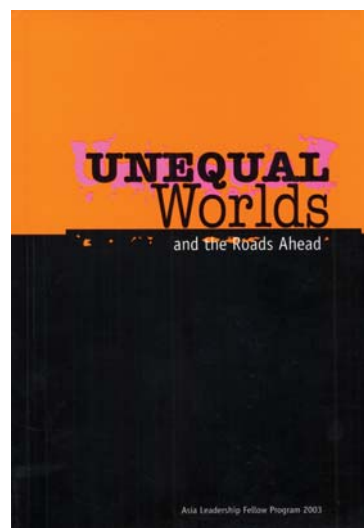
Jamhari (Executive Director, Center for the Study of Islam and Society, National Islamic University, Indonesia)

Chandrika Sepali Kottegoda (Co-Director, The Women and Media Collective, and Coordinator, Sri Lanka Women's NGO Forum, Sri Lanka)

Takayoshi Kusago (Associate Professor, Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration, Hokkaido University, Japan)

Nguyen Van Chinh (Deputy Director, Center for Asian-Pacific Studies, Vietnam National University, Vietnam)

The program is distinguished by enabling fellowship recipients to share their respective values and viewpoints on various issues, forming ties of personal friendship through dialogue and building solidarity born of common experience.



Collected papers of the 2003 Fellows (left) and 2004 Fellows (right)



## The Middle East: Promoting Mutual Understanding, Building Networks, and Pursuing Policy Dialogue

In September the second Japan-Middle East Cultural Exchanges and Dialogue Mission, headed by Professor Masayuki Yamauchi of the University of Tokyo, was dispatched to Jordan and Iran. In a symposium on the subject of “Tradition and Modernization” and meetings with individual intellectuals, the Mission members engaged in wide-ranging discussions about Japanese history, culture, society, and politics as they strove to foster a more well-rounded understanding of Japan in the two countries visited.

The Foundation also promoted intercultural dialogue by cosponsoring and sending Japanese experts to attend a cross-regional symposium. This gathering, which brought together intellectuals from Japan, Arab nations, and Europe, took place in May at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. In July we hosted a Mid East think-tank seminar in Tokyo with the goal of developing a network of individuals well placed to promote intellectual exchange between Japan and the Middle East.

The network thus established has already helped bring an impressive range of programs to fruition. Most notable among them: an international conference on Iraqi history and identity hosted by the Royal Institute for Inter-

Faith Studies in Jordan, and the dispatch of Mid-East fellowship program recipients to Saudi Arabia to study at the King Faisal Center for Islamic, Arabic and Asian Studies.

The third Japan-Arab Dialogue Forum in Riyadh in January was attended by government and business representatives from Japan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. This forum provided an opportunity for a candid exchange of views on such questions as Arab socio-economic development, security issues, cultural and academic exchange, and the best approach to international cooperation following elections in Iraq and Palestine. The Japanese delegation was headed by former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

In March Japanese and Arab scholars engaged in policy research as well as journalists gathered for a meeting in Cairo to set a priority agenda for intellectual exchange between Japan and Arab nations. On the day of the meeting, researchers from universities and think-tanks in Japan and Arab countries gathered together to engage in lively discussions of three subjects: globalization and international order, development and international cooperation, and security issues.



Symposium in Iran



Judo instruction from Mr. Yamashita (eighth degree black belt in judo)

## Comments from Professors Sent Abroad: Kuwait

I lectured on international relations at the University in March 2005. The University does not yet have any Japanese studies courses on its official curriculum, but the students themselves were obviously eager to learn, for they fired one question after another at me. Does Japan want to revise Article 9 of its Constitution — the renunciation of war — as a step on the path to empire? Why does its territorial dispute with Russia remain unresolved? The students admitted that Kuwait had struggled with the issue of identity since being invaded by Iraq. They saw Japan as a model to emulate in that it had successfully modernized without sacrificing its rich cultural heritage to all-encompassing Westernization, and they were eager to learn from it. Although sometimes puzzled by

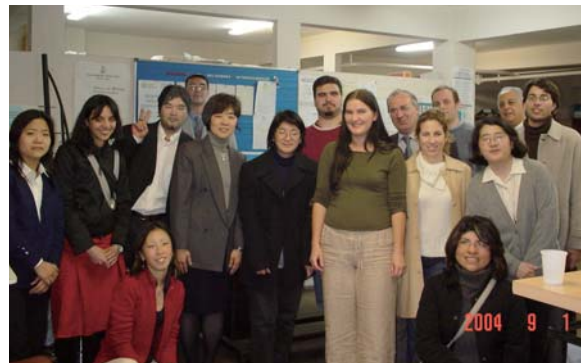
cultural differences, I left Kuwait University with a firm resolve to respond to the needs of Kuwaiti students. (Akiko Fukushima, Director of Policy Studies and Senior Fellow, National Institute for Research Advancement; lectured as a guest professor at the Department of Political Science, Kuwait University)



Professor Fukushima with Kuwait University students and faculty

## Argentina

I lectured on East Asian economic development at the Center. In the field of Japanese studies, interaction among students and researchers — of any nationality — is flourishing, and large numbers of students are to be observed eagerly trying to master Japanese. Unfortunately, I was told, there is no other Japanese studies center in Argentina, and interest is growing in the expanding Chinese market. Nonetheless, Argentinean economists with a good knowledge of the Asian countries argue that Japan's importance in Asia is still as well recognized as ever. I also am optimistic that, through the Center of Japanese Studies, intellectual exchange between Argentina and Japan will thrive as never before. (Yumiko Okamoto, Professor, Faculty of Policy Studies, Doshisha University; lectured at the Center of Japanese Studies, Institute of International Relations, National University of La Plata, Argentina)



Graduate students who attended the lectures



## Comments from Guest Fellows: Translation Tactics

Fellowship seminars provide scholars in Japan on the Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship Program with the opportunity to share the results of their research here with other specialists and members of the general public, to exchange views with them, and to network. Held about ten times a year, they are organized by the Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Department. At one such seminar, in March 2005, I presented a paper entitled “Problems in Translation, and Translation Support Systems,” which focused on Japanese terminology and phraseology. During my four-month stay in Japan, which I spent at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, I conducted contrastive research in Japanese versus Indian languages at the word component level, and in the functions of such components in compounds. The seminar allowed me to bring

all my findings together. (Ashok Chawl, India, National Institute of Science Communication & Information Resources)  
— Fellowship seminars are in progress. For a current schedule, please visit the Japan Foundation’s Web site.



Giving a paper at a fellowship seminar

## Literary Studies

I arrived in Japan on January 11, 2005, for an eight-month stay to do research on the subject of “The Living Legacy of Japanese Proletarian Literature: A Hundred Years of Kobayashi Takiji.” I actually lived in Otaru, where Takiji lived and wrote; took part in a class on his writings at his alma mater, Otaru University of Commerce (formerly Otaru Higher Commercial School); delivered the keynote address at the Takiji Festival in Otaru; presented a lecture in honor of the 40th anniversary of the launch of the journal *Takiji Kenkyu*, published by the Sapporo branch of the Japanese Democratic Writers Association; and gave talks as well in Kushiro and Tokyo. What particularly impressed me was the sheer breadth of research being done on Takiji by local enthusiasts in his birthplace of Odate (Akita Prefecture) and elsewhere. Thus, the enthusiastic study of Takiji as a literary local hero continues. It was also

inspiring to see how Japanese who had paid no attention to Takiji before began to display an interest when they observed how I had come all the way from abroad to trace his footsteps. (Norma Field, U.S.A., Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago)



Memorial service at Takiji’s tomb

## 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