

●●● The Japan Cultural Institute in Rome



The Japan Cultural Institute in Rome was opened in December 1962, as the first overseas Japan Cultural Institute. The Institute conducts a diversity of events and operates the largest library in Italy that specializes in Japanese studies.

In 2005, the Institute presented exhibitions of contemporary photography and photographs of Buddhist images; a Japanese food show; stage performances of contemporary dramas and pantomime; concerts of jazz, contemporary, traditional Japanese, and chamber music; film screenings including a Yoshida Kiju retrospective, Shimizu Hiroshi retrospective, and a comedy

film series; and lectures by two authors, Kanehara Hitomi and Suzuki Koji. We also offered events to familiarize people with Japanese arts, including workshops on flower arrangement, brush painting, Yuzen dyeing, and the tea ceremony. In addition, with the cooperation of the Polish cultural institute, we organized architectural exhibitions in Rome and Milan commemorating the EU-Japan Year of People-to-People Exchanges.

An increasing number of Italians are becoming interested in Japan, including those in outlying regions. As such, the Institute is extending its work into the regions with the cooperation of local cultural organizations. For example, the Yoshida Kiju retrospective was presented in Turin, Bologna, and Florence along with lectures by the director himself and Okada Mariko, actress and wife of Yoshida.

●●● The Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne

Established in September 1969, the Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne offers Japanese-language courses and maintains a library in addition to its activities for introducing Japanese culture in the German-speaking world.

In 2005 the Institute organized the exhibition “Japanese Picture Books,” the photo exhibition “Work 1991–1995” by Hashiguchi Joji, two sessions of “Dialogue Exhibitions” featuring works by Japanese and German artists under common subjects, and an exhibition of posters by Japanese and German students. We also presented the *Monoopera Crane* performed by instrumentalists and a singer from Japan and Germany, as well as a performance by Grinder Man.

The Institute actively participated in such events as Cologne Music Night and Long Night of the Museums. In the context of the city’s A Book for the City literature festival, an event was held combining a reading of Murakami Haruki’s novel that was featured in the festival and a performance by jazz pianist Kuriya Makoto.

Other events organized by the Institute

included public readings by Suzuki Koji in Cologne and Munich, lectures by Yamazaki Tomoko in five cities including Cologne, and a lecture on Japanese Buddhist images by Nedachi Ken’ichi, professor of Kyoto University.

Retrospectives were held of films by such directors as Uchida Tomu, Koreeda Hirokazu, Suzuki Seijun, and Kurosawa Akira, while videos focusing on Japanese Brazilians were presented as a contemporary topic of international exchange. We also offered Japanese-language courses from beginning to advanced levels and provided reference services at the 20,000-volume library.

As a joint project with the Goethe Institute, meanwhile, the exhibition “Global Players: German and Japanese Contemporary Artists” was held in Aachen and the production *Yotsuya Ghost Story*, directed by Jossi Wieler, was staged in Munich.





●●● The Japan Cultural Institute in Paris (Maison de la Culture du Japon à Paris)

The Japan Cultural Institute in Paris first opened in May 1997 as a joint public-private effort between Japan and France, and is known as MCJP in France. With six stories above ground and five below, the glass-walled building houses extensive facilities that include a library, two multi-purpose halls, and an exhibition hall. It is located on the bank of the Seine River in Paris' 15th District, a short distance from the Eiffel Tower.

In 2005 the Institute presented an *ukiyo-e* exhibition, "Hiroshige: 100 Famous Views of Edo," along with "YOKAI: Bestiary of the Japanese Fantastic." The latter event brought in about 18,000 visitors and demonstrated how *yokai* (fantastic creatures) and monsters depicted in Edo-era *ukiyo-e* and picture scrolls led to manga and anime in modern Japan. A symposium on *yokai* was organized as well.

In the large hall, we presented a performance by Grinder Man, a *kyogen* performance, a noh performance, and *yose*—a traditional variety show. We introduced the contemporary dance of BATIK, BABY-Q, and Okamoto Mariko for the Institute's annual J-Dance Series, and we also held a special concert at the opening of Jazz Week, which is jointly organized every year by

several foreign cultural institutes in Paris, as well as classical concerts by young Japanese musicians living in France.

Other events sponsored by the Institute included lectures by Oe Kenzaburo and Suzuki Koji and a forum with Shiriagari Kotobuki, a *manga* artist who was invited to the International Cartoon Festival in Angouleme. Film screenings included an Itami Mansaku and Ito Daisuke retrospective as part of the Master Screenwriter Series, a series titled "Zatoichi Stories: From Katsu Shintaro to Kitano Takeshi," and a series on *yokai*.

These programs were made possible by support from private enterprises through the Association for the MCJP.

In addition, we offer classes for such activities as the game of go and the tea ceremony. To promote Japanese-language education, we extended assistance to the Japanese-Language Education Committee in France, which was established for the further advancement of Japanese-language education in the country.



●●● The Japan Foundation, Seoul

Projects that the Japan Foundation, Seoul, organized in 2005 in the fields of arts and culture included the *ukiyo-e* exhibition, which was first held in 2004, showing 55 portraits of beautiful women and landscapes created during the golden age of *ukiyo-e*. The show was presented at its multipurpose E-Yeon Hall.

Also at E-Yeon Hall, an exhibition of posters by Fukuda Shigeo, a leading Japanese graphic designer, was held as part of a project launched in 2003 to introduce Japanese graphic design. The designer himself was invited to give lectures during the exhibition at the Zero One Design Center of the Kookmin Graduate School of Design and the Hong-ik University College of Fine Arts.

In the area of Japanese-language education, we

continued offering our Japanese-language course for advanced learners while training Japanese-language teachers at the middle and high school level in teaching methods. *Kachi no koe* (Song of the Magpie), a triannual Internet newsletter for learners of Japanese, was issued as scheduled.

In Japanese studies and intellectual exchange, we offered grants for academic conferences and exchange projects in the fields of politics, economics, and literature and organized a conference based on a survey on the state of Japanese studies in Korea in collaboration with the Sejong Institute and other external experts. Furthermore, we made grants to 15 additional projects in diverse fields, including youth exchange, music, film, and social welfare.



●●● The Japan Foundation, Beijing



The Japan Foundation, Beijing, launched Liu-Hua Net, a network of Japanese students in China, to gather information from across the nation while also sponsoring such cultural exchange events as Japanese culture festivals at local universities in Shenyang and Hangzhou. Reflecting the growing popularity of Japanese pop culture, including anime and manga, the J-pop concert held at Sichuan International Studies University in December drew more than 800 students.

Music Super Express, a program for intro-

ducing Japanese music, was launched in January at FM radio stations in Chongqing, Chengdu, Shandong Province, and other areas and is popular with many young Chinese.

In Japanese-language education, advisors dispatched from Japan have been visiting various regions in China, where they provide workshops and guidance. Over 145,000 people took the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test in December 2005. In October a symposium was held to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies, which the Japan Foundation cofounded with the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China.

●●● The Japan Foundation, Jakarta



J-pop concerts, started three years ago as a program for youth, were held in Bandung and Jakarta and attracted significant coverage from television, radio, and magazines.

The hall of the Japan Foundation, Jakarta, hosted a retrospective exhibition of the late

Suyatona, a potter and former Japan Foundation fellow, looking back over the achievements of an artist who served as a bridge between Japan and Indonesia. In addition, three exhibitions were presented as part of the "Neo Pion" series for introducing young artists, providing opportunities for many young people to visit our facilities. In a related activity, a local theater group con-

tributed to both the introduction of Japanese culture and the promotion of local culture by staging Mishima Yukio's *Modern Noh Plays* in Indonesian.

We supported Japanese-language education in cooperation with thirteens pecialists assigned to Indonesia. We also operate Japanese-language courses at the intermediate and advanced levels.

We cooperated in the publication of the Japanese studies journal *MANABU*, thereby establishing a forum for presenting the achievements of Japanese studies in Indonesia, and actively promoted cultural exchanges with the Muslim community through lectures by Islamic intellectuals and other events.

●●● The Japan Foundation, Bangkok



The Japan Foundation, Bangkok, planned and presented an exhibition titled "Have We Met?" by adding new Thai works to the "Have We Met?" exhibition held in Tokyo in 2004. It also presented a contemporary art exhibition, "Temporary Art Museum Soi Sabai," at Silpakorn University's art gallery featuring works by Nara Yoshitomo + graf and other artists from Asian countries including Thailand and Japan, as well as those from the United States

and European countries. Other events included a traditional Okinawan dance performance at the Thailand Cultural Centre and a Japanese film festival at several movie theaters in central Bangkok.

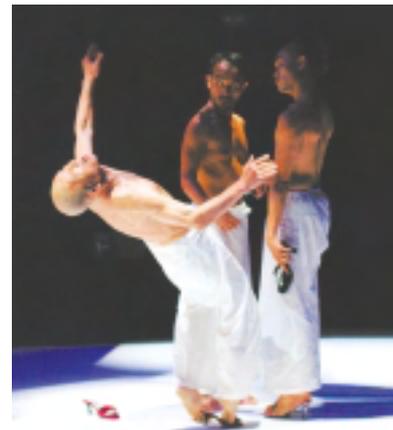
We provide training for Thai teachers of Japanese and Japanese-language courses for intermediate and advanced learners. Approximately 66,000 people, comprising a broad range of users including researchers in Japanese studies and Japanese-language teachers, made use of our library in 2005.



●●● The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, sponsored a performance by the BATIK dance company at the opening of the new KL Performing Arts Center (KLPac) in Kuala Lumpur. At KLPac, which is expected to develop into a core facility for the country's performing arts, it also held a joint production by dancer Murobushi Ko and local performers; *rakugo* story-telling in English, which has become quite popular in Kuala Lumpur; and a performance and drama workshop for people with special needs by the TAIHEN troupe.

In regard to movie presentations, we organized lectures by anime producers and screenings in collaboration with related local organizations. In Japanese-language education, a year-long Japanese-language teacher training course went in full swing in preparation for introducing Japanese-language education to general middle and high schools.



●●● The Japan Foundation, Sydney

As part of the opening events of the 2006 Australia-Japan Year of Exchange, the Japan Foundation, Sydney, presented Japanese drum concerts featuring Hayashi Eitetsu, who was accompanied by his ensemble Fuun-no-kai, and TaikOz in Sydney and five other cities from February to March 2006.

Our gallery hosted an exhibition and workshop of photographs and decorative art by Kara Yamaguchi, an Australian artist living in Japan, in December 2005 and the "The Picture Books of Suzuki Koji and Arai Ryoji" exhibition and workshop in March 2006 with the participation of the two picture book authors.

The traveling Japanese film festival, in its ninth year, was held in Sydney and four other cities. *Horumaika*, a documentary depicting the former Yamakoshi village that was destroyed by the Chuetsu Earthquake was screened in Sydney, accompanied by a talk show by Nagashima Tadayoshi, former mayor of the village. Proceeds from ticket sales were donated to support the rebuilding of the village.



●●● The Japan Foundation, Manila

The year 2006 was designated Philippine-Japan Friendship Year, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic ties between the two countries, and the Japan Foundation, Manila, sponsored a wide variety of projects starting in January. As an opening event, we hosted a Japanese drum performance by Yamato, followed by an array of events held at one of the largest shopping malls in Metro Manila, including a J-pop concert, a poster display, previews of CDs and DVDs, screenings of Japanese films, a photo exhibition, a Japanese speech contest, and Japanese cultural demonstra-

tions. The J-pop concert included star Filipino pop singers and attracted more than 2,000 enthusiastic fans.



●●● The Japan Foundation, New Delhi



The Japan Foundation, New Delhi, moved to a new building, which also contains a gallery, library, and event space, in September 2006.

We supported the development of a curriculum and textbooks for Japanese as a foreign language for the sec-

ondary school curriculum. Furthermore, our Japanese-language education advisors—two in North India, based in New Delhi, and one in South India, based in Bangalore—have been promoting Japanese-language education and assisting teachers. The number of Japanese learners is rising particularly in South India due to the development of the information technology sector in that region.

We also presented other cultural events including English *rakugo*.

●●● The Japan Foundation, Toronto



The Japan Foundation, Toronto, presented an exhibition introducing Japan's modernization, coorganized with the Shibusawa Memorial Museum. This project included a panel display of *nishiki-e* (color woodblock prints) reproductions and photos and

related lectures. In addition, we sponsored a poster exhibition of the works of Yokoo Tadanori from 1993 to the present, which were selected and donated by the artist. We also organized a lecture titled "Writers and the Library" to commemorate the tenth anniversary of its library.

Tea ceremony and flower arrangement

demonstrations were presented to mark the opening of the Prince Takamado Gallery at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. Grants were extended, meanwhile, to film festivals in Montreal and Vancouver where a number of Japanese films were screened.

Japanese-language education schools are scattered across the vast expanse of Canada, and the geographic challenges hinder communication among them. We, therefore, support network building by taking leadership in holding workshops and communication meetings for Japanese-language teachers of secondary schools in eastern Canada.

●●● The Japan Foundation, São Paulo



The Japan Foundation, São Paulo, offered Japanese culture courses and lectures on Japanese dances. The "Japanese Pottery: The Rising Generation from Traditional Japanese Kilns" exhibition was held in the São Paulo Museum and then taken to six other cities, including Brasilia and

Manaus. Japanese silent films were screened with narration in Portuguese accompanied by instrumental music in local cities including Santos and Campinas, and a performance by the theater group Ishinha was presented in Santos.

Internet radio stations broadcast Japanese songs around the clock in Brazil, where Japan's anime and songs are both very popular. A new project, the Japanese-Language Karaoke Caravan in Brazil, visited São Paulo, Brasilia, Manaus, and five other cities. The traveling program conveyed the joy of learning Japanese through singing popular Japanese songs to students at middle schools and high schools as well as at colleges and universities. A national karaoke contest that was held in conjunction with the program attracted more than 1,000 people, who filled the venue with excitement.



●●● The Japan Foundation, New York

The Japan foundation New York, cooperated comprehensively in introducing a Japanese film series through diverse media channels, such as newspapers and websites, organized between fall 2005 and spring 2006 by the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Lincoln Center, the Film Forum, the Japan Society, and the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music. In promoting this event, it presented traveling film screenings at five universities, including the University of Kansas and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in the Midwest, where opportunities for viewing

Japanese films are scarce.

In the performing arts, we organized a screening panel as the secretariat of Performing Arts Japan, a support program for the production of Japanese performing arts in North America; operated a booth at the Association of Performing Arts Presenters' annual conference, the largest art show in the United States; and presented a showcase of Japanese music groups at the Asia Society.



●●● The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles

The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles brought together Japanese-language teachers from around the country for a Japanese-language education symposium in Baltimore, where the regional representatives engaged in lively discussion.

In addition, in cooperation with the Alliance of Association of Teachers of Japanese and the Association of Florida Teachers of Japanese, it organized a summer training session for Japanese-language teachers in the

United States. The training consisted of online sessions as well as hands-on training at Florida International University.

We also organized a conference in Los Angeles for curators of major museums from around the nation to exchange opinions on challenges and opportunities faced by museums.



●●● The Japan Foundation, Mexico

The Japan Foundation, Mexico, introduced various examples of contemporary art at the Festival Internacional Cervantino with far-reaching results.

In September we organized the Japan-Mexico Culture Summit, which brought together cultural

leaders from Japan and Mexico in Mexico City for deep discussions on a wide range of subjects, including the future direction of cultural exchange. In Japanese-language education, which is also steadily developing in Mexico, we were involved in projects that contributed to reinforcing the education infrastructure, such as training for Japanese-language teachers and donating instructional materials to educational institutions.

We also held seminars for strengthening the network of researchers on Japan and Japanese studies institutions in Latin America and cooperated with cultural exchange projects in Latin American countries by sending experts in Japanese culture living in Mexico to demonstrate tea ceremonies and flower arrangement.



●●● The Japan Foundation, London



In 2005 the Japan Foundation, London, held a wide variety of events, including a concert by the Stringraphy Ensemble in four cities and a special screening of movies based on *manga* under the title “Comic Proportions” in five cities.

In cooperation with the Victoria and Albert Museum, we held a symposium and public seminars on the current state of Japan-related collections housed in museums in Britain. In addition, we ran a

relatively small-scale support program in fields such as the arts and Japanese studies.

In Japanese-language education, we offered courses to improve the skills of Japanese-language teachers, a project called Head Start, which provided information to head teachers in charge of foreign language departments at schools that have yet to introduce Japanese; and visits to classes as requested by schools across the country. Moreover, through our website we offer information related to Japanese-language education including teaching resources.

●●● The Japan Foundation, Budapest



Many cultural projects were organized in Hungary in 2005, the EU-Japan Year of People-to-People Exchanges. The Japan Foundation, Budapest presented a well-received *bunraku* performance that sold out over successive days and participated in the Sziget Fesztivál, one of the largest outdoor events in Central Europe, featuring performances on Japanese and Western drums by HidaJimbo. It also introduced Japan through film screenings, as well as hosting a sumo demonstration and presentation by

Takeuchi Ryusaku, a councilor of the Japan Sumo Federation, and a lecture on Japanese anime by Maruyama Masao of Madhouse Ltd.

Traveling shows of photographic panels, Japanese dolls, and other exhibition sets held by the Japan Foundation, Budapest, were held across Hungary and in neighboring countries. In March our office was relocated to the center of the city to allow more convenient access to our library and other facilities. We operate Japanese-language courses in which about 90 learners are enrolled.

●●● The Japan Foundation, Cairo

The Japan Foundation, Cairo presented the 2006 Japan Culture Festival in Cairo jointly with the Japan Information Center of the Embassy of Japan in Egypt. Five events were particularly highlighted during the festival: a Tsugaru shamisen concert, a performance by pianist Miura Yurie with the Cairo Symphony Orchestra, a joint concert by performers of Arab music from Japan and Egypt, a doll exhibition, and a Japanese film festival. The events attracted more than 5,000 visitors. To encourage



young people’s interest in Japan, we organized an essay contest on *TUGUMI*, the Arabic translation of a novel by Yoshimoto Banana, and a lecture introducing *haiku*. In regard to Japanese-language education, we support institutions and teachers across the entire Middle East centered on Egypt, such as by holding annual Japanese-language education seminars in Cairo for Middle Eastern teachers of the Japanese language to promote training and network building among them.