

The Japan Foundation Awards

Since 1973, we have annually presented the Japan Foundation Award to individuals and groups who have made an outstanding contribution over a period of time, while the Japan Foundation Special Prizes are presented to individuals and groups who have demonstrated rich creativity and a pioneering spirit with significant potential for future contributions. The Japan Foundation Special Prizes are presented in the three fields of arts and culture, Japanese-language education and Japanese studies, which represent the three pillars of the Japan Foundation's operations.

The Japan Foundation Award 2006



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Joe and Etsuko Price, Directors, The Shin'enKan Foundation (U.S.)

This year's Japan Foundation Award was presented to Joe and Etsuko Price for their many years of effort in building a remarkable collection of Edo-period Japanese art, and for their establishment of the Shin'enKan Foundation to present their collection and contribute to research. The Prices were also honored for their superlative contributions to Japan-U.S. cultural exchange and the study of Japanese art in the United States, including their work in the creation of the Pavilion for Japanese Art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

The Japan Foundation Special Prizes 2006



Special Prize for Arts and Culture

Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival Organizing Committee (Japan)

This prize recognized the Organizing Committee of the highly acclaimed Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival, held with the participation of local residents, for its contribution to promoting international cultural exchange through this festival, as well as through regular film screenings throughout the year. The prize recognizes the committee's efforts toward international cultural exchange and serves as an incentive to continue developing the film festival.



Special Prize for Japanese-Language Education

Saint-Petersburg State University, Faculty of Asian and African Studies (Russia)

This prize was awarded for the university's fostering of talented human resources well-versed in the Japanese language. The Faculty, founded 150 years ago, was also recognized for its effectiveness in carrying on the three-centuries-long tradition of Japanese-language education in Russia, and encouraged to further develop its program in the future.



Special Prize for Japanese Studies

Dr. Kim Yongdeok, Dean, Graduate School of International Studies, Seoul National University (Republic of Korea)

This prize was awarded for Professor Kim's many years of leadership in the field of Japanese studies in the Republic of Korea, and for playing a central role in the establishment of the Institute for Japanese Studies at Seoul National University.