

Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange

To foster better understanding of Japanese society and its culture, customs, and manners, the Japan Foundation provides 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 common challenges facing our planet, and encourage intercultural dialogue.



The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership

The Center for Global Partnership (CGP) was established within the Japan Foundation in April 1991, with offices in Tokyo and New York. The purpose of the CGP is to promote collaboration between the people of Japan, the United States, and beyond, in order to address issues of global concern. To this end, the CGP operates grant programs, in addition to self-initiated projects and fellowships. The three grant programs of the CGP were: Intellectual Exchange, Grassroots Exchange and Education. <http://www.jpf.go.jp/cgp/e/>

In FY2006, 32 Japan-U.S. collaborative projects were supported by the Intellectual Exchange Program. These projects stimulated policy-oriented research and dialogue on global issues of common concern.

Also, the CGP provided funding for grassroots exchange and education projects to strengthen the multifaceted networks between the people of Japan and the United

States. These projects served to enhance mutual understanding and communication between citizens of both countries.

A total of 26 projects were supported by the Grassroots Exchange Program, and another 8 projects were supported by the Education Program, which also disbursed 26 small-scale grants.



Japan-U.S. Dialogue for Cooperation in Reconstruction after Hurricane Katrina

At the end of August 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast area, and inflicted serious damage on the city of New Orleans, Louisiana. The challenges that the people of New Orleans face in rebuilding their city are similar to those faced in Kobe following the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. The challenges faced by New Orleans are also similar to the issues that other Japanese cities, including Tokyo, have to consider as they advance disaster-preparedness measures.

Thus in October 2006, the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership initiated a program to enhance policy and practical understanding between Japan and the U.S. in the area of post-disaster reconstruction. Eight U.S. participants involved in reconstruction efforts – drawn from government, academia, and the civil service – were invited to Japan from New Orleans.

The participants made field visits to various places in Kobe City, and entered into dialogue with their guides, who were specialist in relevant fields. In Tokyo, the visitors toured the latest flood control facilities, including the Arakawa Super Levees. A public symposium was also held during the participants' visit, at which there was lively discussion concerning future cooperation in the reconstruction of New Orleans, and on how to capitalize on the wealth of knowledge and experience in both Japan and the U.S.

This valuable symposium not only underscored the significance of Japan-U.S. cooperation on disaster

prevention and post-disaster reconstruction, but has also encouraged further promotion of bilateral cooperation and joint activities.



Conclusion of the public symposium © Takagi Atsuko



Visit to Kobe City Fire Bureau Command Center

Japanese Studies Overseas

In order to deepen understanding in other countries and to further good relations between Japan and the global community, the Japan Foundation offers fellowships for research in Japan, and diverse grant programs for organizations engaged in Japanese studies. To promote networking on an international level, surveys are also carried out on overseas researchers and organizations of Japanese studies.

Support for Japanese studies institutions

In a number of countries, the Japan Foundation has supported research institutions that play a central role in Japanese studies. The various projects in this category are designed to develop human resources and strengthen the base for Japanese studies in each respective country.

A total of 16 priority projects have been implemented at key institutions, including grants for publishing expenses, visits to Japan and joint research, and the donation of books. Beneficiary institutions have included Japanese studies institutions in 7 Asia-Pacific region countries, including Thammasat University in Thailand.

The Japan Foundation has also supported 18 projects to dispatch visiting scholars to locations such as the University of Delhi and the University of Havana, as well as overseas Japanese studies institutions. We provided partial support for dispatch expenses as a way to help strengthen the pedagogical strength of overseas institutions.

The Japan Foundation funded teaching posts at 7 Japanese studies institutions, in order to promote the employment of Japanese studies faculty. It also supplied grants to educational and research institutions and associations engaged in Japanese studies in 21 countries, through a total of 50 projects designed to form and strengthen multi-layered networks among researchers.

A total of 17 Japanese teaching staff have been dispatched to the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies (BCJS) to run Japanese classes, and a total of 24 people, including graduate students and staff from BCJS, have been invited to Japan. Support has also been provided for research and publications. 10 Japanese teaching staff were dispatched to Beijing University to implement a course on modern Japanese studies, and 24 graduate students and others involved in Japanese studies courses have been invited to Japan.

Six projects have been implemented with the aim of cultivating a network among researchers and expediting the exchange of information, at associations including the Japanese Studies Association of Canada (JSAC) and the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS). These include grants to fund the publication of newsletters, website management, etc.

Eight other projects in ASEAN countries support the activities of alumni associations of students who have studied in Japan, with the aim of encouraging them to promote understanding of Japan in their countries.

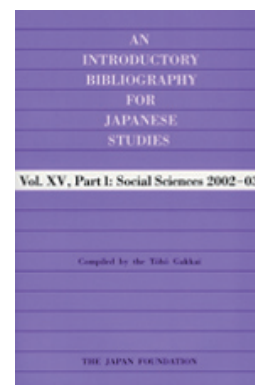


Beijing Center for Japanese Studies

Dissemination of Japanese academic trends and donation of books

We also publish *An Introductory Bibliography for Japanese Studies*, a comprehensive bibliography in English for overseas researchers and Japanologists. This work contains essays on trends in Japanese scholarship in the humanities and social sciences, and also encompasses annotated bibliographies. Each year, the bibliography is published in two volumes: Social Sciences and Human Sciences. Volume XV, Part 1, which was published in FY2006, has been distributed to 850 institutions in 90 countries.

In addition, we have given books useful for Japanese studies to 165 institutions in 76 countries, particularly to overseas institutions of higher education.



An Introductory Bibliography for Japanese Studies, Volume XV, Part 1—Social Sciences

Japanese Studies Fellowships

Since its establishment, the Japan Foundation has invited scholars and researchers in the Japanese studies to give an opportunity to conduct research in Japan. Over the years, these fellowships have brought almost 6,000 overseas experts to Japan, where they have undertaken research, surveys, and networking with Japanese counterparts.

In FY2006, 58 scholars and researchers from 27 countries, as well as 39 doctoral candidates from 18 countries, were selected for long-term fellowships. Short-term fellowships were granted to 27 researchers from 12 countries.

Fellows' Seminar 2006

The Japan Foundation's Tokyo headquarters and Kyoto office have organized Fellows' Seminars for presenting their research and exchanging opinions with other participants.



Fellow's Seminar in Kyoto

Name	Country	Project Title	Date
ZAKHIDOV, Sherzod	Uzbekistan	Revolution of Japan's PKOs policy and its role in securing international stability	April 25, 2006
SHIPPER, Apichai	USA	Foreigners and Democracy in Contemporary Japan	May 19, 2006
GORDON, June Ann	USA	Access and Success in the Cross - National Context of Urban Japan	May 19, 2006
MARTINEZ, Mauricio	Columbia	What is Japanese Performing Arts? - The process of making an encyclopedia by a Latin American	May 26, 2006
DELPY-ADLER, Fabienne	USA	First, Abandon the World of Seeming Certainty : Theory and Practice of the "Camera-based Image" in 1960s Japan	June 8, 2006
FUJIMURA, Osamu	Japan / USA	Syllable-based Phonology and Phonetics of the Japanese Language	June 20, 2006
CHOWDHURY, Mahfuzul Hoque	Bangladesh	Political Parties, Elections and Democracy in Japan: Lessons for Developing Democracies	June 30, 2006
KLEEMAN, Faye Yuan	USA	Popular Media and Public Imagination: Gender, Space, and Colonialism	June 30, 2006
ZAYAS, Cynthia Neri	Philippines	Culture of disaster and memory in Awajishima, Hyogo Prefecture - Reconstructing village-community through place names, belief in Kojin, and local history	June 30, 2006
WUYUNGAOWA	China	Teaching of Japanese Language in Sayog Won of Chosun Dynasty	July 7, 2006
LAKSIRI, Fernando	Sri Lanka	Japan's Role in Creating Peace : the Case of Sri Lanka	July 21, 2006
FOXWELL, Chelsea	USA	The Construction of Meaning in Merciful Mother Kannon by Kano Hōgai (1828-88)	July 25, 2006
DAVIS, Walter	USA	Wang Yiting and the Art of Sino-Japanese Exchange	July 25, 2006
ASTLEY, Ian	UK	A Bridge Between Tang China and Heian Japan: Kūkai's Shōrai ai mokuroku and Religio-Political Realia	August 2, 2006
JESTY, Justin	USA	Modern Art at the Local Levels	September 1, 2006
LI Minggang	China	Price and Quality: The Interaction between the Producers and Readers of Bungei shunju during its Early Years	September 19, 2006
SOLT, George	—	Noodles and Swords: An Evening of Popular Creations of Modern Japanese Culture	September 8, 2006
LIM, Tai Wei	Singapore	A Political-Economic Survey of Japan-China Activities in Southeast Asia: Possible Rivalry and Collaboration	September 21, 2006
MOSTAFA, Ahmed Mohamed Fathy	Egypt	The "After War Phenomena" of the Japanese Literature After War Has Really Already Come to an End? (The War Defeat Syndrome)	October 13, 2006
XIE, Zhiyu	—	Japanese Family in Modern Era - with the Chinese and Vietnamese Perspective	October 6, 2006
HANKINS, Joseph	USA	Buraku Discrimination and Japanese Multiculturalism	October 13, 2006
OKANO, Kaori Horne	Australia	Globalization and Education: A Focus on Multiculturalism	November 28, 2006
ERBER, Pedro	Brazil	Voices from the avant-garde	November 17, 2006
HASHIM, Rosnani	Malaysia	Englishization of education as a strategy for meeting the challenge of globalization: A comparative study of Malaysia and Japan's response	November 30, 2006
NELSON, John	USA	Understanding Yasukuni Shrine: a Film and Lecture on the Past, Present, and Future of Japan's Shrine to Spirits of the Military Dead	December 14, 2006
BI, Shihong	China	Development cooperation in the Mekong region - the case of Japan and China	December 27, 2006
GARCIA DOS SANTOS, Yumi	Brazil	Single Mothers in Brazil and Japan - between Dependence and Support	January 10 & 11, 2007
KALINOWSKA, Anna	Poland	Advertisement as a cultural product - values, practices and cultural symbols in the Japanese advertisement	February 16, 2007
NDJAKA, Gregoire	Cameroon	The Treatment of Information about Africa in Japanese Media	February 16, 2007
HORDOS, Marianna	Hungary	Testing a Grammatical Theory with Evidence from the Japanese Language	February 16, 2007
BALARAM, Padmini	India	Textile Route from India to Japan and Its Effect on Textile Design and Techniques of Japan	February 27, 2007
CHAN, Ka Sik	China	Food Culture in China and Japan - An Insight from Soy Sauce	February 27, 2007
FRENT, Rodica Monica	Romania	Haruki Murakami as a writer seeking "perfect writing" through "dialogue" with Yasunari Kawabata and Yukio Mishima -Poetic approach	February 22, 2007
CARO RESTREPO, Esperanza	Columbia	Sustainable Architecture System for "Las Gaviotas" Self Sufficient Experimental Settlement in Colombian Orinoquia	March 15, 2007
SURAK, Kristin	USA	Tea Ceremony and Gender in Modern Japan	March 29, 2007

Intellectual Exchange

Organizing and Support of Intellectual Exchange

In order to meet the goal of fulfilling shared global responsibilities and contributing in the world's welfare, the Japan Foundation implements intellectual exchange programs through seminars, workshops and other activities to exchange information, create new networks and nurture future leaders in the global world.

2nd Japan-Mexico Cultural Summit

As agreed at a Japan-Mexico Leaders' Summit, the "2nd Japan-Mexico Cultural Summit" was held in July 2006 in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture. A delegation of 9 Mexican intellectuals, headed by President of the National Council for Culture and Arts Sari Bermúdez, attended along with 9 Japanese cultural notables, including Mino Yutaka, Director of the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art in Kanazawa. The Summit, on the theme of "Tradition and Modernity in an Era of Globalization," featured discussion groups and a public

symposium. Valuable insight was afforded by the participants' lively dialogue and exchange of views on how to advance coexistence between the traditional perceptions of nature and the cultural diversity that both countries have historically cultivated.



Public symposium (21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa)

Asia Culture Forum Kyoto 2006

On November 10, 2006, the Asia Culture Forum Kyoto was held, on the theme of "Globalization and Asian Values." This theme was intended to stimulate discussion on how Asians might seek out cultural identity in an era of globalization. Approximately 150 participants joined the Forum (including individuals from the national and local governments, academia, business circles and civic action groups), and all listened attentively to the opinions shared in the panel discussion.

Various opinions were voiced at the Forum, from those who considered culture and globalization to be antithetical, to others who proposed that because creativity arises from interactions among different cultures, globalization could have a positive cultural impact.

Overall, the Forum provided an excellent opportunity to consider globalization and its accompanying values and concepts. Co-sponsoring was Kyoto University of Arts and Design.

Participatory Theater Workshop with Acehese Children

The province of Aceh in Indonesia (Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam) has suffered from continuous armed conflict over a period of 30 years, and the tsunami that followed the Sumatra-Andaman earthquake in late 2004 claimed the lives of 240,000 people. As part of reconstruction efforts in Aceh, the Japan Foundation staged a nine-day participatory theater workshop from April 7 to 15, 2007.

The workshop had 30 participants in all, junior and senior high school students who had all lost loved ones or had lost their home due to fire. Its aim was to aid these young people, in whom reside the hopes of their region, by freeing them from the strain and apprehension caused by prolonged conflict and instead encouraging them to

discover self-respect and trust in others. In so doing, the Japan Foundation hopes to help build a constructive path towards the future. The students who took part gained a real sense of achievement and fulfillment, and expressed a keen interest in continuing cultural activities and mutual exchanges. The Japan Foundation intends to continue providing similar assistance in the future.



Commemorative group photo of all participants of the workshop

Other conferences and support of Intellectual Exchange

The Foundation co-organizes intellectual events and provides financial support to cover the costs of holding intellectual exchange conferences and the travel expenses of participants.

In 2006, the Japan Foundation, Korea Foundation and All-China Youth Federation co-organized the “Future Leaders Forum 2006: Korea-China-Japan.” The aim of the forum was to build a network of friendship and trust. Young public intellectuals paid visits to the 3 countries together and exchanged opinions.

The “Australia-Japan Marine Forum” was held from September 11 to 12, 2006, as part of the celebration of 2006 as the Australia-Japan Year of Exchange, and a spirited exchange of opinions took place among 6 Japanese and Australian experts.

A joint symposium was held with the Japanese-German Center Berlin from September 20 to 22, 2006, on the theme of “Aspects of Democracy: Preconditions, Paths of Development, and Contemporary Issues.” The symposium explored examples of the development of democracy from Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia.



Public symposium at the “Australia-Japan Marine Forum”



“Japan-Russia Forum”



“Aspects of Democracy”
photo courtesy: Japanese-German Center Berlin

On March 19 and 20, 2007, the 5th Japan-Russia Forum was held, with the theme of “Prospects for Japanese-Russian Relations in the Asia-Pacific Region in the Era of Globalization.” The event took place in Tokyo and was organized jointly with Russia’s Center for Strategic Research. Approximately 50 participants provided their frank and honest input.

In total, the Japan Foundation provided support to cover the costs of convening 69 intellectual exchange conferences around the world.

Intellectual Exchange Fellowships

The Intellectual Exchange Fellowships in the humanities and social sciences relate to current challenges shared by the global community.

(1) Intellectual Exchange Fellowship (invitation)

The Japan Foundation granted 18 fellowships to allow scholars to visit Japan to conduct research and surveys, with the aim of constructing a network for intellectual dialogue with Japanese counterparts.

(2) Intellectual Exchange Fellowship (dispatch)

We also granted 10 fellowships to Japanese researchers, dispatching them overseas to engage in research and surveys.

(3) Fellowships for Leaders of the Next Generation in Asia

We provided 8 fellowships to graduate students and staff at Japanese non-profit organizations, with the aim of cultivating human resources and skills to address issues common to the region.

(4) Obuchi Fellowships

Three fellowships were granted to researchers in Okinawa in connection with the “Obuchi Okinawa Education and Research Program,” itself based on an agreement between the governments of Japan and the U.S.

(5) Asia Leadership Fellow Program

To help build a network among public intellectuals in Asia, the Japan Foundation implemented this program during September and October, inviting 8 specialists from Asian countries to Japan, for various interdisciplinary dialogues.