

What is the Japan Foundation?

The Japan Foundation is a Japanese public organization dedicated to implementing comprehensive international cultural exchange projects in every region of the globe. Through its activities, it contributes to the deepening of mutual international understanding and the building of peace in the international community. These activities are implemented in the following three areas.

Mission of the Japan Foundation

The mission of the Japan Foundation is: to contribute to the improvement of a good international environment, and to the maintenance and development of the harmonious foreign relationships with Japan, by the efficient and comprehensive implementation of activities for international cultural exchange, which will deepen

other nations' understanding of Japan, promote better mutual understanding among nations, and contribute to the culture and other fields in the world. ("The Law of the Japan Foundation Independent Administrative Institution, Article 3").

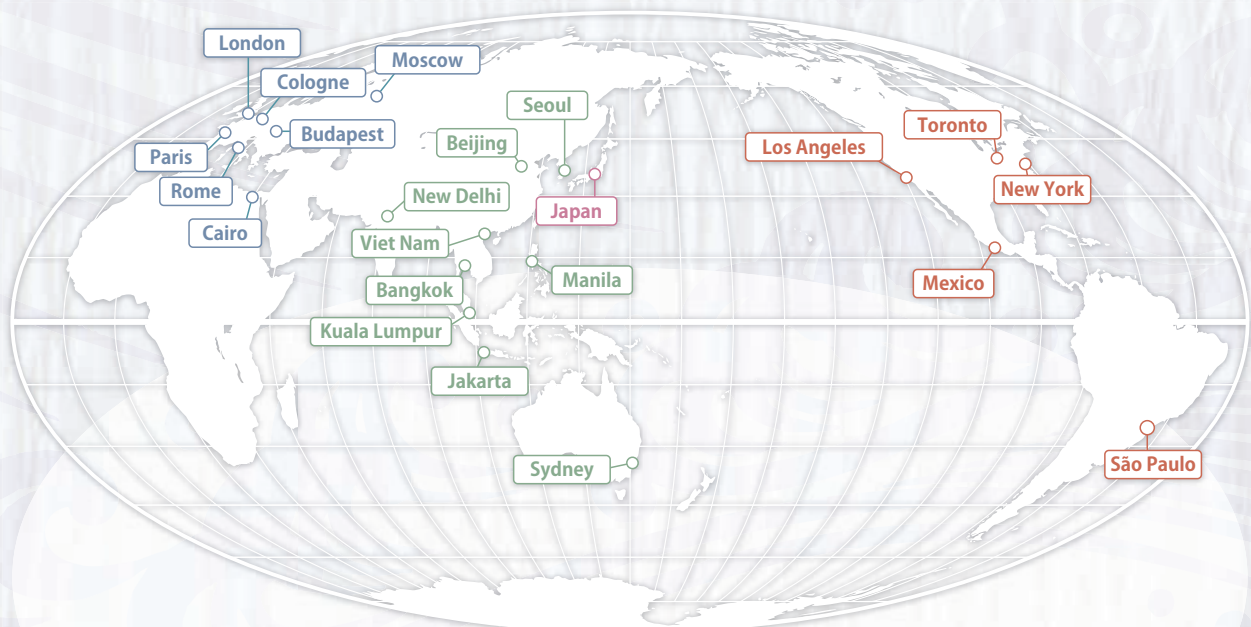
Outline of the Organization

In 1972, the Japan Foundation was established as a special legal entity under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since then, the Japan Foundation has continued to expand its activities as a public organization representing Japan in the field of international cultural exchange. In October 2003, it became an independent administrative institution. Currently, in addition to the headquarters in Tokyo and an office in Kyoto, it also operates two affiliated organizations (the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa and the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai) in Japan. Globally, the Japan Foundation's reach extends to 21 offices in 19 countries, and it has a number of active

partnerships with external organizations.

Based on a financial foundation of government investment (¥113 billion), the Japan Foundation's operations are funded by revenues from investment income from this capital, by government subsidies and by donations from the private sector. As of March 31, 2008, the Japan Foundation has 230 staff members.

The Japan Foundation's Network



The Japan Foundation also benefits in its activities from the cooperation of Japan's diplomatic missions. The Japan Foundation cooperates with various cultural exchange organizations overseas in its efforts to deepen relations, including the Goethe-Institut (Germany), the Japanese-German Center Berlin (Germany), Casa Asia (Spain), the Korea Foundation, and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). It has also overseas advisors in South Africa, Iran, South Korea, and Turkey.

New Development of Activities

As an organization at the heart of Japan's international cultural exchange, the Japan Foundation continually expands its cultural exchanges in line with the demands of society and of the times.

Proactive Efforts for Japanese-Language Education Overseas

There are some three million students of the Japanese language around the world, and this number is expected to rise further in the future. The Japan Foundation sees overseas Japanese-language education activities as an extremely important means of strengthening relations between Japan and other countries, and furthering understanding of Japan around the world. (→P11)

Introduction of Pop Culture and Other New Areas of Japanese Culture

The Japan Foundation is proactively disseminating contemporary Japanese culture in response to requests from many people overseas who wish to know more about Japanese manga, anime, food, etc.

Peace Building through Culture

The Japan Foundation is making use of the tremendous power of culture for the reconstruction of regions damaged by conflict or disaster, and is working on new attempts to contribute to peace building through culture.

Strengthened Collaboration with the Private Sector

The Japan Foundation works with a variety of actors in the private sector, for example by collaborating with the CSR (corporate social responsibility) activities of Japanese companies overseas.

The Japan Foundation is Evolving through Continual Reform

Since the change of the status to an independent administrative institution in October 2003, the Japan Foundation has been reforming its activities and its management methods in order to effectively carry out projects that meet the demands of the times.

During the period of the first mid-term plan (October 2003 to March 2007), the Japan Foundation worked to cut its management expenses and to reform its organizational structure, project design, and human resources systems. The Foundation is judged officially to have made good progress in achieving its targets in these areas.

The FY2007 is the first year of the second mid-term plan, which covers a new five-year period. The Japan Foundation has embarked on new reforms aimed at making the implementation of projects even more efficient.

Optimization and Strengthening of Business Management

- A 15% reduction in general management expenses over five years from FY2007: A 3.8% reduction was achieved in FY2007.
- A reduction of at least 1.2% every fiscal year in the expenses of programs to which management grants are allocated by the government: The Japan Foundation is working to cut its expenses by facilitating collaboration with other organizations, promoting price competition, and strategically focusing on programs. In this way, it aims to cut costs without sacrificing quality.
- Optimized management: The Japan Foundation has proactively worked on co-hosting and cooperation with other organizations in order to make the best use of external resources. It has also expanded its revenue through donations and by carrying out contracted work.
- Flexible and efficient business management: The Japan Foundation reviewed the organization of the administrative and project planning divisions, and in April 2008 it established the Overseas Policy Planning Department in order to improve flexibility and ensure consistent project development across the countries and regions where projects are carried out.
- Reforms toward an ability-based personnel system and personnel cost containment: The Japan Foundation reviewed its system of personnel appraisal. At the same time, it activated its organization and fostered human resources from a mid- to long-term perspective by making use of private-sector and other external human resources, and improving the level of expertise of personnel.