

# Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange

To foster better understanding of Japanese society and its culture, the Japan Foundation provides assistance and fellowships to researchers and offers support to institutions active in the field of Japanese studies. We also organize exchange programs for intellectual leaders, seminars and symposiums in quest of solutions to common challenges facing our planet, and encourage intercultural dialogue.



## Symposium: Declining Fertility and Work-Life Balance

The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP) and Social Science Research Council (SSRC), who together conduct the Abe Fellowship Program\*, co-hosted the public symposium, “Declining Fertility and Work-Life Balance: Policies and Policy Implications from an International Perspective” on May 26, 2007. The Symposium brought together prominent experts from the United States, Europe, and Japan who have been conducting empirical research and discussing relevant policies on work-life balance in advanced countries. This symposium provided not only a platform to disseminate the results of research by Abe Fellows, but also an opportunity for a comparative review of Japanese and broader international perspectives on this important issue.

The panelists - Dr. Catherine Hakim of the London School of Economics, Dr. Barbara Schneider of Michigan State University, Dr Ronald Rindfuss of the University of North Carolina, and Ms. Yajima Yoko, former counselor in the Gender Equality Bureau, Cabinet Office of Japan - individually presented their research and then together exchanged ideas and opinions with the discussants. Chaired by Dr. Kazuo Yamaguchi of the University of Chicago, the panelists then discussed possible solutions for the better implementation of work-life balance policies and solutions to reverse declining birthrates.

\* See p.21 for the Abe Fellowship Program



### 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 researches and organizations of Japanese Studies.

### Japanese Studies Fellowships

Since its establishment, the Japan Foundation has invited scholars and researchers in Japanese studies 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 FY2007, 42 scholars and

researchers from 19 countries, as well as 28 doctoral candidates from 14 countries, were selected for long-term fellowships. Short-term fellowships were granted to 34 researchers from 15 countries.

### 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. In FY2007, the Foundation's institutional support program has been re-designed. The new program has been designed to provide comprehensive and concentrated support to selected organizations of Japanese studies, according to their needs, for expanding and developing Japanese studies. Selected organizations were provided with various type of support including: visiting professorship, research and conference grants, library support, staff expansion grants etc, which used to be sporadic programs.

In the Americas, except for the U.S., a total of 10 institutions have been selected, and given grants for visiting professorships, staff expansions, research conferences, and library developments. Beneficiary institutions include the University of British Columbia, the University of Montreal, El Colegio de Mexico and the University of Sao Paulo, etc. In the United States of America, where the new institutional support program

was to be introduced in 2008, more than 60 institutions showed strong interest<sup>1</sup> in receiving this new support, and the selection was to be made by the American Advisory Committee comprised of distinguished scholars.

In the Asia-Pacific region, a total of 23 institutions have been selected, and given various support based on their needs. Beneficiary institutions include Seoul National University, the National University of Mongolia, the University of the Philippines in Manila, the University of Malaya, Vietnam National University, and the Australian National University.

In Europe, the Middle East and Africa region, a total of 21 institutions have been selected, and given supports. Beneficiary institutions include Leiden University, the University of Salamanca, the University of Bucharest, Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies, the University of Tehran, and Ain Shams University.

### Dissemination of Japanese Academic Trends and Donation of Books

The Japan Foundation publishes "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 2, which was published in FY2007, has been distributed to 829 institutions in 90 countries. With the issue of Volume XV, Part 2, "An Introductory Bibliography for Japanese Studies" publication project has been disestablished.

## Japan Arab Conference A New Dawn: Arabs Looking East

Until very recently, Japan's relationship with Arab countries consisted mainly of links in economic sectors such as energy. However, based on an agreement reached at the summit meeting between Prime Minister Abe Shinzo and Egyptian President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak in May 2007, an international conference entitled "A New Dawn: Arabs Looking East," was held in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt, on November 20 and 21, 2007. The conference aimed to promote dialogue and further mutual understanding between Japan and the Arab countries.

Approximately 150 people from Arab countries and 100 from Japan participated in the conference. As well as the plenary sessions, there were separate, smaller sessions on economics, politics, culture and society, and science and technology. The Japan Foundation hosted the sessions on culture and society, and participants from Japan included movie director Yamada Yoji, Aoki Tamotsu, Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs, and Doden Aiko, Senior News Commentator at the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK). Also, as a parallel



The session on culture and society, entitled "Mutual Awareness of Japanese and Arab Culture and Society: Universality and Specificity in the Age of Globalization."

cultural event, there was an exhibition of Japanese and Arabic calligraphy. The demonstration given by calligraphy artist Shishu, who was dispatched from Japan, was very well received.

The result of the conference was the affirmation of the future possibilities for cooperation at a variety of levels between Japan and the Arab countries. As its title suggests, the conference was an opportunity to experience a new dawn in the relations between Japan and the Arab countries.

## South Asia Future Forum

The Japan Foundation cosponsored the South Asia Future Forum together with the Waseda Hoshien Student Christian Center. The aim of the forum was to foster a network across a wide area encompassing Japan and South Asia.

Seven young people from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Bhutan who are all actively engaged in public service activities in the social or cultural sphere were invited to Japan. Together with one participant from Japan, they lodged together and took part in activities to cultivate mutual understanding.

The participants increased their understating of Japan through various lectures, discussions, workshops, and site visits. At the same time, they also came to understand that similar social issues exist in each of their respective countries, and increased their awareness of the importance of mutual collaboration to overcome these issues.

The participants undertook field trips to Minamata, to learn about pollution; Fukuoka, to learn about art; and Hiroshima, to learn about disarmament and a nuclear-



At the Minamata Disease Museum

free future. They listened to first-hand accounts of people suffering from Minamata disease, and they spoke with foreign artists living and working in Fukuoka. They also visited the Peace Memorial Museum in Hiroshima, where they recognized anew the importance of peace and the need for disarmament.

At the Public Reporting Session, entitled "The Asians Connect: Views of Japan from South Asian Perspectives," the participants spoke from a variety of perspectives. The young South Asian leaders' impressions of Japan provided an opportunity for considering collaboration within Asia.

Intellectual Exchange

## Asia Leadership Fellow Program

This is an exchange project, under which between five and eight specialists from Asia who have demonstrated leadership in their fields are invited to Japan as Fellows for two months. It has been co-hosted by the Japan Foundation and the International House of Japan every year since 1996, and so far 68 participants from 15 countries have come to Japan under the program.

Six Fellows from Thailand, Malaysia, China, India, and Japan participated in FY2007. Under the overall theme of “Unity in Diversity – Envisioning Community Building in Asia and Beyond,” the participants carried out various collaborative intellectual activities, such as residential conferences to heighten awareness of each other’s specialist fields and problem awareness; field trips to observe the role of Hiroshima in peace building and

nuclear non-proliferation, and to observe initiatives in regard to human rights issues related to Koreans resident in Japan; seminars to which specialists were invited; and a public symposium to disseminate information among Japanese society.



The Asia Leadership Fellow Program aims to enhance the human networks between Fellows, who are all people of profound insight and outstanding leadership ability, and to build an intellectual community within Asia. This is expected to lead to transnational initiatives aimed at finding solutions to world problems.

<http://www.jpf.go.jp/e/intel/exchange/organize/alfp/fellow07.html>

## Other Conferences and Support for Intellectual Exchange

The Japan Foundation co-hosted international intellectual events and provided financial support to cover the costs of holding intellectual exchange conferences and the travel expenses of participants.

### **International Forum “Towards an East Asia Community: Beyond Cross-Cultural Diversity”; Inter-cultural, Inter-societal, Inter-faith Dialogue (December 10–19, 2007)**

The Japan Foundation carried out a leaders’ forum with the participation of 29 people, including researchers, administrative officials, journalists, and NGO workers, who will be the next generation of leaders. The participants came from a total of 16 countries: the 10 ASEAN members, China, the Republic of Korea, India, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.

The participants lodged together and undertook an intensive course of lectures and discussions in order to look for the possibility of forming a common awareness through mutual understanding, given the cultural and racial diversity of East Asia. This project is organized under the JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) Programme, and is co-hosted with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Waseda University Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies.

### **“Aspects of Democracy: Preconditions, Paths of Development, and Contemporary Issues” (November 28, 2007)**

As in the previous year, the Japan Foundation held a joint international symposium with the Japanese-German

Center Berlin, on the theme of “Aspects of Democracy.” Following the previous year’s discussions on the process of forming democracy in different countries and regions, discussions were held this year on ideological issues of democracy and pragmatic issues relating to civil society and the media, in order to find the way toward an image of democracy needed for civil society in the 21st century.

### **Japan-Europe Intellectual Exchange Project: Japan Studies Seminar on Edo (December 14–15, 2007)**

The Japan Foundation co-hosted a seminar on Edo with the Centre Européen d’Études Japonaises d’Alsace (CEEJA) as a platform for presenting papers and exchanging ideas. The participants were European researchers of Edo, chiefly former Japan Foundation fellows. Professor Yuko Tanaka of Hosei University was invited to be the lecturer at the seminar, and there were presentations and discussions on a wide range of topics, including Edo period iconography, popular stories, haiku poems, and folk beliefs.

### **Financial Support for Intellectual Exchange Conferences**

In total, the Japan Foundation provided support to cover the costs of convening 67 intellectual exchange conferences around the world.

## 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 mission of 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, CGP organizes fellowship programs and grant programs as well as self-initiated projects such as seminars, symposia, joint research, and exchanges of intellectuals and professional leaders between Japan and the United States. <http://www.jpff.go.jp/cgp/e/>

### NPO Fellowship

The NPO Fellowship offers mid-career professionals from the Japanese nonprofit community the opportunity to enhance their management skills and knowledge of the U.S. nonprofit sector through practical training at nonprofits in the U.S. In FY2007 three new fellows began their training while three fellows continued their training.

### Japan Outreach Initiative



The Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) aims to promote awareness and understanding of Japan in regions of the United States with relatively few Japan-related activities and opportunities for exchange as well as to nurture new

leaders in the field of grassroots exchange. FY2007 was the sixth year of this program, and five new coordinators were placed in the southern United States.

### Abe Fellowship

The Abe Fellowship is conducted in cooperation with the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) to encourage international multidisciplinary research on topics of pressing global concern with the goal of nurturing a community of researchers interested in playing an active role in bilateral and global research networks centered on these long-range issues. In FY2007 the fellowship was awarded to 14 individuals affiliated with Japanese and U.S. universities and think tanks.

### Grant Programs

Japan-U.S. collaborative projects supported by CGP in FY2007:

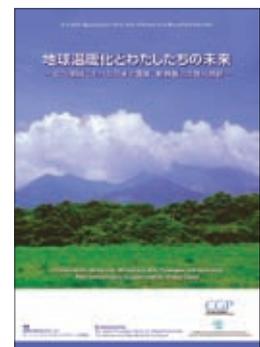
Intellectual Exchange	23
Grassroots Exchange	5
Education	3
CGP New York small-scale grants	26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>

## Global Carbon Reduction: Developing New Strategies and Deploying New Technologies in Japan and the United States

The CGP and the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation run the Abe Fellowship and Mansfield Fellowship programs, respectively, which are human resource development programs that strengthen Japan-U.S. relations. Since 2005, the two foundations have co-hosted public symposia and invited Fellows of both programs to participate as panelists.

The symposium for 2007, “Global Carbon Reduction: Developing New Strategies and Deploying New Technologies in Japan and the United States,” was held on September 6. Keynote speeches were given by two distinguished speakers: Nishimura Mutsuyoshi, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for Climate Change and Ambassador for Global Environmental Affairs, and Toyoda Shoichiro, Honorary Chairman and Member of the Board of Toyota Motor Corporation.

Their speeches covered subjects such as initiatives and challenges in the automobile industry, the need for leadership by the U.S., the Japanese government’s initiatives, and Japan’s perspective on future prospects in this arena. The Fellows from Japan and the U.S., policymakers and industry representatives engaged in a lively discussion with a focus on the possible contributions Japan and the U.S. could make to combat global warming, and create frameworks for cooperation with major CO2 emitting countries such as China.



The symposium report

## The Japan Foundation China Center

The Japan Foundation established the China Center in April 2006 with the aim of increasing youth and citizens' exchanges, which can serve as the foundation for future Japan-China relations. The Center's official website "Heart to Heart" is available in Chinese and Japanese for the purpose of promoting exchanges between China and Japan on a wide range of subjects.

### Face-to-Face Cultural Exchange Center Project

The first center in the Face-to-Face Cultural Exchange Center project was opened in April 2007 in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, which is one of the major cities of Southwest China.

The Face-to-Face Cultural Exchange Center acts as a window on Japan, providing information on Japan that is harder to come by in China's provincial cities than it is in its major urban centers. Visitors are able to hear and see the latest J-pop (Japanese popular music) CDs and DVDs, and browse through magazines (fashion, food, travel, anime, etc.) and books (contemporary novels, manga, Japanese-language educational materials, etc.). The center also aims to be one in which young Chinese and Japanese people can interact directly, through the cooperation of Japanese people living locally.

Following the opening of the Chengdu Face-to-Face

Cultural Exchange Center, the Japan Foundation gained the cooperation of the municipal government of Changchun, Jilin Province, to open the Changchun Face-to-Face Cultural Exchange Center. Preparations had been underway for this center, which will be located within Changchun Library. In addition, the Japan Foundation had received requests from Yanbian University in Yanji, Jilin Province, and Nantong Vocational University in Nantong, Jiangsu Province, to open Face-to-Face Exchange Centers, and had commenced the necessary preparations.



A lecture by voice actor Furuya Toru



Fukuwarai game at a sports meet

### Long-term Invitation Program for Chinese High School Students

In the second year following the start of the Long-term Invitation Program for Chinese High School Students in FY2006, the first group of invitees returned home to China at the end of July, and the second group, comprised of 37 people, came to Japan in September. Part of this program was implemented as the Japan-East Asia network of Exchange for Students and Youth (the JENESYS Programme).

The Long-term Invitation Program provides Chinese high school students with the opportunity to get to know Japanese society and people in great depth by living the same school life and everyday life as Japanese high school students, and through interacting with people of their own age, their host families, and other people. The participants are selected through interviews by the Japan Foundation from among Japanese-language students recommended by the Chinese government.

The first group of participants successfully finished their period of overseas study in Japan, having each made an irreplaceable circle of friends in Japan. Their teary

farewells as they parted with their host families at the airport before returning to China spoke volumes about the fulfilling year each had spent in Japan. The second group began their lives in Japan in different locations across the country in autumn of last year. Through the school club activities, which they had not previously experienced in China, as well as the various school events and their everyday lives with their homestay families, they have naturally developed feelings of self-reliance and cooperative personalities, and have grown strong in mind and body. Their blogs can be viewed on the Japan Foundation China Center website, "Heart to Heart." <http://www.chinacenter.jp/>



Midterm training of the second group at the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai



A lecture on solar power generation