

Looking Back on 2010/2011

The Japan Foundation promoted a wide variety of projects in fiscal 2010 to deepen the understanding of Japan. It introduced Japanese arts, theater, publications, videos, and lifestyle to the world. It organized programs designed to help people learn about Japan through the Japanese language, and to foster intellectual exchange and exchanges of specialists in Japanese studies. The following are photos of some of the Foundation's activities during the year.



Assisting in Japanese Language Education

The Japan Foundation has been sending Japanese language specialists to various countries. In Indonesia, Japanese language classes are given at high schools, more students learning Japanese. [Bali, Indonesia]



Introducing Japanese Arts to the World

The Japan Foundation is introducing leading Japanese artists at international exhibitions. At the 14th Asian Art Biennale held in Bangladesh, the exhibition by Nawa Kohei received the Grand Prize. [Dhaka, Bangladesh]

Photo: Omote Nobutada



Organizing the Japanese Pavilion

Tsukamoto Yoshiharu and Nishizawa Ryue participated in the 12th International Architecture Exhibition, Venice Biennale under Japanese Pavilion commissioner Kitayama Koh.

Photo: Andrea Sarti/CAST1466



Providing Fun Opportunities to Study Japanese

The Foundation's overseas offices are helping local citizens to sample Japanese culture. This photo shows Canadian students trying out their Japanese calligraphy skills in an event held by the Japan Foundation, Toronto. [Manitoba, Canada]



Introducing Unique Japanese Dance

Butoh is a unique Japanese dance style. This art with its strong impact on the global dance world was shown to young people. [Sao Paulo, Brazil]



Revitalizing Global Intellectual Exchanges

The Japan Foundation provided forums for discussing global issues, including an international symposium on social farm in Japan and Europe.



Enjoying Japanese Fiction → P.36

The Japan Foundation is encouraging people overseas to become interested in Japanese literature. Author Katayama Kyoichi went on lecture tours in South Korea and China. Many people sought his autograph. [Beijing, China]



Contributing to Peace through Culture

There are children in the world left deeply scarred by cruel political events and other incidents. The Japan Foundation sent experts in various fields overseas to support them. The 2nd Drama Workshop with Children of Aceh was among many examples. [Aceh, Indonesia]



Popular Japanese Robot → P.15

Robots are proof of Japan's technological expertise and a symbol of Japanese culture. During the year, the Japan Foundation introduced PARO, an advanced therapeutic robotic seal, to people in Vietnam, Singapore, Brunei, and Pakistan. The robot developed by the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology delighted many people overseas. [Hanoi, Vietnam]



Sharing the Sounds

AGA-SHIO +Music & Rhyme Tour visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Africa. Audiences were captivated by the perfect blend of Oriental and Western sounds. Workshops were held with local people. [Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo] Photo: Shionoya Satoru



Talking about Culture

Sharing a long history, Japan, China, and South Korea continue to influence each other. The 6th Japan-China-South Korea cultural forum was held to discuss political and economic ties and to look at each other from the standpoint of culture. The forum was held at the Yakushiji Temple in Nara (Jion Hall).

Getting Closer to Japan

The Japan Foundation organized performances of traditional Japanese arts. During Nishikawa Minosuke's tours, dance workshops were held with the participation of audiences. [Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia] Photo: Garry Loke Hong Weng

