

About the Japan Foundation

The Japan Foundation was established in October 1972 as a government-affiliated special corporation with the objective of promoting international cultural exchange through the implementation of comprehensive programs. In October 2003, the Foundation was relaunched as an independent administrative institution under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

With its global network consisting of the Tokyo headquarters, Kyoto Office, two domestic Japanese-language institutes (the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa; and the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai) and 22 overseas offices in 21 countries, the Foundation operates a number of programs, often in partnership with other organizations, focusing mainly on three areas: Arts and Cultural Exchange, Japanese-Language Education Overseas, and Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange.

Based on a government endowment of 78 billion yen, the Foundation's activities are financed by annual government subsidies, investment revenue, and donations from the private sector. As of March 31, 2011, the Japan Foundation has 230 staff members.

History

1972	The Japan Foundation established.
1989	Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa established.
1991	Center for Global Partnership established.
1997	Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai established.
2003	The Japan Foundation relaunched as an independent administrative institution.
2006	China Center established.

The Japan Foundation was established with the objective of conforming to the following legislation passed in 2002.

Article 3 of the "Law of the Japan Foundation Independent Administrative Institution":

The purposes of the Japan Foundation Independent Administrative Institution (Dokuritsu Gyosei Hojin Kokusai Koryu Kikin: hereinafter called the "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.

Three Main Activities

Arts and Cultural Exchange

Creating opportunities to encounter the values embodied in Japanese art and Japanese life

Impressions transcending differences in language form a wellspring that promotes understanding of Japan by generating interest in and fellow feeling for the country. Seeking to provide such opportunities, the Japan Foundation introduces a wide range of Japanese arts and culture to people in other countries. With programs covering the arts, including fine arts, music, theater, and films, and the culture of everyday life such as food and fashion, the Foundation produces artistic and cultural exchange activities worldwide and helps build international networks in each field.

Japanese-Language Education Overseas

Increasing the number of people who speak Japanese promotes understanding of Japan

By helping people in other countries learn the Japanese language, the Japan Foundation contributes to better understanding of Japan and cultivate friendships around the globe.

The Japan Foundation promotes Japanese-language education overseas through organizing Japanese-language courses, administering the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test worldwide, and developing teaching materials. It also sends Japanese-language specialists abroad and provides training programs in Japan.

Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange

Combining a deeper understanding of Japan with an interest in learning about the world

Providing support for Japanese studies abroad and opportunities to learn about societies and cultures of other countries leads to deeper mutual understanding between Japan and the rest of the world and creates a shared commitment to common issues.

The Japan Foundation is an active proponent for greater understanding of Japan and broader professional networks worldwide through international exchange activities including support for scholars of Japanese studies abroad and visits to Japan by leading overseas academics.