



## Special program launched for cultural exchange during COVID-19 pandemic

*Aiming to sustain and grow people-to-people exchange  
between Japan and Southeast Asia*

The Japan Foundation, in its desire to help prevent the further spread of COVID-19, has since mid-March suspended many programs around the world that entail international travel or large gatherings of people. We recognize that the postponement or cancellation of diverse projects in the arts, culture, Japanese language education, Japanese studies, intellectual exchange, and other fields imposes an enormous impact on the activities of those who engage in international exchange in Japan and other parts of the world. At the same time, we are extremely concerned that this situation may give rise to a cultural crisis in the form of a protracted disruption of international cultural exchange.

As part of our response to this challenge, the Japan Foundation Asia Center has launched the Grant Program for Enhancing People-to-People Exchange (Special Program in response to COVID-19). This new grant program partially covers the expenses of organizations in Japan that develop and carry out innovative projects for exchange with other countries and areas of Asia, mainly the ASEAN countries.

The program is aimed at facilitating exchange and collaboration among people in Japan and other parts of Asia in ways that enhance their understanding of one another and foster empathy and a desire for peaceful coexistence as regional neighbors. At a time when many international cultural exchange programs are severely restricted, the Japan Foundation remains firmly committed to sustaining and growing opportunities for exchange among the people of Asia by supporting online projects and other program that do not entail international travel.

### Program Profile

- Title: Grant Program for Enhancing People-to-People Exchange (Special Program in response to COVID-19)
- Target: The grants are for exchange projects that do not involve international travel and are led by and designed for people in Japan and the ten ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Laos). While this program mainly targets projects for participants in Japan and ASEAN, multinational projects that include other countries are also eligible to apply, provided that they include participants from Japan. Because the pandemic has led to the cancellation or postponement of many different exchange projects (productions, events, research exchanges, etc.), we especially welcome applications for substitute programs developed by arts and culture facilitators, artists, experts, and international exchange coordinators.
- Eligible Applicants : Organizations based in Japan
- Grant period: Wednesday, July 1 – Sunday, November 15, 2020
- Grant amount: In principle, up to JPY 2 million per project
- Application: Application forms can be downloaded from the Japan Foundation's website. Email the necessary forms to us, or print them out and mail them in.  
<http://www.jpff.go.jp/e/program/index.html>
- Application period: Applications will be taken starting on Monday, June 1, 2020 and lasting until mid-October. However, the application period may end earlier depending on the number of projects accepted.

### Press inquiries :

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In addition to this grant program, the Japan Foundation is implementing the programs listed below so that the cultural ties that join Japan and the world can be sustained and further grown even during the ongoing pandemic. Going forward, we will continue monitoring the global situation and will take the actions needed to fulfill our mission of providing support and programs for international exchange.

### 1. Emergency assistance for cultural exchange programs involving online activities

- (1) The Japan Foundation, Bangkok Small Grant Support for Online Projects
- (2) The Japan Foundation, Manila Local Grant Program (application closed on May 15)

### 2. Online cultural presentations & dialogue

- (1) Free streaming of omnibus film series “Asian Three-Fold Mirror 2016: Reflections” until June 30
- (2) Japanese Film Festival Online: Free streaming of 12 films from MOOSIC LAB 2017-2018
- (3) Creators Talk Online (The Japan Foundation, Mexico)
- (4) Japanscope (The Japan Foundation, Jakarta)
- (5) Streaming of animated films (The Japan Foundation, Toronto)
- (6) *Seikatsu Kogei: Objects for Intentional Living* Exhibition Online (The Japan Foundation, Sydney)
- (7) 2020 National Cherry Blossom Festival Opening Ceremony in Washington, DC

### 3. Online support for Japanese language education

The e-learning programs listed below, developed and launched before the COVID-19 pandemic began, have been serving Japanese language students and educators as study resources that can be readily employed at a time when many activities have been restricted by the pandemic.

In addition, Japanese courses and Japanese language instructor training programs are being offered online by The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai and several Japan Foundation offices outside Japan.

- JF Japanese e-Learning Minato
- Irodori Japanese for Life in Japan online study resources
- “KC Yom Yom” : Easy Stories in Japanese

For more information, visit the Japan Foundation’s official website.

[https://www.jpff.go.jp/e/about/notice/notice\\_sp\\_program.html](https://www.jpff.go.jp/e/about/notice/notice_sp_program.html)

### Notice of Relocation of the Japan Foundation

As of May 7, 2020, the new address is as follows:

1-6-4 Yotsuya, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0004

YOTSUYA CRUCE 1F, 2F, and 3F (YOTSUYA CRUCE is a part of CO·MO·RE YOTSUYA.)

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