

2013 The Japan Foundation Awards Awardee

Every year since 1973, the Japan Foundation has presented the Japan Foundation Awards to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to promoting international mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and other countries through academic, artistic and other cultural pursuits. This year marks the 41st year of the awards and three awardees have been selected for 2013.

The presentation ceremony will be held at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, October 15, 2013, at Hotel Okura Tokyo.

◆ Akira Iriye (Professor Emeritus, Harvard University) [Japan]



Born in 1934, Akira Iriye moved to the US in 1953 on scholarship from the Grew Bancroft Foundation after graduating from Seikei Senior High School. Iriye graduated from Haverford College in 1957 and received a Ph.D. in History from Harvard University Graduate School in 1961. He majored in American Diplomatic History. As a US-based Japanese, Iriye has made significant contributions to his field over a long period of time. Iriye's approach is characterized by an emphasis on ideological and cultural impact and he has proposed international history research that incorporates a multinational perspective that goes beyond research on the diplomatic history of one country and two-way interaction. Iriye is recognized as "one of the people who changed the way we view the diplomatic history of America." Iriye became the first Japanese citizen to serve as President of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations and as President of the American Historical Association. Iriye is being presented this award in recognition of his influence overseas as a Japanese citizen and consequently becoming a pioneer of Japan-US exchange.

◆ SANKAI JUKU [Japan]



(C) Masafumi Sakamoto



(C) Hitomi Sato

Sankai Juku is a butoh dance company established in 1975 by its Artistic Director, Ushio Amagatsu. Currently, the dance company consists of nine male dancers. Sankai Juku commenced its international tours in 1980 and has performed in more than 700 cities in 44 countries throughout Asia, Europe, South America and North America. Sankai Juku is predominately based in France and continues to release new work every two years. While conventional western dance is characterized by the beauty of dynamic movement, butoh dancers dance fluidly, embracing gravity and aspire to reach the essence of human spirit. Sophisticated and detailed movement developed from body language has created a unique mode of expression. Sankai Juku is being presented this award in recognition of support and praise given to them from various cultural spheres throughout the world. The Artistic Director of Sankai Juku oversees spatial and costume design in addition to producing and choreographing their performances. In 2002 Sankai Juku's performance "HIBIKI – Resonance from Far Away" won the Laurence Olivier Award in the category of Best New Dance Production.

◆ **Technology Promotion Association (Thailand-Japan) [Thailand]**



Technology Promotion Association (Thailand-Japan) is a public-interest corporation established in 1973 by Thai nationals who had studied and received training in Japan following the deterioration of sentiment toward Japan due to trade disputes between the two countries. The objectives of the organization are to facilitate technological transfer from Japan to Thailand and personnel development with the ultimate goal of realizing the economic development of Thailand. The association runs various programs including technical training, calibration of industrial measurement and experimentation devices and online business management programs. Additionally, the association also manages the largest private Japanese-language school in Thailand, which teaches more than 8,000 students each year. Since its opening 40 years ago, the school has seen more than 200,000 students complete its Japanese-language course. Additionally, the association creates and publishes Japanese-language learning material, dictionaries, and Japanese culture related books, runs training programs and seminars for Japanese-language teachers and hosts Japanese speech contests and Japanese festivals, making significant contributions to the promotion of Japanese-language in Thailand. In 2007, the association opened the Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology (TNI), a private technical university at which in 2011 the first 225 of their students graduated. The association is also the largest institution in Thailand offering Thai language education to Japanese citizens residing in the country. The Technology Promotion Association (Thailand-Japan) is being presented this award in recognition of its significant contribution to interaction between the two countries and the development of personnel.

We will announce the details of interviews for the award ceremony and commemorative lectures by award recipients soon.

<The Japan Foundation Awards>

The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 and 2013 marks its 41st year. Each year since 1973, one year after its establishment, the Japan Foundation has presented Japan Foundation Awards to individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions over a long period and are expected to continue to do so for the enhancement of international understanding and the promotion of international friendship through academic, artistic and other cultural pursuits. The awardees of the Japan Foundation Awards last year are: Department of Japanese Language and Civilization, National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO) [France], Haruki Murakami (Writer/Translator) [Japan] and Irene Hirano Inouye, President, U.S.-Japan Council [U.S.A.]

<The Japan Foundation> (URL : <http://www.jpff.go.jp/e/index.html> :)

The Japan Foundation is Japan's only institution dedicated to carrying out comprehensive international cultural exchange programs throughout the world. In addition to its Tokyo headquarters, the Japan Foundation has twenty-two offices in twenty-one countries, as well as two Japanese-language institutes in Japan and a Kyoto Office. With the objective of deepening mutual understanding between the people of Japan and other countries / regions, our various activities and information services create opportunities for people-to-people interactions.

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