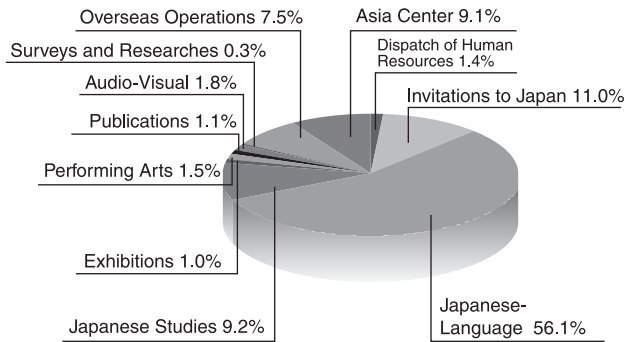


Outline of Programs by Region

East Asia

Abstract



Total amount of operations: 977 million yen

The operation expenses in East Asia for 2003 totaled 977 million yen, out of which 568 million yen were spent for programs in China and 357 million yen for programs in Korea. When seen by field, Japanese-Language and Japanese Studies occupy 65.3% of the total expenditure.

For Korea, the Foundation prioritized (1) bilateral and collaborative projects, (2) projects promoting overall, in-depth understanding of the Japanese culture and (3) projects addressing issues common to Korea and Japan. Among the major projects carried out in 2003 was the “Japanese Culture Lecture Series,” which explored how Japanese graphic design and robot technologies had benefited industry and society. The series toured several cities following its opening presentation in Seoul. Another large-scale event was a film festival presented in cooperation with Cinematheque Pusan, which has begun to take root in the region as the place to experience Japanese films. In 2003 the Foundation also supported the “Japan-Korea Journalists Workshop”, “Japan-Korea Joint Production of Performing Arts”, “Japan-China-Korea NPO Workshops” and various other projects co-organized by members of countries involved. Domestically, the Foundation held an exhibition of Korean artist Lee Bul in Tokyo and Okayama.

In China, the Foundation held the final meeting of the “Japan-China Researchers Forum on Asia in the 21st Century.” This forum was carried out in a span of three

years, and its results are reported in *Structuring the Relationship Between Japan and China* (ed. Kazuko Mori and Zhang Yun Ling, Iwanami Shoten Publishing Co., 2004). The Foundation also organized a photograph exhibition entitled “Capturing the Beauty of Japan”, conducted a seminar on Japanese films, and made numerous other efforts to introduce traditional and contemporary Japanese culture in regions outside of the capital city. On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, the Japan Foundation, Beijing hosted a gathering for former Japan Foundation fellows currently residing in China. The Beijing Center for Japanese Studies, which the Foundation has long supported, was relocated to a new facility, constructed with the gratis financial cooperation of the Japanese government. The institute’s new library held a workshop entitled “Orderly Arrangement and Utilization of Japanese Document Resources” and was met with enthusiastic participation by library-related personnel from across China.

■ Report by overseas offices

Korea

The Japan Foundation, Seoul

1. General

Korea started the year 2003 with the inauguration of the Roh Moo-hyun administration. Elections of December 2002 and the new administration, led by a president 22 years younger than his predecessor, appeared at first to symbolize the rapid growth of political awareness in Korean civil society. Soon after inauguration, however, the administration was criticized as being an “amateur government,” and the support ratings of President Roh plummeted, exposing the complexity and unpredictability of the Korean public’s political involvement. While 2002 was marked by the success of the FIFA World Cup, both as a co-host and as the first Asian country to send its national team to the semi-finals, the year 2003, in contrast, saw a long economic slump, frequent labor disputes, political discord involving the US military base issue, and exposures of illegal political funding. In March 2004, Korea faced an emergency parliamentary session to impeach the president.

Under such political circumstances, a foreign onlooker noticed the



“Yes Yoko Ono” Exhibition

stability of the Korean civil society, which in the past was known to react dramatically to political shake-ups. In today's Korea, IT has infiltrated every aspect of society, and opportunities to come in contact with foreign cultures through exhibitions and cultural events held in major cities have increased significantly. Public opinion is diversifying in various spheres, including the issue of unification with North Korea, which hitherto has been considered as a national consensus.

In the past few years, Korean pop culture has propagated throughout Asia, providing the Korean administration the confidence to remove the long observed ban on Japanese culture. Not only does this clearly indicate the maturity and openness of the Korean society, but it foreshadows even further greater developments in the Japan-Korea relationship in the future.

2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

In 2003, the 2002 FIFA World Cup and the Year of Japan-ROK National Exchange came to an end, putting things "back to normal" in terms of cultural exchange with Japan. Significantly, in this year, the Korean administration resumed its movement to lift the ban on Japanese culture, which had been interrupted by the appearance of a controversial Japanese history textbook in 2001 and of the Japanese government officials' visits to the Yasukuni Shrine.

The intimacy and openness of the exchanges between Japan and Korea today can largely be attributed to the diversification of the Korean society. As people's interest in Japan became diverse and deeper, information on individual subjects such as "lifestyle," "food" and "fashion" were imported in larger quantities. At the same time, in Japan, there has been a boom of things Korean, triggered by the popularity of several Korean films and pop stars. Interest in Japan among the Koreans is more subdued, yet it is steadily spreading.

When President Roh Moo-hyun visited Japan in June 2003, he stated in a Korea-Japan joint communiqué that "Korea shall expand the admission of Japanese popular culture in order to activate cultural exchange." The 4th movement to lift the ban was announced in September and December, to be executed in January 2004. In the same communiqué, it was also announced that the year 2005, marking the 40th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-Korea diplomatic relations, should be designated as the "Japan-Korea Friendship Year 2005." Exchanges between the two countries will be promoted at all levels throughout this year.



"Ikko Tanaka's Posters" Exhibition

3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, Seoul

<Activity policies>

The Japan Foundation, Seoul, in its second year after its official opening in 2002, placed priority in building networks with institutes and individuals in fields most relevant to the Foundation's activities. Emphasis was also laid on publicity, in order to increase the number of qualified applications to its programs. In order to maintain the momentum from "Year of Japan-ROK National Exchange 2002", the Center fully utilized its grant programs to support projects in the fields where dialogue between Japan and Korea is most desirable.

<Examples of FY2003>

● "Yes Yoko Ono" Exhibition (June to September 2003, Seoul)

The large-scale retrospective exhibition introducing 40 years of artistic activities by Yoko Ono drew a large audience and attracted much press coverage. The number of visitors reached 62,200, exceeding that of the Picasso Exhibition sponsored by the Samsung Art Museum. Its reviews appeared in fine arts magazines, newspapers, and on TV, and its turnout was remarked as being exceptionally successful for a contemporary art exhibition. The exhibition was shown in Tokyo from April to June 2004.

● "Retrospective of Japanese Films" (March 2003, Seoul)

This event was co-organized by the Japan Foundation, the National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo and the Korean Film Material Institute, as an exchange project with the "Korean Films: The Glorious 1960s" retrospective (held from November to December 2002 in Tokyo). The retrospective presented fifteen works by fifteen Japanese filmmakers who were active in the 1950s, the so-called golden age of Japanese films. Jointly held was a forum inviting specialists on Japanese film. The number of visitors reached 4,631, exceeding the average attendance of Japanese



"Retrospective of Japanese Films" Exhibition



film showings in Seoul.

- **“Ikko Tanaka’s Posters” Exhibition (August to September 2003, Seoul)**

Fifty-two posters designed by Ikko Tanaka opened a series of exhibitions and events introducing the graphic designs of post-war Japan. “Sankei Kanze Noh” and “Japanese Dance,” along with original typography, were among the major works exhibited. As related projects, a lecture by Professor Hiroshi Kashiwagi of Musashino Art University and a design book exhibition were held to provide an in-depth view of Japanese graphic design. Since poster exhibitions were not common in Korea, this show attracted a huge amount of attention, and the number of visitors reached 3,607.

- **International Academic Conference “Clarification of Japanese Studies Research Methods” (July 2003, Seoul)**

In the first international academic conference held by the “Japanese Studies Association of Korea,” or the joint organization of leading groups in Japanese studies in Korea, around 400 scholars from Japan and Korea participated to discuss new directions for Japanese studies. Newspapers and other media gave the conference extensive coverage, describing it as “the first comprehensive academic event held with a systematic approach to Japanese studies.”

China

The Japan Foundation, Beijing

1. General

Soon after the new administration of President Hu Jin Tao and Premier Wen Jia Bao was inaugurated at the National People’s Congress in March 2003, China faced severe challenges imposed by the outbreak of SARS. Following Guangzhou and Hong Kong, human contraction of SARS was reported in Beijing. During the period from late April to early May, the sense of emergency was such in that the streets of the capital city were nearly empty during the day. The adverse affects of SARS on China’s economy was much feared; however, the booming economy recovered by late 2003. It has since continued to grow rapidly, especially in the coastal regions.

China has been taking a realistic approach in diplomacy, with economic development as its priority. Its strategy has begun shifting to multilateral diplomacy, as shown by the country’s recent

approach to Southeast Asia and India. China’s presence in the international community is growing steadily, and President Hu was invited to the G8 Summit held in France. In February 2004, China played an important role as a host of the six-nation talks on North Korea.

Japan-China relations were unstable during this year, however, with sensitive issues surfacing throughout the year. Although 2003 marked the 25th anniversary of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between the two countries, compared to the “Japan year” and “China year” events held in 2002 in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of normalization of Japan-China relations, there was a visible lack of enthusiasm.

In Chinese cities, there is a growing population of those who can afford to spend more on education, entertainment and leisure. The number of middle-class families, who enjoy vacations and buy family cars, is increasing. On the other hand, the income disparities between coastal cities and farming villages are becoming a serious problem.

2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

In the first half of 2003, all scheduled events were cancelled due to SARS. In autumn, however, a concentrated number of events were presented successively. In particular from September to November, performances introducing the first-class art of Japan were held one after another, such as *Tenpyo no Iraka* by the Zenshin-za in Beijing and Yangzhou and *Swan Lake* by the Matsuyama Ballet in Beijing and Shanghai (both recipients of overseas performance grants by the Japan Foundation). Ura Senke (tea ceremony) school, Ikenobo (flower arrangement) school, the Japan Music Information Center and other private groups who reside in China and conduct activities to popularize Japanese culture steadily continue their activities. Cultural exchange projects tend to be affected by political incidents, but the main issue for the future is how to direct these achievements to continuous mutual understanding.

3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, Beijing

<Activity policies>

- Support for intellectual exchange with scholars and young leaders in China

The Foundation supports intellectual exchange between Japan and China and among Asian nations. In addition to researchers of



Lecture on Japanese movies

Japanese studies, the Foundation aims to reach out to those engaged in European and American studies, as well as international relations, which are increasingly popular subjects in China. The Foundation also aims to expand the network of researchers, businessmen, NPO members and others who may become leaders in the future.

- Training researchers of Japanese studies and building an information network

Another important project conducted by the Foundation is training the researchers of Japanese studies who are fluent in Japanese and who specialize in various fields of humanity and social sciences. The Beijing Center for Japanese Studies (see p.55) moved to a new facility constructed through Japanese ODA funding in September 2003 and is expected to have improved functions for transmitting information in Japanese studies to all corners of China through its library, etc. The Center of Japanese Studies at Nankai University, which the Foundation has been supporting as one of the base institutes for Japanese studies, was raised to the status of an Institute in April 2003 and is expected to contribute further to the development of Japanese studies.

- Meeting diversified needs in Japanese-Language

Japanese-Language advisors dispatched by the Foundation help strengthen the support for Japanese-Language education in secondary schools by holding workshops in Beijing. They also work to build the network of the Japanese-Language education in universities and other higher education institutes. The Foundation also provides assistance to young Japanese-Language teachers who are working in secondary schools in the northeast region.

- Introduction of “real” Japan

In 2003, the Foundation held film screenings, lectures and a photo exhibition with an aim to appeal to the younger generation.

- Project development in major local cities

With an objective to expand its programs beyond Beijing, the Foundation has dispatched presenters or Japanese culture to major local cities, held touring exhibitions and proactively promoted its projects in collaboration with the Japanese Consulate.

<Examples of FY2003>

- **Lecture and showing of Japanese films (November 19 – 20, 2003, Center of International Cultural Exchange in China, Beijing)**

In 2003, the Foundation co-hosted with the Center of International Cultural Exchange in China a lecture on Japanese films by Professor Inuhiko Yomota of Meiji Gakuin University. Two films, *Kids Return* and *Shiko Funjatta*, were shown before the lecture.

Over 200 people attended, most of which were people in the film industry and students of the Japanese-Language. The in-depth questions asked at the Q&A session revealed the audience’s strong interest in Japanese films and animations. Local magazines, such as *Films Today* and *TV Today*, carried special articles on this event. Many commented that it was a good opportunity to deepen the understanding of Japanese films, since there had been no similar opportunities in the past. This event toured to Shanghai, Shenyang and Ulan Bator.

- **Photograph exhibition “Capturing the Beauty of Japan” (December 12 – 21, 2003, exhibition hall of the Shan Xi Provincial Library, Xi’an)**

The Foundation held a photograph exhibition titled “Capturing the Beauty of Japan” in Xi’an, jointly with the Center of International Cultural Exchange of China and the Center of Japan-China Cultural Exchange of Shan Xi Province. Since the exhibition was held in an easily accessible library in the academic district of the city, it received a huge response with as many as 13,500 visitors. The incident at the Xi Bei University that had occurred prior to the opening of the exhibition created some apprehension at first. Nevertheless, the exhibition ended successfully, owing to the PR efforts by the co-hosts and to the organizational scheme. This exhibition also toured to Chang Chun (November 3 – 10, Chang Chun International Conference Center) and He Fei (November 25 – December 3, He Fei Ya Ming Art Museum).

- **Seminars for Japanese-Language teachers in secondary schools (February 4 – 6, 2004, Wuhan Foreign Language Institute / Wuhan, February 11 – 13, the Japan Foundation, Beijing)**

The Japanese-Language advisors dispatched by the Foundation and the Course Teaching Material Institute of China co-hosted a seminar for Japanese-Language teachers in junior and senior high schools. The seminar was held for the first time in the southern district of China, thanks to the cooperation of the Wuhan Foreign Language Institute. At Wuhan, 25 secondary-school Japanese-Language teachers attended from two directly governed cities and eight provinces in the Hua Dong, Hua Zhong and Hua Nan regions, and they all displayed a great deal of enthusiasm. At the seminar in Beijing, 41 Japanese-Language teachers from Hua Dong region attended. Both seminars indicated the Center’s support programs for Japanese-Language in the secondary school level have taken root in the course of five years since the dispatch of the first Japanese-Language advisor.



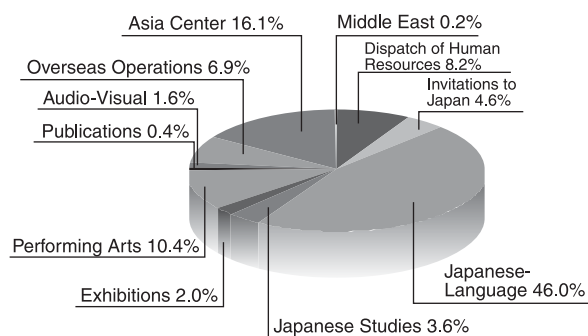
Touring exhibition “Capturing the beauty of Japan”



Seminar for Japanese-Language teachers in secondary schools

Southeast Asia

Abstract



Total amount of operations: 1,554 million yen

The operational expenses in the Southeast Asia amounted to 1,554 million yen.

The year 2003 was designated “Japan-ASEAN Exchange Year 2003” at the Japan-ASEAN Summit, and a large number of events were conducted in various fields, such as politics, economy, society, education, and culture. The Japan Foundation conducted over 150 projects to “create a sense of unity in Japan and ASEAN countries through cultural exchange”.

The “J-ASEAN Pops Concert” was attended by a total of 14,000 people in Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Bangkok and Yokohama, providing opportunities for youths across South East Asia and in Japan to deepen mutual understanding through pop music. The Asian Cartoon Exhibition “Beyond the Surface,” an exhibition of contemporary Japanese craft, and “Painting for Joy: Japanese Paintings in the 1990s” also toured in the region in 2003. The English-language newspaper *Nation* in Thailand remarked on the success of the Japanese cultural events in 2003 and commented that cultural institutes of other countries should be inspired by the initiative taken by the Japanese. Also in 2003, the Foundation invited the artistic director of the Actors’ Studio in Malaysia to Japan and organized theater staff training workshops, as part of its activity to promote collaborative projects.

The Foundation has continued to introduce the cultures of Southeast Asian countries to Japan through various

programs, among which are the “Southeast Asian Modern Art” Exhibition, “Southeast Asian Film Festival 2003”, “Asia in Comics: the World of Female Cartoonists in Asia” Exhibition, the Asian Authors Lecture Series commemorating Takeshi Kaiko, a lecture by Cambodian author Pal Vannaireaku, and the Asia Leadership Fellow Program and Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP).

In the field of Japanese-Language, which occupies half of the overall expenditure in this region, the Foundation conducted training for teachers, supported the development of teaching materials, offered opportunities for information exchange and network building among teachers, and provided support in and outside of the capital cities. As for Japanese studies, the Foundation supported the “Regional Convention on Japanese Studies in Asian Countries” and the “Conference of Representatives of Japanese Studies Institute in Indonesia” at Thammasat University, Thailand. This year also saw the first doctoral degree awarded in Japanese studies (business management) in South East Asia, at the graduate school of Indonesian University.

■ Report by overseas offices

Thailand

The Japan Foundation, Bangkok

1. General

The Thai Rak Thai Party led by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra won an overwhelming parliamentary majority in the 2001 general election. In March 2003, the administration reorganized the coalition and increased its seats in parliament to 365 (73%), resulting in top-down policy making.

Under these circumstances, the APEC Summit was held in Bangkok in October 2003. The political leaders discussed economic issues, anti-terrorism measures, security issues, etc., and adopted the promotion of trade and investment and reinforcement of human security as central themes of their communiqué.

The Thai economy had recovered from the Asian economic crisis occurred in 1997 and was seeing a steady growth. Constructions

of buildings were resumed, and a large-scale project was carried out on the northern side of the Siam Station, which were signs of an active economy.

In 2003 and 2004, the Tourism Authority of Thailand hosted the Bangkok International Film Festival, showing over 150 films at five different locations and attracting a great amount of much attention.

A new law on reorganization of the administrative offices was promulgated in July 2003, and the former Ministry of Education, University Ministry and the Office of the National Education Commission were merged to become the new Ministry of Education. The new ministry will decide on the policies and strategies at the national level and support the regional administrative offices, and the regional offices will adapt these policies to local education.

2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

The major topic on cultural exchange between Japan and Thailand in FY2003 was “Japan-ASEAN Exchange Year 2003”. There were as many as 74 official Japan-ASEAN exchange projects according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 12 of which were organized or co-hosted by the Japan Foundation, Bangkok. Each of these 12 projects was introduced on Thai TV, which helped promote the Foundation as an “organization that conducts high-quality cultural exchange projects.”

Large-scale productions of performing arts were presented, including the Asian Fantasy Orchestra Tour 2003 (June), *Gauche the Cellist* by the Opera Theater Konnyaku-za (July), *Memorandum* by Dumb Type in Bangkok (September), J-ASEAN Pops Concert in Bangkok (October), and *Invisible Man* by Mizu to Abura (November), and all of these productions attracted large audiences with the cooperation of local media.

Considering the development of businesses related to performing arts in Thailand, the demand for arts and cultural exchange is expected to grow even larger in the future. The role of the Foundation should shift from being the host or co-host of the production, to that of the coordinator. The Foundation will be expected to be the matchmaker between Japanese and Thai organizations.

3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, Bangkok

<Activity policies>

The Foundation conducted the following activities, after considering (1) reinforcement of unity among ASEAN member countries and cooperation with Northeast Asian countries, (2) promotion of decentralization and restructuring of the Thai educational system, and (3) observation of new cultural activities that pursue “Thaiflikeness” alongside with traditional culture, and the past achievements of the Japan Foundation, Bangkok.

- Improvement of information transmission capability by reinforcing the website functions to strengthen the presence of the Foundation and to reveal its existence as a core institute for cultural exchange between Japan and Thailand and throughout the Indochina region
- Support resolutions of issues that require regional measures through cooperation between Japan and Thailand and between Japan and the entire Indochina region in all social strata from the intellectual to grassroots level. The Foundation gives particular consideration to cooperation in information provision and activities in cultural exchanges between Japan and Thailand, cooperation in social contribution activities of government agencies and NGOs, promotion of intellectual exchange projects and regional development as an intermediary function. The Foundation supported traditional bilateral projects as well as cooperation with regional studies in the Japanese studies field.
- The Foundation supported fine arts activities in Thailand as a preparatory stage for structuring an artists’ network between Japan and Thailand, as well as between Japan and the rest of the Indochina region. The Foundation opened its art gallery and hall to the public, supported pioneering art exchange projects, offered opportunities for former Japan Foundation fellows to present their experiences in Japan, and conducted a collaboration project between Japanese and Thai artists.
- The Foundation conducted projects with special consideration given to cooperation with local regions and neighboring countries, and it conducted headquarters projects in various regions.
- The Foundation continued support for Japanese-Language at secondary schools and supported the activities of the local Japanese-Language teachers’ association, which are becoming increasingly active.



J-ASEAN Pops

Chika Yuri and Briohny: Image song artists from Japan and Thailand



J-ASEAN Pops Bangkok performance

<Examples of FY2003>

- **J-ASEAN Pops performance in Bangkok (October 26, 2003)**

The Japan Foundation and GMM Grammy Public Co., Ltd. co-hosted the J-ASEAN Pops Concert at the Impact Arena in Bangkok, with the cooperation of the Japanese Embassy of Thailand, Thai Air, etc. Chika Yuri, Johnny's Jr. and Masahiro Nitta (shamisen player) participated from Japan, while Briohny and other popular artists participated from Thailand. The concert was a great success, with attendance exceeding 7,000.

- **Publication of the Japanese-Language textbook *Akiko to Tomodachi* for students in upper secondary schools**

The Japanese-Language textbook *Akiko to Tomodachi*, which had been prepared jointly by the officials of higher education and secondary education institutes in Thailand and the teachers at the Foundation since 2000, was completed. This textbook was designed for a 3-year course of 6 classes a week in the upper secondary school, and it consists of 6 volumes of textbooks, workbooks, teacher's guides and cassette tapes. The odd-numbered volumes, to be used in the first semester of each grade, went on sale in March 2004 and are available at local bookshops.

- **Joint seminar for Masters course students at Thammasat and Chulalongkorn University (March 24, 2004)**

Thammasat University and Chulalongkorn University, two of the most prestigious universities in Thailand, started Japanese studies early and established a Masters course for Japanese studies in 1997 and 1999, respectively. A seminar on Japanese studies was held at Thammasat University with invitations sent to the alumni and relevant personnel. The seminar was attended by major researchers of Japanese studies from the two universities, and after a review on the history of Japanese studies in Thailand, several presentations were made, and discussions were held on how to proceed with Japanese studies in the future.

Indonesia

The Japan Foundation, Jakarta

1. General

The year 2003 was a highly unstable period for the country in terms of security. Following the terrorist bomb explosion in Bali in October 2002, another terrorist bombing occurred at a high-

class American-affiliated hotel in Jakarta in August 2003, killing 12 persons. Immediately after this incident, several buildings received bomb threats, including the building in which the Foundation is located. On the other hand, in rural regions, peace talks between the Indonesian government and Aceh Liberation Movement (GAM) had ended unsuccessfully. Marshal Law was invoked in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam State in May, and the National Army took over control of GAM. Casualties included members of GAM, National Army soldiers, policemen and many civilians.

From the social aspect, elections for the members of parliament and local parliament were held in April 5, 2003, as a preliminary for the first popular elections for president and vice-president scheduled for July 5, 2004. This was the first popular presidential election in Indonesia.

The 9th ASEAN Summit was held in Bali and the "ASEAN Union Statement II" was adopted, which declares the participating countries' future union in (1) security measures, (2) economic measures and (3) social and cultural measures. Action plans were reviewed for achieving the structuring of the ASEAN Union by the target date of 2020.

2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

Various cultural exchange projects were held during Japan-ASEAN Exchange Year 2003, and the Japan-Indonesia Friendship Festival was held in July around Jakarta. The government and civilian joint organization, "Japan-ASEAN Exchange Year: Monthly Execution Committee of Indonesia" was established in September 2002, and this Committee took leadership in conducting over 30 performances, exhibitions, film festivals, civilian exchange events, festivals, speech contests, sports exchange projects, seminars and symposiums.

In local cities other than Jakarta, Surabaya in East Java held the first "Surabaya Yosakoi (Kochi folk dance) Festival" to strengthen exchange between the citizens of Surabaya and its sister city Kochi.

Cultural exchange with Japan at the local community level is not as active in Indonesia as it is in Europe or the U.S.A., but it is gradually increasing. This could be said for most states and cities that have sister cities in Japan.



Japanese-Language textbook *Akiko to Tomodachi*



Joint seminar at Thammasat and Chulalongkorn University

3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, Jakarta

<Activity policy>

- Efforts for “Japan-ASEAN Exchange Year 2003”
- Improvement of accessibility for the general public

The Foundation made public relations efforts to reach out to a wider public. It strengthened the library facility at the Foundation, which boasts as many as 30,000 visitors a year, and carried out a “school visit” project.

- Expansion of Japanese studies and intellectual dialogues

The Foundation hosted various lectures presented by leading figures in humanities and social sciences, organized events at Islamic universities to introduce Japanese culture, and strengthened the ties among Japanese studies personnel at higher education institutes in Indonesia.

- Promotion of locally initiated projects

The Foundation supported various projects initiated by local organizations to promote understanding of Japanese culture. The Foundation also supported projects to promote Indonesian culture, particularly through support of young artists and intellectuals, in cooperation with the British Council and other foreign cultural institutes.

<Examples of FY2003>

- **Japan-Indonesia Friendship Festival (July 1 – 31, 2003, Jakarta)**

The Festival included an array of cultural events, including a Japanese-Language speech contest for the general public, an ikebana exhibition, Japanese and Indonesian children’s painting exhibition, Japanese Film Week, the 5th and 6th Asian Cartoon joint exhibition, the Jakarta Newspaper Cup International Go match, the “Tsuru to Kame” Tsugaru Jamisen concert, and performance by the Opera Theater Konnyaku-za.

At the “Tsuru to Kame” concert, the Foundation held a joint concert featuring tsugaru jamisen player Katsuaki Sawada, folksinger Shigesato Kizu and the “New Indonesia Ensemble,” a contemporary music group from Indonesia who is highly reputed overseas for its modern arrangement of the traditional music of Melayu Island. This was the final event of the Friendship Festival and highly appreciated not only by the Indonesians but also by the Japanese people residing in Indonesia.

The Foundation coordinated the performance of the Opera Theater Konnyaku-za with a subsidy by Arts Plan 21 of the Agency of Culture. This was the second performance here by the Konnyaku-za, and it was highly reputed with 90% attendance every day.

- **J-ASEAN Pops Concert in Jakarta (October 22, 2003, Jakarta Convention Center)**

Appearances were made by The BOOM, Hiroshi Takano, INSPi and Chika Yuri from Japan, and Inul Daratista, a superstar in the Dangdut industry, and AB Three from Indonesia. The Jakarta Convention Center Plenary Hall was packed with about 4,000 fans, and the concert was a huge success. The local media gave favorable coverage and the Indonesian National Broadcast Station broadcast the recording of the concert. The Foundation cooperated with various media prior to the concert and helped broadcast *Tokyo Beat* from a local FM station to popularize J-pop to its listeners.

- **Preparation of high school Japanese-Language textbooks (April 1, 2003 – March 31, 2004, Jakarta, etc.)**

The curriculum for elementary and secondary schools in Indonesia is reviewed every 10 years. The Foundation started this project, which complies with the new curriculum to be introduced in 2004, jointly with the Secondary Education Section, Elementary and Secondary Education Department, National Education Ministry of Indonesia. After setting the general outline of the project in June 2003, the Foundation held subsequent meetings to discuss the syllabus for second-year students, led by teachers recommended by the high school Japanese-Language teachers association in 6 districts (Jakarta metropolitan region, West Java Province, Central Java/Yogyakarta Special Province, East Java Province, Bali Province and North Sulawesi Province) 5 to 6 times in the second half of 2003. Young Japanese-Language teachers dispatched by the Japan Foundation supported the meetings at each district. The Foundation held a 6-day workshop from January 26 to 31, 2004 and put together the syllabuses from the district meetings at the Secondary Education Section in Jakarta. After introduction of the new curriculum in February, the teachers themselves must prepare the syllabus and teaching materials, a difficult task due to problems related to the capabilities and economic conditions of the high school teachers here and the lack of appropriate teaching materials. They urgently require technical support by specialists and young Japanese-Language teachers from the Japan Foundation, as well as financial aid from the Foundation.

Malaysia

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

1. General

The most prominent aspect of Malaysia in 2003 was its continuous economic growth. The annual trade balance was 75,040 million ringgit led by the electronic and electric industries, and export to the Middle East, China and India increased by 20 to 40% in addition to Japan and other major trading partners. The Malaysian real economic growth rate in 2003 was 5.2%, exceeding the government's forecast of 4.5% partly due to the favorable conditions in civilian consumption spending and invited investments. In the tourism industry in Malaysia, the total number of incoming foreign tourists exceeded 10 million in 2000, and it reached 13.3 million (354,500 from Japan) in 2002, but in 2003, it decreased to 10.5 million due to SARS and the war in Iraq. Malaysia hosted the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit meeting, ministerial and summit meetings of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the largest Islamic organization in the world, and played a role in the international relations field. The year 2003 was also a year of administration change. Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad who had held the power from July 1980 to October 2003 passed the baton to Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, who carries on Mahathir's "Look East" policy.

2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

Japan and Malaysia have experienced favorable relations for over 23 years with their Look East policy. Various worthy cultural exchange projects were conducted between Japan and Malaysia in FY2003 as Japan ASEAN exchange commemoration projects. Among the grand total of 740 projects (as of the end of 2003), 86 were held in Malaysia, which is second only to Indonesia with 93 events. The population of Indonesia is around 220 million and that of Malaysia is about 24 million; when the ratio of projects against population is taken into consideration, commemorating events in Malaysia weighs heavily in the statistics.

June 2003 was Malaysia Month upon agreement between Japan and Malaysia. Among the commemorating events held during this month, projects by the Japan Foundation occupied a half. These projects received full support from the Japanese Embassy of Malaysia and other diplomatic missions in Malaysia.



Japanese-Language seminar

3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

<Activity policies>

The Foundation held the following policies in its cultural exchange projects for FY2003.

- Commemorating events for Japan-ASEAN Exchange Year
- Training of core promotion groups in Japan-Malaysia cultural exchange
- Support of preparatory Japanese-Language with the objective of nurturing human resources through the Look East policy of Malaysia
- Nurturing human resources to be the core of Japanese-Language in Malaysia.
- Reinforcement of the network required for local execution and independence of Japanese-Language education in Malaysia
- Support of Japanese studies and Asia Center projects
- Effective usage of local facilities and offering of expertise for promotion of arts exchange
- Support of activities of local exhibition and performance groups

<Examples of FY2003>

● Japanese-Language seminar

The Foundation held a seminar entitled "Let's think about textbooks and syllabuses" in 2003 in consideration of indirect support for syllabus revision for secondary education to be implemented in 2004 by the Ministry of Education of Malaysia. The Foundation invited lecturers from Australia and Thailand to determine the actual conditions of syllabus preparation at the secondary school level in neighboring countries, and the seminar discussed problems and pending issues that they faced during syllabus preparation.

At the working group meetings held at the same time, teachers at secondary schools, higher educational institutes, preparatory education and civilian educational institutes gave presentations on the status of textbook preparation and the usage in Malaysia. Information exchange in this field had not been active, and the seminar offered a good opportunity for the participating teachers to exchange practical ideas.



J-ASEAN Pops Concert in Kuala Lumpur

● **J-ASEAN Pops performance in Kuala Lumpur**

On June 25, the Foundation co-hosted with Radio and Television Malaysia (RTM), with cooperation from the Japanese Embassy of Malaysia and Malaysian Airlines, the main event of the Japan-ASEAN Exchange Year: the J-ASEAN Pops Concert. The concert was publicized heavily in newspapers and on radios. As popular artists from Japan and Malaysia were to appear, a cue of fans appeared in front of the RTM building early in the morning. The newspapers of Malaysia gave a highly favorable review on the concert, at which Masaki Ueda, Ning Baizura, Chika Yuri, Siti Nurhaliza and other singers from Japan and Malaysia sang together. The concert was later broadcast nationwide on Channel 1 of RTM.

● **Japanese animation film festival**

The Foundation showed notable animation films from the 1950s to 90s in Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Kota Kinabalu and introduced the changes in Japanese animation films over the past 50 years. Interest in animation films is generally high in Malaysia, and over 2,000 viewers visited the hall in the National Museum in Kuala Lumpur during the 5-day festival. Some were animation fans from remote cities, who learned of this event from the newspapers. Animation filmmakers also visited this festival with cooperation from the Malaysia Animation Association. Their interest and evaluation of Japanese animation films is extremely high, and many watched the films repeatedly. The film festival also provided the Foundation a good PR opportunity, for many of the visitors were newcomers to the Foundation's events.

The Philippines

The Japan Foundation, Manila

1. General

After President Arroyo declared her intention to run for the next presidential election, the popular movie star Fernando Poe Junior also officially announced his candidacy, and the political interest suddenly built up toward the presidential election in May 2004. During this period, there was a terrorist bomb explosion at the Davao Airport (April) and an attempted coup d'état by the National Army in central Manila (July). There has been no obvious progress in the resolution of security problems, a pending issue for the Arroyo administration.



Japanese animation film festival

The foreign exchange rate of the peso against the US dollar remained weak, due to the war in Iraq, the affects of SARS, and the political confusion prior to the presidential election.

2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

In Japan-ASEAN Exchange Year 2003, many Japanese theatrical groups toured Southeast Asia. They frequently performed in the Philippines and were received favorably. Examples include *Gauche the Cellist* by the Opera Theater Konnyaku-za and *Prism* by the theatrical group Kageboshi.

At the Japan-Philippines Friendship Festival held annually in March, local NGO groups planned joint performances in response to an invitation by the Embassy, indicating new potentials for the Festival's organizational scheme.

As the Philippines' younger generation, inspired by TV programs and animation films, becomes increasingly interested in the Japanese-Language, and as negotiations proceed between national governments toward a free trade treaty, there is a growing demand for practical Japanese-Language education.

The movie *The Last Samurai* released in the winter of 2003 attracted a large crowd in the Philippines as well, and the interest in traditional Japanese values has risen.

3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, Manila

<Activity policies>

The number of entrants to Japan from the Philippines is the largest among the Southeast Asian countries, and the Foundation conducted operations with consideration to the following points:

- In addition to the current support for Japanese-Language education at schools, the Foundation should improve the content of education with consideration to the new needs for IT engineers, nurses and elderly caregivers.
- The Foundation would increase joint works and exchange between Japan and the Philippines in the performing arts field as well as culture-introducing projects through movies, etc. that appeal to the younger generation.
- The Foundation would introduce the Japanese "culture of humor" to express a cheerful image.
- The Foundation would promote operations that support the local NGO with consideration to exchange with the entire South East Asian region in various fields.

<Examples of FY2003>

- **Rakugo (traditional Japanese comic story telling) in English (August 2003, CAP Development Art Center, Cebu and the University of the Philippines, Philippine Cultural Center, metropolitan Manila)**

English performances of rakugo was produced by producer Kimie Oshima and performed by Shofukutei Kakusho, Katsura Asakichi, Katsura Kaishi and Hayashiya Kazujo in Cebu and Manila. After an introduction by Oshima, each rakugo teller performed rakugo in English. There was much audience participation, endless laughter and applause from the full house. The most appreciated performance was “puppet rakugo”, where Kakusho, an official cultural ambassador of the Agency of Culture, worked puppets attached to his knees and shins.

Rakugo performed in English is an extremely effective event in the Philippines where English is widely spoken and cheerfulness is a national characteristic. The event was successful in introducing the Japanese “culture of humor”.

- **Emersion weekend for Japanese-Language teachers (September 19 – 21, 2003, Eugenio Lopez Center, Antipolo)**

This project was intended to promote network building among Japanese-Language teachers. This was a 3-day session, open to the graduates of the Japan Foundation’s Japanese-Language training program and the teachers from affiliated language schools. Special presentations were given by two graduates of the Japanese-Language leader training program invited from Malaysia, and also by a specialist in curriculum development at the Education Department of the University of the Philippines. Group discussions were conducted by the Filipino facilitators, and the teachers shared ideas about classroom activities in a relaxed environment. Sixteen Filipino teachers of Japanese-Language attended this event.

At this training session, the first-year graduates of the Japanese-Language leader training program took the initiative in supporting the other Filipino teachers. It was a promising project for voluntary training in the future.

- **Japanese Film Festival (September – October 2003, Philippine Cultural Center, etc., Metropolitan Manila; November 2003, Ayala Center, Cebu; March 2004, the University of the Philippines, etc., Metropolitan Manila)**

At the Film Festival in the first half of this year, seven works by director Takeshi Kitano, namely *Kikujiro*, *Hana-Bi*, *Violent Cap*, *Sonatine*, *A Scene at the Sea*, *Kids Return*, *Boiling Point* and *Southern Winds*, and five films from ASEAN countries were

shown. As director Kitano had recently won the Silver Lion Prize at the Venetia Film Festival with his *Zato Ichi*, the Film Festival featuring his works attracted much media coverage.

At the Film Festival in March 2004, the Foundation showed five films as a “Samurai Movie Fair”, namely *Tsubaki Sanjuro* (directed by Akira Kurosawa), *Zato Ichi* (directed by Kenji Misumi), *Furinkazan* (directed by Hiroshi Inagaki), *Ame Agaru* (directed by Takashi Koizumi) and *Jazz Daimyo* (directed by Kihachi Okamoto) as one of the Japan-Philippines Friendship Festival events. Since it immediately followed the release of the movie *The Last Samurai*, many people enjoyed the different images of “samurai” presented in Japanese films.



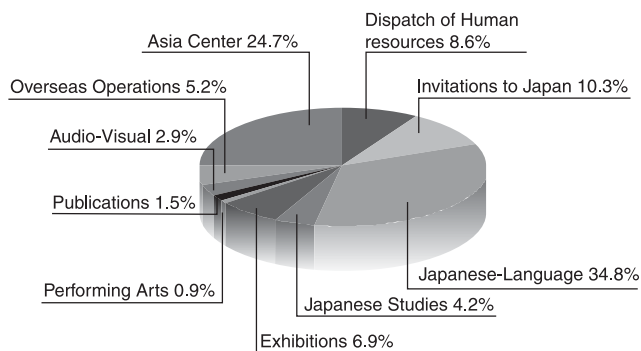
Rakugo in English



A scene from the emersion weekend for Japanese-Language teachers

South Asia

Abstract



Total amount of operations: 287 million yen

The amount of operation expenses in South Asia was 287 million yen out of which the amount spent for programs in India was the largest at 175 million yen. The major operations in this region are Japanese-Language, human resource exchange and Asia Center programs.

In Japanese-Language education, the Foundation held seminars, donated teaching materials and supported speech contests. Experts who had been residing in India and Sri Lanka on long-term dispatch projects played central roles in these activities. The advisors at the Foundation's New Delhi office laid priority on forming a teachers' network, including those in the neighboring South Asian countries.

In arts exchange, the Foundation initiated the "South Asia Performing Arts Project", a joint production by directors in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. The Foundation has long been committed to the development of contemporary Asian performing arts, and has supported joint productions with the objective of promoting exchange among performing arts groups in Asia and creating an Asian-generated culture. The Foundation also organized touring exhibitions of "Japanese Prints 1950 to 1990" and "Kokeshi Dolls" in South Asian countries and participated in the 11th Asian Art Biennale in Bangladesh. In an effort to introduce Asia in Japan, the Foundation invited Jagath Weerasinghe from Sri Lanka as a panelist at the fine

arts seminar "Avant Garde in Asia".

In the field of intellectual exchange, the Foundation held events such as the "Asia Leadership Fellow Program", the "Japan-Indochina Philosophy Seminar", and "Japan-Indochina Authors' Caravan 2003".

■ Report by overseas offices

India

The Japan Foundation, New Delhi

1. General

In the political scene, state legislative elections were held in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Delhi and the BJP won in the three states except Delhi. Winning the state legislative elections and backed by the country's steady economic growth, the Vajpayee administration announced their plan to conduct the general election for the lower house before expiration of the term (October 2004), and President Abdul Kalam dissolved the lower house in February 2004.

In the diplomatic scene, relations with China improved slightly, and in particular economic relations are expanding. Prime Minister Vajpayee visited China in June and proclaimed the "statement on India-China relations and principles of comprehensive cooperation" and held a special representatives' meeting on the border issue in October 2003 and January 2004.

Relations with Pakistan showed signs of improvement. After a friendly statement by Prime Minister Vajpayee in April, the countries exchanged ambassadors and resumed bus, train and airplane traffic between the two countries. In January 2004, the summit conference between India and Pakistan was held after an interval of two and a half years.

2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

Honda's "Asimo" robot was presented at the official residence of the Japanese ambassador in September 2003, drawing a large number of people from the science and technology as well as cultural fields.

The 2nd Asian Performing Arts Festival in Delhi was held in November, sponsored by the four cities of Delhi, Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo. Ko Murobushi, Mika Kurosawa and Takao

Kawaguchi performed contemporary dance pieces and conducted workshops.

The Asian Buddhist Conference and the World Bamboo Conference were held in February and March 2004, respectively, and both events had attendance from Japan.

In the field of Japanese-Language education, in addition to the University of Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University, regional universities, such as Banaras Hindu University, Vishva Bharti University and Bangalore University have also started to offer Japanese-Language courses. As the IT business flourishes in India and economic relations with Japan have deepened in recent years, the demand for Japanese-Language education has intensified. Under these circumstances, the Indian government started a subsidy system to support students taking Japanese-Language courses.

3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, New Delhi

<Activity policies>

- Promotion of intellectual exchange and civilian exchange
- Support for Japanese-Language education with a rapidly increasing number of students
- Formation of an image of Japan well balanced between the traditional and contemporary
- Promotion of the image through media exchange, film showings, etc.
- Expansion of the target population and regions

<Examples of FY2003>

- **Introduction of Japanese culture at schools (April 19, 2003, Shrimati Ram Rati Gupta Women's Polytechnic, Saharanpur)**

Saharanpur is a regional city located about 200 km north of Delhi. The Foundation held Japanese cultural experience courses on origami, tea ceremony, flower arrangement, Japanese dance and Japanese calligraphy for the students and instructors at Shrimati Ram Rati Gupta Women's Polytechnic. The Foundation also held a film festival and showed the movies *Kikujiro* and *Rashomon*, to which about 400 students and instructors attended.

Currently, the Foundation's projects are mainly carried out in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore. It is essential to expand these projects to other local cities of India, considering the vast land and huge population of the country.

- **Contemporary dance performance (February 24, 2004, Shri Ram Centre, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata)**

Four dancers in the Setsuko Yamada and Biwa group performed contemporary dance and held a workshop with the dance group Bhumika based in Delhi. The performance was introduced on national TV and attendance was about 350.

For the citizens of Delhi and the dancers, this performance was the third opportunity to see Japanese contemporary dance, following the Tokyo Contemporary Dance Performance in 2002 (sponsored by the Japan Foundation) and at the Asian Performing Arts Festival in November 2003 (sponsored by the prefecture of Tokyo).

- **Japan Foundation Fellow Conference (March 19, 2004, India International Centre, Delhi)**

Researchers, artists and Japanese-Language educators who had visited Japan through the Foundation's programs were invited to attend a conference commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Foundation. In the conference, panelists reported the status of Japanese-Language, Japanese studies, intellectual exchange and fine arts in India today. Reports were followed by enthusiastic discussions among approximately 80 participants on the relations with Japan in each field and the future roles of the Japan Foundation.

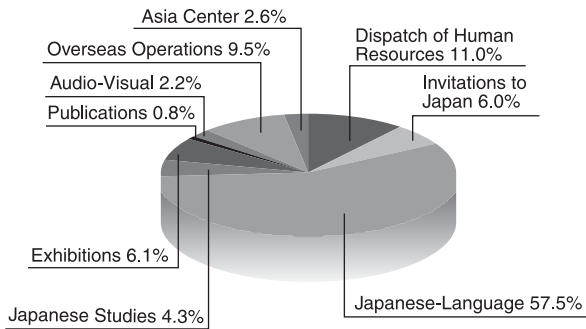
This conference, lasting the entire day, was also a reunion of the fellows of the Foundation. It is expected to be held every few years and take root as a forum to provide recommendations to the Foundation.



Japan Foundation Fellow Conference

Oceania

Abstract



Total amount of operations: 432 million yen

The amount of operation expenses in Oceania was 432 million yen, out of which the ratio of Japanese-Language was the highest, occupying 57.5%. According to the FY2003 survey on overseas Japanese-Language institutes, the number of students learning the Japanese-Language in Australia is 382,000, the third largest in the world after Korea and China. In Australia, the Foundation focuses on education for international understanding at elementary and secondary schools and long-distance education carried out by connecting online the remote areas across Australia. The Foundation dispatched Japanese-Language advisors to the Ministry of Education for each state and supported teachers training, speech contests and preparation of teaching materials. It should also be noted that the number of students learning the Japanese-Language in New Zealand is over 28,000, ranking eighth in the world.

In the island countries in Oceania, demand for Japanese-Language education arises from economic ties and tourism. The Foundation aims to meet these demands by donating teaching materials, holding speech contests and providing special Japanese-Language training for teachers and diplomats.

The "Conference for Representatives of Japanese Studies Institutes in Australia and New Zealand" hosted by the Foundation was attended by 20 representatives from higher education institutes which offer Japanese

studies. Discussions were held on the present status of Japanese studies, and it was pointed out that the conventional Japanese studies has been repositioned as part of a wider scope of Asian studies, as the reorganization of regional universities and research institutes proceeds. The conference provided a valuable opportunity to review the direction of future support for Japanese studies.

In the intellectual exchange field, the Foundation is making efforts toward the resolution of common issues in the Asia-Pacific region. The Foundation provided a grant to the international conference "Labor by Immigrants from South East Asia" sponsored by the New England University, as a good example of the experience a country (Australia) contributing the resolution of a common issue in the region.

■ Report by overseas offices

Australia

The Japan Foundation, Sydney

1. General

In March 2003, the Howard administration sent Australian military forces to Iraq, in the face of public opposition. The administration also intervened in the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and other island countries in the South Pacific where security and economic conditions had deteriorated, and announced a regional union concept for Oceania led by Australia and New Zealand. When President George W. Bush called Australia the "sheriff of the region", apprehension and criticism arose in other Asian countries.

As for relations with Japan, Prime Minister Howard visited Japan in July. Although both leaders reconfirmed the structuring of a "creative partnership" between Japan and Australia advocated at Prime Minister Koizumi's visit to Australia in the previous year, the FTA (free trade agreement) negotiation did not progress. Japan remains Australia's largest trade partner, but the ratio has been declining and the presence of Japan in Australian economy is less strong. Japanese enterprises have been withdrawing from the Australian market, especially in Sydney. On the other hand, the number of technical immigrants and students from Japan is increasing, and according to the 2001 census, the scale of the

Japanese community in Australia is as large as 25,000, an increase of 11% from the preceding 5 years. A commemorating ceremony was held in Orange, New South Wales to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first sister city agreement (Lismore, New South Wales and Yamato Takada, Nara) attended by officials and citizens of the two cities.

2. Cultural Exchange between Japan

In Australia, cultures brought by immigrants are alive in every scene of daily life in the large cities. Contemporary Japanese culture has taken root in various fields including the arts, films, manga, food and fashion. The success of the photograph exhibition “FRUiTS”, with the theme of Tokyo street fashion, and the performance of “Tokyo Note” by the theatrical group “Seinendan” in Melbourne is evidence of such conditions.

In the education field, NALSAS (National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools), representing the federal government’s policy of focusing on Asian languages, was terminated at the end of 2002. It was feared that the number of Japanese-Language institutes and students would be reduced and that Australians’ interest in the Asian nations would decline, but although the number of Japanese-Language institutes showed a gradual decrease, the number of students has increased from 310,000 in 1998 to 380,000 in 2003.

The actors of cultural exchange between Japan and Australia also vary. For instance, Australia ranks third after the United States and China in the number of sister city agreements with Japan (99 cases in 2003). There are many cases where Australian people interested in the traditional culture of Japan, such as flower arrangement, tea ceremony and martial arts, organize cultural groups and make efforts to propagate and promote them. Activities of Japanese artists in Australia are also ongoing, particularly in the fields of dance, performing arts, movies, fine arts and design, and joint performances with Australian artists are frequently held here.

3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, Sydney

<Activity policies>

As for support for Japanese-Language and Japanese studies that occupies the majority of operation spending, the Foundation focuses on improvement of teacher training, promotion of continued studies from elementary and secondary schools to higher education institutes and the formation of a network between the

library at the Foundation and libraries at the universities. In intellectual exchange projects, the Foundation’s major theme is how to cooperate with Australia and contribute to the resolution of common issues in the Asia-Pacific region. In the fine arts exchange projects, the Foundation coordinates and cooperates with international art festivals and film festivals, proactively utilizes subsidy projects and promotes fine arts exchange through the Japanese artists residing in Australia.

<Examples of FY2003>

- **“Four Seasons in Japanese Fine Arts” Exhibition (August 16 – October 26, 2003, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney)**

This exhibition was held at the Art Gallery of New South Wales jointly by the Japan Foundation, Agency of Culture and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. The total number of visitors to this exhibition was over 34,000, considerably exceeding the expected 20,000. A large number of visitors expressed their appreciation of the exhibits that had never been shown before in Australia, their admiration of the traditional culture of Japan with a long history, and appreciation of the delicate sensitivity of the Japanese for the four seasons.

- **Forum commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Japan Foundation, Sydney “Australians and Japalarians: Celebrating Cross-Cultural Transformations” (October 25, 2003, Power House Museum, Sydney)**

The Foundation invited fashion designer Akira Isogawa and restaurant chef Tetsuya Wakuda as keynote speakers for the conference and focusing on how the people of Japan and Australia transformed cultural differences into positive elements of exchange and creation.

- **The 7th Japanese Film Festival (September – November 2003, Canberra, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide and Sydney)**

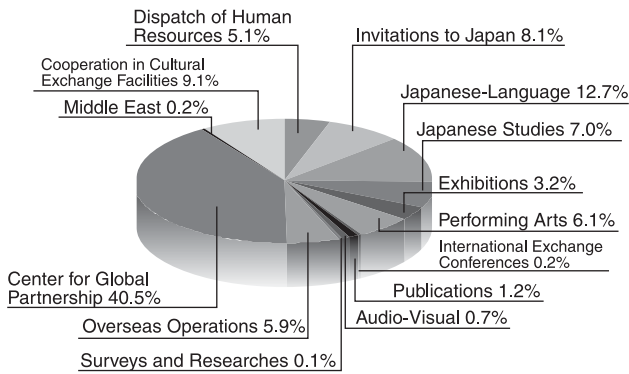
The Foundation showed the films *Spirited Away*, *Water Boys*, *Twenty-Four Eyes* and *All About Our House* in six cities in Australia. In Sydney, the event was jointly hosted by the Asia-Pacific Film Festival office and the Japanese Consulate in Sydney. Jiro Shindo, President of the Modern Movies Association, and film director Kaze Shindo were invited, and the films directed by Kaneto Shindo and Kaze Shindo were presented in a special showing. The Foundation also held a symposium on the current situation of film production and distribution in Japan and Australia. The event received positive reviews in Australian media.



Commemorating forum

North America

Abstract



Total amount of operations: 1,274 million yen

The expenditure for operations in North America in FY2003 was around 1,274 million yen. The expense for projects in the United States occupies the largest ratio in the total amount of expenses of the Japan Foundation. The expense for the operations in Canada remained about the same as in the previous year. FY2003 was the “150th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and the United States” and the “75th anniversary of the amity relations between Japan and Canada”.

In the intellectual exchange field, the Foundation held “Redefinition of the Japan-US Alliance” jointly with the Japan Society, New York, and the “Commemorative Symposium for the 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between Japan and Canada” jointly with the University of Toronto.

The Foundation also conducted the educational project “Snapshots from Japan: profiles of seven high school students”, which develops lesson plans to deepen the understanding of Japan in social studies classes using multimedia teaching materials.

In the Japanese studies field, the Foundation is improving the program with assessments and advice from the American Advisory Committee (AAC), and conducted a grant project for Japanese studies institutes jointly with the Association of Universities in Canada. The Foundation will conduct a survey on Japanese studies in North America this year, in order to improve effi-

ciency of its operations.

In culture and arts exchange, the Foundation hosted “Early Buddhist Art of Japan and Korea” jointly with the Japan Society, New York and the Korea Foundation, expanded cooperation with local cultural and fine arts institutes, and supported the “Art of Oribe and the Momoyama (late 16th century) culture” at the Metropolitan Museum of Arts. The Foundation also held music performances and lectures on animation films by dispatching experts to several locations. In an open invitation program for the United States entitled “Performing Arts Japan”, “Nomura Mansaku and his Mansaku-no-Kai Kyogen Company” and 6 other groups toured to 25 cities in the United States, which attracted over 20,000 people. The Foundation also conducted six joint projects including the collaboration between the Berkeley Symphony and Karen Tanaka.

The 21st joint conference of the Japan-US Cultural Education Exchange Conference (CULCON) was held in Sendai in November. The Foundation also conducted a symposium with the theme “The Role of Citizens in Dialogs Between Civilizations”.

Report by overseas offices

Canada

The Japan Foundation, Toronto

1. General

The year 2003 saw Canada facing several challenges, starting with an epidemic of SARS. The economic slump worsened, and Air Canada, the largest airline company in Canada, applied for the Company Rehabilitation procedure under the Bankruptcy Protection Law. Mad cow disease was found in Alberta, which resulted in a ban on the import of Canadian beef in Japan. In the political scene, Paul Martin assumed office as the 27th Prime Minister, replacing Jean Chretien who had been in office for ten years. Prime Minister Martin formed a new cabinet with three major promises: reinforcement of the social foundation, restructuring of the economy, and establishment of the role of Canada as a contributor to the international community. The GDP growth rate remained at 1.7%, 1.6 points below that of the previous year. In the cultural scene, Canadian films made remarkable achievements



“Early Buddhist Art of Japan and Korea”



“Art of Oribe and the Momoyama (late 16th century) culture”

in this year. *The Barbarian Invasions* directed by Denys Arcand won the Best Screenplay Award and the Best Actress Award at the Cannes International Film Festival as well as the Oscar for the Best Foreign Language Film. *Seducing Doctor Lewis* and *The Corporation* won the Drama Audience Award and Documentary Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival.

2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

Japanese pop culture enjoys continuous popularity, and the interest in traditional culture also remains high. A large scale project for 2003 was the Kyogen lecture demonstration, which toured eastern Canada (Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto). A group led by Katsura Utamaru performed rakugo in Toronto. Eve Egoyan, a leading pianist of Canada, gave the premier concert of new compositions by Jo Kondo and Mamoru Fujieda. Contemporary Japanese literature is also actively introduced. Kaori Ekuni attended the Annual International Authors Festival in Canada, and Gen-ichiro Takahashi participated in the reading series. A corner dedicated to graphic novels was set up in large bookshops, where translations of Japanese comic books are displayed in rows. Furthermore, the movie *Spirited Away* was broadcast on cable TV, the *Cowboy Be-bop* was released in movie theaters and a total of 39 Japanese films were shown at the three major film festivals of Canada (Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto). At the Toronto Film Festival, *Zato Ichi* directed by Takeshi Kitano won the best movie award in the popular vote.

3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, Toronto

<Activity policies>

Canada has a vast land area 27 times larger than Japan, in which the French-language region around Quebec and the surrounding English-language regions co-exist. The country also holds a multicultural policy and promotes co-existence of various ethnic cultures. The Foundation endeavors to carry out its activities effectively, with consideration given to those characteristics, and with cooperation from public halls and institutes of Canada. In arts and culture exchange, the Foundation focused on projects with high propagation effects, in cooperation with Canadian cultural and art institutes. In Japanese-Language and Japanese studies, the Foundation focused on projects that would contribute to the development of human resources and to the formation of a network of specialists across Canada. For special projects in Japanese studies,

the Foundation worked jointly with the Association of Universities in Canada to match the projects to local needs.

<Examples of FY2003>

● Kyogen lecture and demonstration (September 23, 2003, The Japan Foundation, Toronto)

The Foundation conducted a Kyogen lecture and demonstration by Kaoru Matsumoto from the Shigeyama Kyogen Association at York University jointly with the Japanese Consulate in Toronto. At the opening speech, Matsumoto defined Kyogen as the traditional art of "humor", and stated that the role of Kyogen is to introduce the power of laughter, which is a different aspect from the Japanese culture that is often understood as the beauty of silence. He invited several people from the audience, coached them on the basic postures, walking style, motions and speech, and performed *Nasu no Yoichi* and *Saru Uta*. The 170 attendees, most of whom were seeing traditional Japanese performing art for the first time, were fully attentive throughout the two hour event.

● Drama reading of *Tsuki no Misaki* (January 9 – 10, 2004, The Japan Foundation, Toronto)

The Foundation commissioned a production from the Crow's Theater to read the translation of *Tsuki no Misaki* (English title *Capemoon*). This event was held in a new style in which actors perform with a scenario in their hands on a simple stage, but the director boldly exploited the limited space and dramatized the poetic atmosphere of the original work in an easily understandable manner, and it was well-received by the audience. Many in the audience commented that the performance was interesting because it presented the problems of the characters and distortions in daily life, but instead of leading to simple solutions, conclusion was left to the audience.

● Symposium commemorating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Canada (March 1, 2004, Munk Center, University of Toronto, Toronto)

The Foundation and the Munk Center of the University of Toronto jointly conducted this symposium, which discussed three central themes: aging society, architecture and urban planning in Japan and Canada, and films and literature of contemporary Japan. A total of 8 researchers of Japanese studies gave presentations. The audience commented that it not only introduced present-day Japan and its social problems but also hinted at their relevancy with which they could compare with the social problems of Canada.



Kyogen lecture and demonstration



Reading of *Tsuki no Misaki*

United States

<General>

The military action taken against Iraq by the United States and its allies in March 2003 resulted in the collapse of the Hussein government about 2 months later. After President George W. Bush's declaration of the end of the war on May 1, 2003, there was expectation that the diplomatic measures of the United States government would enter a new phase and regain stable support from the general public. However, frequent terrorist attacks in Iraq and failure to discover the weapons of mass destruction forced the United States to navigate in difficult political situations both domestically and internationally throughout the year.

The US economy grew steadily in 2003, but this has not lead to increased employment. At the presidential election on November 2, 2004, diplomatic measures including the restoration of Iraq, as well as issues of employment, pensions, medical welfare and other domestic economic policies are expected to be heavily debated.

The Japan Foundation, New York (hereafter called "NY Office")

1. Cultural Exchange with Japan

In addition to the stable political and economical relations between Japan and the United States, the fact that the year 2003 marked the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Commodore Perry to Japan, resulted in various exchange projects and commemorative events.

In the fine arts field, Japanese contemporary artists were remarkably active this year and their activities were well accepted in the American arts industry. The "Wave UFO" exhibition by Mariko Mori and the photography installation by Hiroshi Sugimoto were held through the initiative of a major art organization in the United States. In September 2003, the huge installation "Reverse Double Helix" by Ryu Murakami was displayed at the plaza in front of the Rockefeller Center, arousing the public's interest in Japanese animation films and the *otaku* culture. These exhibitions owe greatly to the American curators and critics, who are interested in the contemporary culture of Japan. It has become increasingly difficult to invite artists into the U.S.A. because of heightened security measures against foreign visitors. Nevertheless, exchange of performing arts between Japan and the United States has

proceeded steadily. Several dance projects were carried out through joint cooperation of artists from both countries, such as in the collaborative performance of Attack Theatre in Philadelphia and Nibroll in Tokyo. The popularity of traditional Japanese arts also remains high, and the performances by Nohgaku Kyokai (Association for Japanese Noh Plays) in New York in March 2004 had full house turn out every day.

In the movie field, films that take up Japan, such as *Kill Bill*, *The Last Samurai* and *Lost in Translation*, were released one after another, and *Twilight Samurai* directed by Yoji Yamada was an Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Language Movie. In the autumn of 2003, 36 films directed by Yasujiro Ozu were shown as a retrospective at the New York Film Festival to commemorate the 100th year since his birth. Ozu's films were shown on the West Coast (Berkeley) as well, and his early works were presented, with narration, at the Chicago International Film Festival.

2. Activities of the NY Office

<Activity policies>

The NY Office provides support for Japanese studies, exchange of performing arts and promotion of friendly relations between Japan and the United States. The NY Office covers projects in the 37 states to the east of the Rocky Mountains and the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles (hereafter called "LA Office") covers the remaining 13 states. The LA Office is responsible for Japanese-Language throughout the United States.

Since the public's interest in Japan and the level of understanding differs by city and by region in the United States, the cooperation of diplomatic establishments in each area is essential. The NY Office also receive advice from committees and councils, as well as from specialists in relevant fields, to carry out projects which best suit the particular local situations.

The year 2003 was the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Commodore Perry offshore of Uraga, and the NY Office held various commemorative project, including film festivals and small-scale grants. The NY Office also collected information and provided assistance in planning and coordination of events.

<Examples of FY2003>

- **Japanese Film Festival tour at universities (January 18 – March 31, 2004, Ohio State University and 4 other universities)**

The NY Office, with the cooperation of the local universities, holds a film festival every year in locations where there are few

opportunities to introduce Japanese cinema. In FY2003, the film festival toured in Illinois (Illinois Wesleyan University), Missouri (Southeast Missouri State University), Ohio (Ohio State University) and Kentucky (University of Kentucky) in the Midwest.

With the central theme of “Women in film”, the festival presented *The Makioka Sisters* (directed by Kon Ichikawa), *The Eel* (directed by Shohei Imamura), *Maboroshi* (directed by Hirokazu Koreeda) and *Twilight Samurai* (directed by Yoji Yamada). As there was a valuable opportunity to see Japanese films seldom shown locally, each film festival received favorably by the audience and by media.

- **“Performing Arts Japan” (April 1, 2003 – March 31, 2004)**

This grant project aims to introduce outstanding performing arts of Japan not only in major cities but nationwide and to promote new joint projects between Japanese and American artists. In FY2003, grant was given to performances by 7 companies in 25 cities attracting over 20,000 people. “Dairakudakan” (contemporary dance at the American Dance Festival), “Dumb Type” (contemporary dance at the California Institute of the Arts), and “Mansaku Nomura and his Mansaku-no-Kai Kyogen” (classical performing arts of the Theatre of Yugen) were some of the major productions. There were also 6 joint projects, including contemporary dance pieces “Headlong Dance Theater”, Arrow Dance communication and Eiko & Koma.

- **“Publicity projects at the 47th Annual Members Conference of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) (January 10 – 13, 2004, at the Hilton New York Hotel)**

At the annual conference of the APAP, the largest performing arts showcase in the world, the Japan Foundation carried out publicity projects on performing arts in Japan. During the conference, information was handed out at the exhibition booth. In a briefing with interested presenters, Hiroko Yamaguchi (The Asahi Shimbun, Arts and Culture News) and Kazuyuki Kajiya (Setagaya Public Theatre) described the latest developments in contemporary performing arts and contemporary dance, respectively, with videos of individual works and artists.



Publicity projects at the 47th APAP conference

The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles

1. Cultural Exchange with Japan

A large number of Japanese Americans live on the West Coast of the United States, and the largest Japanese community in the United States is in the Los Angeles area (estimated 250,000). Japanese Nisei (2nd generation) and Sansei (3rd generation) have played an important role in the succession of traditional Japanese culture, including tea ceremony, flower arrangement, Japanese dance and martial arts, and the younger people from the 4th generation on have become active in the relatively novel fields of Japanese drums, dances and animation films.

The interest in Japanese culture shown by the people living on the West Coast of the United States had generally centered on traditional performing arts, martial arts, history and literature, but today, there is a rising interest in animation films, video games, karaoke, pop culture, sushi and other Japanese foods as well as the fine performance of the Japanese baseball players in the American Major League. This clearly indicates that Japanese culture has permeated everyday life in America. Introduction of these pop cultures will contribute to the steady increase in the number of students of the Japanese-Language.

2. Activities of the LA Office

<Activity policies>

Since there are a large number of American specialists in major West Coast cities who are well informed on Japanese culture, the LA Office has provided indirect support mainly through small-scale grants to the art museums, theaters and movie theaters of their affiliation. In small and medium cities inland, the LA Office has proactively promoted projects to introduce Japanese culture jointly with the Japanese studies centers at universities and the Japan-US Association.

In the Japanese-Language field, the LA Office has continued to conduct workshops and other projects for the Japanese-Language teachers, as well as projects focusing on the students of the Japanese-Language through the issuing of magazines for Japanese-Language studies. Since the increase in the number of students learning the Japanese-Language has slowed down since the 1990s and the continuation of Japanese and other foreign language education is at the brink of extinction in a number of states due to deterioration of educational financing, the LA Office

has started on publicity projects at schools, education administration institutes and PTAs to popularize the Japanese-Language.

<Examples of FY2003>

● **Koto and Shakuhachi concert**

The LA Office held a koto and shakuhachi concert in San Diego, California and Phoenix, Arizona, performed by “East Current”, the duo of Dozan Fujiwara, a shakuhachi player and Mieko Miyazaki, a koto player. Lectures and a demonstration of the musical instruments, a performance of jazz music featuring the koto and shakuhachi, and other performances showing highly skilled techniques in a style free from tradition and formalities were extremely well accepted by the audience.

● **US Sumo Open 2004**

Since Commodore Perry had watched sumo one week before the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Amity between Japan and the United States on March 31, 1854, as a commemorative event for the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the United States, a sumo tournament for foreign amateur sumo wrestlers was held with special guest Musashimaru Oyakata, a former Yokozuna (grand champion) from Hawaii. The hall was packed with about 500 spectators and more than 200 people were unable to enter. The tournament was held in Little Tokyo, however, only a small percentage of spectators were Japanese or Japanese American. The local media took up this event with great enthusiasm.

● **Preparation and distribution of the advocacy kit for the K-12 Japanese-Language program**

The LA Office prepared 2,000 advocacy kits for the K-12 Japanese-Language program, each kit containing a booklet and a 17-minute videotape of actual classroom scenes as a countermeasure against the trend of reducing foreign language education. The kits, which had received favorable feedback from Japanese-Language teachers in remote areas in Australia, were distributed to educational institutes and diplomatic establishments in the United States.



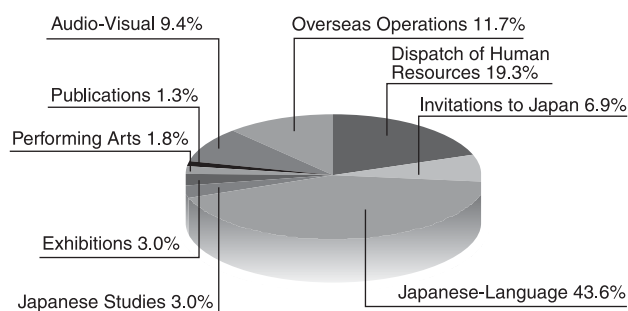
Koto and shakuhachi concert



US Sumo Open 2004

Central and South America

Abstract



Total amount of operations: 485 million yen

The amount of operation expenses for the Japan Foundation in Central and South America was around 485 million yen, around 4% of the total expense.

In Central and South America, the Foundation focused on people's exchange projects. The Foundation invited to Japan such persons as the chairman of the Guatemala National Symphony, the Director of the National Ruben Dario Theater in Nicaragua, the Director General of the Mexican National Film Archives and the Director of Planning of the Buenos Aires Municipal San Martin Theater and Movies, and offered them opportunities to exchange opinions with their Japanese counterparts.

These people's exchanges led to further projects. One example is the *Ship in a View: Central and South American Tour* by Pappa Tarahumara at the Cervantino International Festival in Brazil, which materialized from an invitation by a group of Central and South American festival organizers the year before. This year, the Foundation also supported the performance of the Condors in Chile and their participation in the International Benny Moré Music Festival.

The Foundation dispatched theatrical arts specialists to Honduras for the joint performance of *Kome Hyappyo (100 Sacks of Rice)*, which were extremely well received. The Foundation also dispatched specialists of a wide range of fields to "Japanese Culture Month" at each country. The "Kumamoto ArtPolis" exhibition, a "contemporary ceramics" exhibition and a "Sharaku Saiken" exhibition were held in Central and South

American countries where there are few opportunities to directly experience Japanese culture.

In media-related projects, the Foundation supported the Brazilian International Film Festival in São Paulo and the Anima Mundi International Animation Festival, and cooperated in the tour of the "Japanese Animation Film Festival" as well as a tour of the works by Director Mikio Naruse in Brazil and Argentina. The Foundation also conducted exchange promotion projects for TV programs and broadcast *Project X: the Challengers* in El Salvador.

As projects to introduce the cultures of Central and South America to Japan, the Foundation organized the participation of a contemporary Brazilian dance group in the Kyoto Biennale and Dance Summit 2003, and supported the participation of a Costa Rican dance group in the JADE2003 International Dance Festival.

As for Japanese-Language, teaching Japanese as a foreign language has started even in those countries where Japanese-Language had been taught to the descendents of the Japanese immigrants. The Foundation is proceeding to prepare the foundation for Japanese-Language that best suits the conditions of each country. The Foundation conducted surveys and established bases for Japanese-Language education through the dispatching of Japanese visiting professors and the donation of library books, and carried out projects to help train researchers and form a network in order to grasp the actual conditions of Japanese studies and plan more effective project developments in Central and South America.

The Foundation dispatched specialists of preservation of cultural heritages to the Copan Ruins in Honduras and the National Archeology Museum in Guatemala to cooperate with the efforts to preserve valuable cultural heritages in the Central America.

■ Report by overseas offices

Mexico

The Japan Foundation, Mexico

1. General

The ruling National Action Party was defeated in the midterm election in July 2003 and lost a large number of seats. Political management has become increasingly obstructed. The Fox administration presented a bill to the parliament proposing lowering of the consumption tax (IVA) from 15% to 13% and lowering of income tax, but imposing 8% distribution and wholesale tax as reform measures to counter the sluggish economy; however, the majority Opposition resisted and the bill was shelved. The political confusion continues.

At the WTO summit held in Cancun in October, there were remarkably large-scale rallies and demonstrations by antiglobalists.

In the cultural aspect, the scheduling of the Cervantino International Festival progressed slowly due to a shortage of funds, and the general introduction event scheduled for May was postponed until August. During this confusion, however, the invitees from Germany and France presented high-level performing arts. There was large media coverage on the performance of *Ship in a view* by the Japanese contemporary performing arts group "Pappa Tarahumara".

2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

Japanese Culture Month "Presencia del Japon (Presence of Japan)" was held on a grand scale jointly by the Japanese Embassy and the Japan Society from August to November. Exhibitions, concerts, the Japanese Film Festival and approximately 30 other events attracted large crowds every day.

In commercial films, *Spirited Away* directed by Hayao Miyazaki, and *Dolls* directed by Takeshi Kitano, were released and met with favorable reviews. The Mexican National Film Archives held a special event for the works of director Akira Kurosawa entitled *Kurosawa and Shakespeare*. At the International Contemporary Film Festival (FICCO) planned and sponsored by Cinemex, a major Mexican cinema complex, Japanese works including *Shara-Sohju* (directed by Naomi Kawase), *Brilliant Future*

(directed by Kiyoshi Kurosawa), and *Ichi the Killer* (directed by Tadashi Miike) enjoyed favorable reviews. A large number of Japanese films are being introduced and a new boom is beginning to emerge.

The Carrillo Gil Museum held an exhibition of Ukiyo-e (Japanese woodblock prints of a "floating world") from its collection. This was a massive, high-quality exhibition with explanatory captions provided by the excellent research and survey on ukiyo-e by Garcia Montiel, who specializes in urban engineering and the urban culture theory of Japan.

3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, Mexico

<Activity policies>

The Foundation reviewed the publicity function (periodical magazine *Patio* and a website) that had been established after 4 years of effort, and took measures for further strengthening. The magazine had been issued quarterly, but the Foundation changed the interval to 3 times a year, and to cover this reduction, the Foundation renewed the content, by adding a section that describes the conditions of Japanese-Language education in rural areas, a page for Japanese-Language by the Japanese-Language advisor, and the pages that feature events, the Japan Foundation projects and cultural exchange. The Foundation posted a bulletin board on the website to offer opportunities for information exchange among the Japanese-Language teachers and Japanese professionals residing in Mexico. Both the magazine and the website are utilized by the institutes engaged in Japanese studies and diplomatic missions in the Spanish speaking regions of Central and South America.

The Foundation planned and conducted seminars, workshops and surveys on Japanese-Language education, a field that is developing gradually in this region. An incorporated Japanese-Language teachers association in Mexico has been established and the examinees of Japanese proficiency tests has been increasing steadily.

<Examples of FY2003>

● Sharaku Exhibition (May 6 – June 22, 2003)

The Foundation held an exhibition by "Sharaku", a unique ukiyo-e artist of Japan, in multi-angles at 2 shopping malls of the major corporation Plaza Inbursa. A performance in the image of Sharaku at the opening ceremony attracted a large crowd.



Sharaku Exhibition

- **Japanese Animation Film Festival (September 17 – 21, 2003, National Autonomous University of Mexico Cinema Jose Revueltas)**

The Foundation conducted the Japanese Animation Film Festival starting with the *Silent Mission* directed by Ryosuke Takahashi, followed by *Ghost in the Shell* directed by Mamoru Oshii, and other Japanese animation films. A large audience, mostly students and people in the film industry, attended the Festival every day.

- **Japanese Animation Film Lectures (March 11, 2004, National Polytechnic Institute Auditorium Manuel Moreno Torres)**

The Foundation conducted lectures on Japanese animation films entitled “Japanimation 1963 to 2004” by Ryosuke Takahashi and Eiji Shida. The auditorium was packed with students interested in Japanese animation films and culture. The lectures covered the history of the creation of animation films and the current conditions in Japan with films and photographs. The animation circles of Mexico interviewed the lecturers, and a friendly atmosphere remained in the auditorium throughout presentation.

Brazil

The Japan Foundation, São Paulo

1. General

The trade balance of Brazil in 2003 was recorded as a black-ink entry of around 25 billion dollars, 89% greater than the previous year and the highest in the country’s history. This was due to the large quantity of raw materials and agricultural commodities exported to China, which is experiencing rapid economic growth. The close relationship with China flows over to cultural exchange, and Brazil is currently planning to provide financial support for the restoration of the historical cultural assets in Xi’an.

Brazilian products attracted the attention of the design and fashion industries, represented by those by the Campana Brothers. In particular, the highly reputed “Favela Chair” made of scraps of wood from the eucalyptus tree, is shown as a collection at the New York Museum of Modern Arts. Brazilian beach sandals “Hawaiianas” are colorfully and cheerfully designed and prompted an international fad. Angela Hirato, International Department Director and a Japanese Brazilian explains that the origin of these sandals is the zori (Japanese straw sandals) brought into Brazil by Japanese immigrants.



Japanese animation film lectures

2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

The year 2003 was one of a Brazil boom in Japan, with the release of the movie *City of God*, performances by Nelson Freire (pianist) and Joao Gilberto (bossa nova) and a feature article on contemporary architecture of Brazil in specialized magazines.

In Brazil, ceremonies were held in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the resumption of Japanese immigration to Brazil after WWII, and many governors and Diet members from Japan visited Brazil. The production of an NHK drama about Japanese immigrants in Brazil *Haru and Natsu: Undelivered Letters* was announced, and the Commemorating Ceremony Association was established in preparation for the 100th anniversary (in 2008) of the start of immigration from Japan to Brazil and invited proposals for commemorating event plans. There have been a remarkable number of exchange events this year based on the immigration to Brazil.

From a different aspect, the number of crimes committed by foreigners has become a social problem in Japan with the number of Brazilians arrested in violation of the Juvenile Crime Act in Japan occupying around 65% of the total. There is a tendency for Brazilians employed in Japan to stay longer and acquire permanent residence, and face many problems handling their children’s education and building friendly relations with neighbors. In Brazil, the Brazil-Japan Culture Association established the Committee of Education for the Children of Migrant Workers to solve the problems. There are also other significant movements in both countries to resolve these issues.

3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, São Paulo

The Foundation carries out projects to introduce Japanese culture, and also accepts project proposals by local artists and persons who are engaged Japanese and Brazilian cultural exchange. The Foundation is also recognized as the base for transmission of Japanese culture by cultural institutes in Brazil as well, and interest in the Foundation’s projects, requests for information on Japanese culture in general and advice given to the Foundations project policy have been increasing.

<Examples of FY2003>

- **“Buto no Kiseki (Wakes of Dance)” (September 2003, SESC (Social Service for Commerce) SESC theaters in Ancieta Theater, Araraquara in São Paulo State, Santo Andre, São Carlos, Ribeirao Preto)**

The Foundation presented a stage performance, panel discussion, workshop, photograph exhibition and video screening with the overall title “Buto no Kiseki” in an attempt to retrace the artistic achievements of the late Takao Kusuno, who came to Brazil in the late 1970s.

Keito Oono, Ei Kasai, Ismael Ivo (a Brazilian residing in Germany), Buto-sha Tenkei, Yukio Waguri, Mitsuru Sasaki (from Germany), and Marta Soares and Companhia Tamandua de Danza Teatro from Brazil participated in this international event. The seven-day event recorded a full house for each performance. The media carried detailed, favorable coverage of this event.

- **Pappa Tarahumara *Ship in a View* performance (November 2003 at SESC Villa Mariana Theater, São Paulo)**

While introduction of the Japanese performing arts tends to be limited to traditional art or dance, the unique expressions of this company were received by the audience as contemporary and universal.

The workshop by Hiroshi Koike, a representative of the company, was also favorably received. Dancers, actresses and actors from different genres received instructions ranging from basic movements to production of a small work.

In addition to the success of the performance and the workshop, this provided significant evidence that new possibilities have arisen to create joint performances between the company and the cultural institutes in São Paulo. This event is developing into a series and is expected to further strengthen relations in the future.

- **Animation film lecture by Director Yuki Tomino (February 2004, Rio de Janeiro State University, Rio de Janeiro, and March 2004 at the São Paulo Municipal Culture Center and The Japan Foundation, São Paulo Hall, São Paulo)**

The Foundation held a lecture in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo presented by Yuki Tomino who is noted for his *Mobile Suit Gundam* series. The Foundation also showed animation films with cooperation from Sunrise, and held simultaneous exhibitions of posters and figure model kits by the local joint partners. The theme of the lecture was “How robot animations were born in Japan”, but the talk went on to the historical background and the

development of the Japanese culture theory.

Brazil is no exception in the worldwide animation film boom. The number of fans who gather at major animation film festivals in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro is as large as in the tens of thousands, and expectations are high for realization of successful exchange projects in this area in the future.



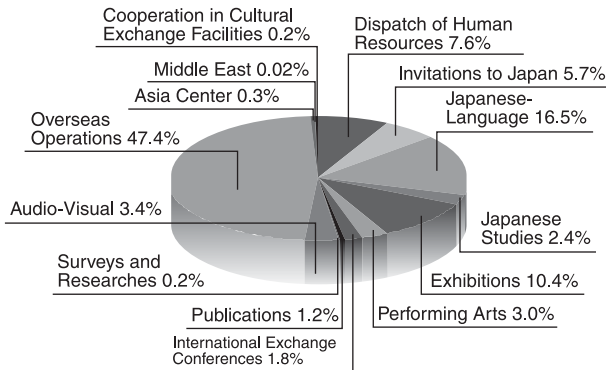
Buto no Kiseki



Lecture on animation films by Director Yuki Tomino

Western Europe

Abstract

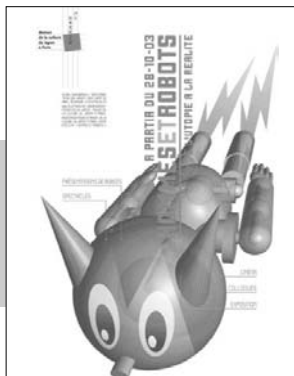


Total amount of operations: 1,594 million yen

The Japan Foundation's operation expense in Western Europe in FY2003 totaled 1,594 million yen, of which 47.4% was spent for Overseas Operations, 16.5% for Japanese-Language and 13.3% for personnel exchange.

In the field of arts and culture, major events organized by the Foundation included: the "Humans and Robots" exhibition at the Japan Cultural Institute in Paris, a *karakuri ningyo* (mechanical dolls) demonstration in London and Rome, and a Satsuma Biwa and shakuhachi concert which toured in Italy and Germany. In the field of Japanese-Language education, the Foundation started to support Japanese-Language courses in primary schools in the UK. A growth in the population of the learners of Japanese was indicated by the increase in number of examinees applying for the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test.

In the field of intellectual exchange, the Foundation supported intellectual exchange between Japan and Europe in politics, economy, humanities and other various fields through the Japan-Europe Conference Grant Program.



A poster of the Humans and Robots Exhibition



Humans and Robots Exhibition: Robot demonstrations

Report by overseas offices

France

The Japan Cultural Institute in Paris
(Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris)

1. General

The French government, in its attempt to improve the fiscal deficit, made changes to the payment policy of unemployment insurance, directly affecting workers with short-term contracts. Temporary workers in stage-related business went on labor strikes, which ultimately led to the cancellation of the Avignon Performing Arts Festival and other large-scale events.

The year 2003 was designated "China in France" year, and numerous events introducing Chinese art and culture were held throughout France. In January, the Champs-Élysées hosted a Chinese New Year parade, and the Eiffel Tower was illuminated in red.

Lille, a city in Northern France, was appointed the European Capital of Culture 2004. Over 500,000 people gathered at the opening ceremony in December 2003. Cultural events have been planned throughout the year, in some of which Japanese artists are scheduled to participate.

In the third Raffarin cabinet, Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres assumed the office of the Minister of Culture. Under the ministry's policy, the Guimet and Orsay Museums became self-government public institutions in January 2004, following the example of the Versailles Palace Art Museum and the Louvre Museum.

2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

Japanese films remain popular in France. The Forum d'Image hosted an animation film series titled "New Image of Japan". *Zato Ichi* directed by Takeshi Kitano, *Shara* by Naomi Kawase and *Kiki's Delivery Service* by Hayao Miyazaki were shown in commercial cinemas.

Dance works such as *Green* by Saburo Teshigawara and *Uguisu* by E. Creseveur and Tetsu Iwashita had been scheduled to be performed at the Montpellier Dance Festival, but the festival was cancelled due to the labor strike.

There were several major exhibitions of Japanese visual art. In

2003, several photograph exhibitions featuring Japan were held in Paris and its suburbs. At l'Hotel de Sully, the Photography Heritage Department of the Ministry of Culture of France presented a collection of approximately 170 works by 20 leading post-war Japanese photographers. At the 7th Lyon Contemporary Arts Biennale, works by Yayoi Kusama, and works by Yayoi Deki were exhibited.

3. Activities of the Japan Cultural Institute in Paris

<Activity policies>

The "Robot Exhibition" was the biggest project for the Institute in FY2003. In preparation, the Institute organized a planning committee and an execution committee, to seek advice from outside source and to obtain support from business enterprises. It had long been on objective of the institute to design a multi-tiered exhibitions, lectures, symposiums and other events occur simultaneously. This goal was finally achieved in the robot exhibition. The event was also successful in acquiring participation and cooperation from outside individuals and enterprises.

<Examples of FY2003>

● "Humans and Robots" exhibition project

This project was a series of events with the common theme of "human and robots". Exhibitions of robots and related visual arts, demonstrations of robots and traditional automated marionettes, symposiums, film screenings and lectures took place in the institute from October to November.

The exhibition Dream of Computer Space, produced by supervision of Hideya Takashima, showed works by artists Noboru Tsubaki, Toshio Iwai & Kayo Baba, Kazuhiko Yatani, Masaki Fujihata & Yuji Dokin, Kenji Yanobe, Hajime Tachibana & Tatsuo Miyajima, and Meiwa Denki. Robotic aspects of daily life in contemporary Japan, and a series of panels introducing the historical changes in the relationship between the Japanese people and robots were displayed.

The robot demonstrations introduced PaPero, Pino, Asimo, Haop-2, Qrio and Aibo. This event drew large audiences, and the exhibition hall became packed for each demonstration. The exhibition also introduced robot contests in Japan and France, and a French team demonstrated their work. Discussions were held between students from Japan and France who participated in the IDC Robot Contest.

A demonstration of karakuri ningyo (mechanical dolls) was delivered by Shobei Tamaya the 9th. Ryoichi Suematsu, a

professor of the Engineering Department at the Graduate School of Nagoya University gave a lecture on the origin of robots in Japan.

The symposiums were held three times. At the first symposium, Director Isomura took the chair and Hideya Takashina, Junji Ito, C. Sautter and J. Maheu participated in the discussion focusing on the comparison between the Japanese and the Western European view of the relationship between humans and robots. At the second symposium, "Robots: Between Science and Culture", specialists in the research and development of robots, Prof. Atsuo Takanishi (Waseda University), Hiroaki Kitano (Director of Sony Computer Science Institute), F. Kaplan (researcher at Paris Branch, Sony Computer Science Institute) and Prof. Dario (Santanna University) discussed the co-existence of humans and robots and the differences in recognition of robots in Japan and in Western Europe. At the third symposium, "Tokyo 2004", Junji Ito and J. Sans introduced the pop culture and cultural trends in Japan using robots as an example (chaired by Director Isomura).

In the performing arts division, Maywa Denki gave a live performance and the audience enjoyed the unique and humorous presentation. Through the dance piece "Wall", produced by the Foundation and performed by Project Noism 03, talent of the young Japanese choreographer Jo Kanamori was introduced to France.

The Institute also showed Japanese robot animation films and documentary films.

The Institute selected the highly interesting theme of robots, developed the theme pluralistically, included the cultural aspects of the relationship between humans and robots in introducing the technologies and succeeded in creating a profound and wide-reaching project. The press gave wide coverage to this project.

- **Noh and Kyogen (Noh: *Okina*, Kyogen: *Utsubo Zaru* and *Kawakami*, Creative Noh *Twelve Scenes of the Inner Moat* or *the Double Shadow* and a new Noh dance *Hyakusen-jo*, etc.)**

This event was subsidized by the Agency of Culture, and Hideo Kanze, Mansaku Nomura, Mansai Nomura and others performed under the supervision of Moriaki Watanabe. The program ran for 4 days from February 23 to 26, accompanied by an instrumental concert.

The event was extremely popular and admission tickets sold out immediately after the start of sales, and the audience was extremely enthusiastic. The main reason for this success must be the performances by the first-class artists, but it also indicates that the performing art of Noh is highly recognized in France. This



Twelve Scenes of the Inner Moat or Double Shadow



Director Kon Ichikawa

event was introduced in cultural information magazines and in a special edition of *Le Monde*.

- **Film Festival dedicated to Director Kon Ichikawa**

The Center presented a large-scale special feature event for Director Kon Ichikawa. Only six of his works had been introduced through films released in France. A total of nineteen films, including *Kokoro*, *Man-in-Densha*, *O-han* and *Dora Heita* were shown, and the event included the special showing of a film with the shooting scene from *I am a Cat* by Director of Photography Koza Okazaki and his comments in memory of Director Ichikawa.

Italy

The Japan Cultural Institute in Rome
(Istituto Giapponese di Cultura in Roma)

1. General

Italy chaired the EU Council in the second half of 2003, but it was also a year characterized by conflicts with other EU nations due to repeated inappropriate comments by Prime Minister Berlusconi and the pro-American attitude on the war in Iraq. Criticism against the current administration is strong both inside and outside Italy, and at the local elections in the spring, the left-centrist party defeated the rightist party in most of the prefectures. In the internal domestic administration, distrust in the second Berlusconi administration increasingly heightened due to the Lawsuit Freezing Law that acquitted the Prime Minister himself, the pension reform proposal that would lead to increased load on the medium- to low-income classes, and the "Gasparri Law" that deregulates the ban on media monopoly.

After a large-scale demonstration in Rome against the war in Iraq, antiwar movements became active in all regions, but sending of the troops to Iraq was decided in April. Suicide-bomb terrorism broke out, targeting the headquarters of the Italian troops occupying Nasiriyah in November and 19 Italian soldiers were killed. The entire nation was terribly shocked and saddened.

During the summer of record-breaking heat, power failures occurred twice. The large-scale blackout at the end of September took 19 hours to restore full power, causing great confusion throughout the nation and exposing the energy problem of Italy, a "developed country without a nuclear power station" that depends on importing 17% of the power demand as well as the crisis control problem.

In the economic field, there are few factors that would lead to recovery. The economic growth rate in 2003 was 0.3%, lower than the previous year with a record-low growth rate.

2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

Japan and Italy has maintained friendly relations, and the number of sister city agreements has increased every year to the present total of 32. There is a growing trend for local governments to take the initiative in planning events for introducing Japanese culture and exchange between Japan and Italy. It is also remarkable that the number of high schools teaching the Japanese-Language has increased rapidly in some states.

The general interest in Japanese culture tends to lean toward the classical culture, traditional arts, foods, cartoons, animation films, films and architecture that have been popular in Italy for some time and much of the media image of Japan remains a stereotype. At the Japan festivals, however, contemporary arts, music, performing arts and literature are popular themes, and events that are excellent in a business sense are slightly but steadily increasing.

The outstanding events among the Japan-related cultural projects held in Italy in FY2003 were the "Ukiyo-e: Floating World" Exhibition (at Milan Palace, an event subsidized by the Foundation) that opened in February 2004 and the "Kodo" Japanese drum concert tour held at the Music Park Auditorium in Rome, the San Carlo Theater in Naples and other major theaters throughout Italy. A total of around 600 ukiyo-e works were exhibited in the former event, and the media gave large-scale coverage. This event prompted the TV stations and magazines to produce programs and articles featuring Japan, all with excellent reviews.

3. Activities of the Japan Cultural Institute in Rome

<Activity policies>

The Institute endeavored to maintain the interest in Japanese culture among the Italians that had developed widely through various large-scale commemorative events held at the 40th anniversary of the Cultural Institute the previous year, to promote further understanding of Japan, to work on common issues jointly between Japan and Italy and to support the movements of the joint creation of new arts.

At planning events, the Institute strived to increase the number of Italians interested in Japan through classical arts and other popular

fields, and at the same time effectively introduced the excellent contemporary arts of Japan that had been created from the long history of traditional arts along with the background of traditions as a means to introduce various aspects of modern Japanese society. The Institute also supported Japanese-Language education that would respond to the various demands of Italian students, reinforced the network among researchers, promoted exchange among them, encouraged continuous and contemporary researches on Japan and offered opportunities for dialogues between Japan and Italy in a broad range of fields. The Institute looked to develop projects in all areas of Italy with thorough consideration given to the cultural originality of each region. It was one of the greatest achievements in FY2003 that the Institute was able to hold a large number of events in local cities other than Rome in cooperation with the artists who are active in their homeland as well as with the Japanese Consulate General in Milan, theaters, film theaters, art museums, universities and various festival committees in all regions.

<Examples of FY2003>

- **“Mini casa in Giappone: A small house in Japan” exhibition (October 10 – December 12, 2003, exhibition hall at the Japan Cultural Institute in Rome)**

This was an architectural exhibition that introduced the design plans and ideas for the materials to build houses by making the best use of the limited space in large cities in Japan, conceived by 7 young Japanese architects using miniatures, panels and animation programs. The curator was German architect Hannes Rossler and the participating architects were Atelier Bow-Wow, F.O.B.A., Taira Nishizawa, Shinichi Okuyama, Hitoshi Wakamatsu, Mitsuhiko Sato and Jun Tamaki. While Japanese architecture is highly appreciated and popular in Italy, there have been few opportunities to introduce the common architecture of the homes where Japanese people reside today. This exhibition attracted the attention of specialists and students of architecture. The general public also praised this project as an enjoyable opportunity to have a glance at the esthetics, life customs and housing environment of Japan. The presentation with beautiful 3-D images created with the full functions of computer graphics proved successful and aroused strong interest among people from different backgrounds. The total number of visitors was over 1,500 and many of them requested sequel events.



“Mini casa in Giappone: Small house in Japan” exhibition

- **“Japanese Robots: Lecture and Demonstration” “Karakuri Ningyo: Mechanical Dolls: Lecture and Demonstration” (June 25 – 28, 2003 and January 22, 2004, in the Exhibition Hall and Auditorium at the Japan Cultural Institute in Rome)**

This was an event to introduce the cultural and historical background of the sciences and technologies of Japan in an easy to understand manner through the presentation of robots and mechanical dolls in the same year. At the “Japanese Robots: Lecture and Demonstration” in June (jointly with the Japanese Embassy in Italy), Professor Atsuo Takanishi from the Humanoid Robotics Institution, Waseda University gave a lecture and demonstrated three types of robots, Aibo, Pino and Paro with explanatory panels. At the “Karakuri Ningyo: Mechanical Dolls: Lecture and Demonstration” in January, Professor Yoshikazu Suematsu from the graduate school of Nagoya University gave a lecture and Shobei Tamaya IX demonstrated a child archer doll, tea serving doll and sake cup serving turtle doll, and both gentlemen provided a comprehensive introduction of the history, structure and latest conditions with photograph panels. The news of “Japanese Robots: Lecture and Demonstration” attracted great interest before the event and people looked forward to seeing the demonstration of the latest robots of Japan that are extremely popular in Italy. Over 520 people including school children rushed to the site during the three days, and nearly 200 people gathered at the “Karakuri Ningyo: Mechanical Dolls Demonstration and Lecture” in one evening. The audience expressed their awe of the lovely movement of the dolls, unique concept and skilled techniques. They learned that although the emphasis had been on the high level of technology, Japanese robots actually had a long history and are the materialization of abundant playfulness and generous kindness, the essence of Japanese culture through this matching of projects that connects the contemporary and medieval culture of Japan.

- **“Japanese Confectionery: Lecture and Demonstration” (November 27 – 29, 2003, Auditorium at the Japan Cultural Institute in Rome and auditorium at the national school for training hotel cooks in Latium State, Rome)**

In answer to the high number of requests for an event on Japanese food, which is booming in Italy, the Institute held an event entitled “To taste with all five senses” introducing the world of Japanese confectionery that surprisingly was unknown to the Italians. When the Institute held this event (a lecture and demonstration) three times for the general public and once for the students at the cook



Karakuri Ningyo: Mechanical Dolls: Lecture and Demonstration

training school (secondary education institute), it was so popular that the reservations were filled the moment it was publicized. This event contributed significantly to the heightening of interest in Japan. At each occasion, Keiko Nakayama from the Toraya Gallery of Toraya Confectionery Co., Ltd. first gave a brisk and easy to understand lecture on all aspects of the charms of Japanese confectionery including the history, origin, types, materials and production methods, showing magnificently beautiful cakes, interesting tools and a large number of photographs and slides, followed by a demonstration on making various kinds of cakes presented by Masatoshi Mochida and Tomoko Miyamoto from Toraya in front of the audience. The full audience simply stared, holding their breath, at the sight of mere lumps of sweet bean paste transformed into delicate, beautiful Japanese cakes in the shapes of camellias, maple leaves, apples, and so on in a moment, and they praised the demonstrators as having “magic hands”. Finally, the audience participated in making “double maple leaves made of sweet potato paste” with difficulty and happily enjoyed eating the fruit of their efforts with green tea. They commented that they learned much about the sensitivity, thinking style and overall lifestyle of the Japanese, and that Japanese confectionery is Japanese culture itself, and that it was an extremely high-quality event that demonstrated the culture and history of Japan in a fashionable manner focusing on “food” and “beauty” both of which the Italians love.

Germany

The Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne
(Japanisches Kulturinstitut)

1. General

At Parliament in March 2003, Federal Chancellor Schröder announced “Agenda 2010”, a comprehensive reformation program with the objectives of loosening up the system and reinforcing self-awareness as measures against the financial difficulty in the social security system due to the declining birth rate and aging society, low economic growth and over 4 million unemployed worker.

In the diplomatic aspect, relations with the United States have cooled down since Chancellor Schröder announced his intention not to join in the military action in Iraq led by the United States. Chancellor Schröder had stated that Germany would not provide

support other than the allotted amount of contribution as an EU member at first, but Foreign Minister Fischer later announced support totaling 193.1 million euro including the payment through the World Bank. Germany also provided training for the Iraqi police and announced the intention to dispatch an emergency medical transporter aircraft as humanitarian aid, and relations with the United States are recovering.

In the educational field, internationalization of the system is in progress as part of the university reform. The junior professor system was introduced last year in which young and capable researchers could become professors, which enabled scholars in their 30s to conduct their own research and education. According to the interim announcement by Education Minister Bulmahn, 353 junior professors were appointed in 2003. Another feature of the reform is the introduction of the internationally valid bachelors and masters degrees with the objective of improving the effectiveness at employment abroad, shortening the studying period and securing young and flexible intellectual workers. The new system was adopted for 1,600 subjects, i.e. 15% of the national total in early 2003.

In the cultural aspect, Christina Weiss, the Federal Government Commissioner for Cultural and Media Affairs, agreed on the unification of the Federal Cultural Foundation and the Lander Cultural Foundation in early 2003, but it is having difficulties due to opposition on the Lander side (the budget in 2003 for the former was 25.6 million euro and for the latter was 8.2 million euro). The four areas of focus of the Federal Cultural Foundation projects in 2003 were “cultures and cities”, “unification of Germany in culture”, “challenges by the United States against the Nine-Eleven terrorist attacks” and “Eastern Europe”, and as part of the Eastern Europe projects, the years 2003 to 2004 were defined as “Germany and Russia: Cultural Encounter” years and 350 events were conducted in 30 cities in both countries.

2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

The “Beauties of Japan: Heart of Japan” exhibition was held to introduce an overview of Japanese arts from the 14th to 19th centuries at the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bonn (August to October, exhibition of the collection of the Tokyo National Museum), which attracted about 97,000 visitors and was accepted favorably (the Japan Foundation provided a subsidy to the Noh performance as part of the event and co-hosted the Japanese architecture lecture). The “Yayoi



Japanese Robots: Lecture and Demonstration
PINO



Japanese Confectionery: Lecture and Demonstration

Kusama” exhibition (November to February, a subsidized event by the Foundation) and “On Kawara” exhibition (March to April) were held at the Haus Salve Hospes in Brunswick in Lower Saxony and other events to introduce contemporary Japanese artists were held as well. Japan-related projects continued in a broad range of fields.

In the image field, an exhibition on Akira Kurosawa (October to January at the German Film Museum in Frankfurt, a subsidized project by the Japan Foundation) and a symposium (November at the University of Siegen, a subsidized project by the Foundation) were held. At the Berlin Film Festival, the Foundation organized a special feature event for Japanese movie director (Hiroshi Shimizu) and it was shown at the Japan Cultural Institute and at the Hong Kong Film Festival as well. The Japan Cultural Institute held the 3rd Nippon Connection introducing Japanese culture mainly through showing dozens of films and this event attracted about 15,000 people. The popularity of animation films and cartoons is growing even higher, and the number of comic book publications has increased as well.

In the performing arts field, Japanese drums continue to attract interest and performances are conducted at various locations. A photography exhibition of dancer Takumi Hijikata toured the Diplomatic Relations Institute (ifa) galleries in Stuttgart, Bonn and Berlin.

Japanese studies and Japanese-Language fields are presently facing difficult situations because the state governments are streamlining education-related events due to financial reasons, but the number of applicants for the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test was recorded at over 700 for the first time, from around 500 in the past several years.

3. Activities of the Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne

<Activity policies>

The Institute focused on conducting cultural events targeting the younger generation, development of joint projects between Japan and Germany, reinforcement of the network among regions and support for Japanese-Language education in the German speaking areas with the objective of further deepening mutual understanding as well as raising the interest in Japan, utilizing the Japan-Germany exchange momentum generated through the “Year of Japan in Germany” in 1999 and the Japan-Korea joint hosting of the World Soccer Cup in 2002.



Satsuma Biwa and Shakuhachi Concert

<Examples of FY2003>

● Jaqueline Merz and Mutsumi Tsuda: Dialog Between Japanese and German Artists” exhibition (October – December 2003 at the Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne)

This was a contemporary art exhibition of Jacqueline Merz, a photographer who is from Switzerland and is now based in Dresden, and Mutsumi Tsuda who has been active for a long period in France as well (Associate Professor at the Seian University of Arts and Design). Merz exhibited the photographs she took when she visited Japan for the first time in 2001 and Tsuda exhibited artworks with motifs of articles around the Atomic Bomb Memorial Dome in Hiroshima and “atomic bomb goods” sold as souvenirs in the United States to express “contemporary Japan”. At the opening ceremony, Maria Pratte, representing the fine arts division of the DuMont Publishing House, gave a presentation and the local media carried articles of this exhibition. At an event entitled “A Long Night of Art Museums”, where art museums in Cologne are open from 17:00 on the first Saturday of November to 03:00 the next morning, around 1,200 people visited the Japan Cultural Institute.

● Satsuma biwa and shakuhachi concert (June 2003 at Cologne and tour to 5 cities)

Junko Handa (Satsuma biwa playing and singing) and Tadashi Tajima (shakuhachi) performed classical pieces (Tale of the Heike Clan) to contemporary pieces (composed by Toru Takemitsu, Junko Handa and Tomoko Maeda). The Institute planned this performance upon a request for participation in the religious music festival entitled “Romanesque Summer” held every other summer in Cologne, and made touring concerts in Rome and Milan in Italy and Düsseldorf, Cologne and Munich in Germany. The performance in Cologne was extremely significant because the Cultural Institute was able to introduce it to a large audience who was not familiar with Japanese music as it was a participating event to the project planned by the German side and because the performance at the St. Maria im Kapitol Church was broadcast live on the radio by West German Broadcasting. The Institute confirmed the importance of participation in local events and reinforcing cooperation and collaboration with the local institutions rather than presenting solo events from the Japanese side.

● “Yoko Ogawa Reading Recital” (September 2003 at the Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne)

This reading recital was given by Yoko Ogawa whose works *Hotel Iris*, *Pregnancy Calendar* and *Specimen of a Ring Finger* were translated into German and published in the past two years. It



Yoko Ogawa Reading Recital

comprised Ogawa's recital of *Specimen of a Ring Finger* in Japanese, a recital by a German dubbing artist in German, a Q&A session in the format of a dialog between the MC and the author, and a Q&A session with the audience. It was an extremely substantial event where the audience could learn about the author's literary theory, interest and attitude on writing. This event was also held at the Berlin International Festival of Literature, the Mori Ogai Memorial of Humboldt University, Berlin and several locations in France. As a project to promote translations of Japanese literature in Germany, the Foundation awards the "Japan Foundation Translation Award" to honor excellent translators in Germany.

United Kingdom

The Japan Foundation, London

1. General

It was a politically difficult year for the United Kingdom following the decision to join in the war in Iraq as the United State's largest ally in Europe. Starting from the largest-scale antiwar demonstration in history in London in February 2003, massive demonstrations took to the streets nationwide and a strong antiwar atmosphere arose throughout the UK. The government started military action against Iraq with US troops in March, controlled practically all areas of Iraq by the next month and drove the Hussein administration to a collapse, but there arose the suspicion that the government manipulated the information on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq to justify the war and exaggerated the threat of Iraq. Criticism against the government grew stronger among the people, driving the Blair administration to the worst plight since its inauguration in 1997.

The most remarkable event in the cultural aspect was appointment of the northwestern England city of Liverpool as the European Capital of Culture in 2008. The EU member nations appoint a city as the cultural capital of Europe alternatively from 2005 and define the city as the center for European culture. Liverpool won in a severe competition against strong rivals such as Bristol, Cardiff, New Castle and Oxford, and the city plans to conduct various events in fine arts, architecture, performing arts, literature, science and every other field throughout the year. This appointment is expected to contribute significantly to tourism, investment and promotion of employment in Liverpool.



Karakuri Ningyo: Mechanical Dolls: Lecture and Demonstration (Shobei Tamaya)

2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

At the opportunity of "Japan 2001", when large-scale events to introduce Japanese culture were conducted throughout the UK in FY2001, interest in Japanese culture and society has steadily risen among the British people and events to introduce Japanese culture are held on local levels as well. Cultural exchange with Japan in the UK is generally proceeding very well.

Major projects to introduce Japanese culture in FY2003 that enjoyed a good reputation include the live theater production *The Elephant Vanishes* (the original work was written by Haruki Murakami) jointly produced by Simon McBurney, a wizard in the British theatrical world (art director of the Theatre de Complicite) and Setagaya Public Theatre featuring Japanese actors, *Hamlet* directed by Jonathan Kent, former art director of the Almeida Theatre, starring Kyogen player Mansai Nomura and featuring a completely Japanese cast performed in the Japanese-Language, and *Luminous*, a collaboration of light, sound and dance by Saburo Teshigawara, a world-famous dancer and choreographer, with his dance company *Karas* joined by blind British dancer Stuart Jackson. At the London Film Festival, an international film festival held every year in the UK, *Zato Ichi* directed by Takeshi Kitano and other internationally reputed new works were shown, and at the Raindance Film Festival, a large number of lesser known but excellent works were shown, all of which were received favorably by the audience and the media.

3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, London

<Activity policies>

The largest concern in FY2003 was how to continuously strengthen the interest in Japanese culture and society that sprouted throughout the UK from "Japan 2001". Although the number of events was far fewer than that in FY2001 when "Japan 2001" was conducted, the number is increasing from the previous year. The Foundation decided to actively support events to introduce Japanese culture, to maintain the interest in Japan and the budding of cultural exchange between Japan and the UK on various levels, and to particularly consider the project development and maintenance of the balance between traditional and contemporary arts in local areas. In the field of Japanese studies, the Foundation endeavored to offer opportunities for the young and mainstay scholars and researchers to study in Japan and to further promote intellectual dialogues between Japan and the UK.



In the field of Japanese-Language education, the Foundation focused on support of Japanese-Language at the secondary school level and conducted a survey on the actual conditions of Japanese-Language at the elementary education level to learn how to support education in that level in compliance with the foreign language education reinforcement policy announced by the government. The Foundation also aimed to develop more efficient projects by jointly conducting the programs to introduce Japanese culture and language in cooperation with the institutions that introduce Japan (Japan 21, Publicity and Culture Center at the Japanese Embassy in the UK, etc.) for visits to schools since language education is closely related to the introduction of culture and society at the elementary and secondary education levels.

<Examples of FY2003>

● **“Ready Steady NihonGO! Project” survey (April 2003 – March 2004)**

The Foundation conducted the survey “Ready Steady NihonGO! Project” on the present state of Japanese-Language at the elementary education level in response to the British government’s policy on reinforcing language education in that level. As part of the survey, the Foundation sent questionnaires to elementary schools nationwide and visited the elementary schools that had introduced Japanese-Language, and learned the actual conditions of Japanese-Language and the movement of schools that wish to introduce the Japanese-Language. In September 2003, the Foundation held a meeting for information exchange and formation of a network with the teachers of Japanese-Language at elementary schools, and in November the Foundation conducted a workshop to report the results of the survey and to offer experience in teaching Japanese-Language at elementary schools.

● **“Karakuri Ningyo: Mechanical Dolls: Lecture and Demonstration” (January 17, 2004 at the British Museum in London, and January 19 at the Museum of Childhood and City Arts Centre in Edinburgh)**

The Foundation conducted a project comprising a lecture and demonstration by karakuri ningyo specialist Shobei Tamaya IX and Professor Yoshikazu Suematsu from Nagoya University at the British Museum, Museum of Childhood and City Arts Centre, attracting around 500 people young children and adults. Many in the audience expressed their awe and interest in the precision mechanisms and elaborate movement of the karakuri ningyo dolls and the inquiring mind of the Japanese on techniques. The demonstration of karakuri ningyo dolls was most popular and the hall was packed full at all eight performances.

● **Japanese Film Festival Overseas (March 7 – 18, 2004 at the Birmingham Screen Festival in Birmingham, at the Watershed Media Centre in Bristol and the Showroom in Sheffield)**

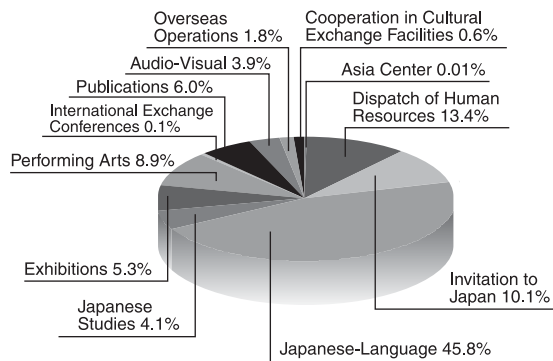
The Foundation presented seven excellent movies from the 1990s with the theme of the relationship between the identity of the Japanese against others, including *Cure* directed by Kiyoshi Kurosawa, *Distance* directed by Hirokazu Koreeda and *Ni Tsutsumarete* directed by Naomi Kawase, touring to Birmingham, Bristol and Sheffield. The event was highly reputed by the audience, the BBC, the Guardian and other major media, and the Foundation finally achieved a film festival at local cities where there had been few opportunities to introduce Japanese films.



**Karakuri Ningyo: Mechanical Dolls: Lecture and Demonstration
Introducing AIBO**

Eastern Europe

Abstract



Total amount of operations: 798 million yen

In Eastern Europe, personnel exchange and Japanese-Language occupied the majority of operation expenses. This tendency was particularly remarkable this year, with 73.4% of the total operation expense.

While movements in various fields in Eastern European countries were activated in 2003 immediately before the accession to the EU in 2004, the Japan Foundation focused on the projects to introduce Japanese culture and Japanese-Language.

In the field of visual art, the Foundation held an Eastern European tour of contemporary Japanese film festivals in Hungary, Serbia and Monte Negro showing works by young directors. Theaters were virtually full and the tour was a great success. At the Japanese Film Festival held in 4 cities in Russia, the Foundation showed a combination of contemporary and classical movies, which was extremely well received, particularly by the young.

In the performing arts field, the Foundation began with the "Japanese Culture Festival in Russia 2003" and conducted four contemporary dance performances by "H.R. Chaos" in Moscow and Saint Petersburg, which the media covered and praised most enthusiastically.

As the demand for Japanese-Language education in this region heightens, the Japanese-Language advisor residing at the Foundation, Budapest, the only office of the Japan Foundation in Eastern Europe, visited insti-

tutes in Hungary, Rumania and Croatia to give instructions. At the touring Japanese-Language seminar with an instructor invited from Japan, Japanese-Language teachers attended not only from Hungary but from Croatia, Serbia, Monte Negro and Rumania as well, and this seminar stimulated exchange among the Japanese-Language teachers in the Eastern European Region.

■ Report by the overseas office

Hungary

The Japan Foundation, Budapest

1. General

After 10 years of democratization that has changed the social system, the social infrastructure has been established and Hungary is socially and economically stable. Information exchange has become easy and massive due to the propagation of cellular phones, satellite TV and the Internet, and migration of people and transfer of products have become smoother. Large-scale shopping malls and high-class hotels have been constructed in central Budapest and the number of tourists from Japan is increasing.

As a result of the general election in April 2002, a left-centrist coalition government was inaugurated by the Hungarian Socialist Party and the Liberal Democratic League in May. At the election in 1990 immediately after democratization, the Hungary Democratic Forum won, in 1994 the Socialist Party won and in 1998 the Fidesz-Hungarian Civic Party won. The power shifted from one party to another each time a general election was held, and the Hungarian people apparently were not satisfied in 2002 as well and wanted another change.

In the economic aspect, the GNP in FY2002 was 53,702 million dollars (World Bank), the economic growth rate in 2001 to 2002 was 3.5% (OECD) and the unemployment rate in FY2002 was 5.6% (OECD).

In addition to large-scale events held every year in Budapest and local cities, concerts by music institutes, various exhibitions and many other cultural events were held throughout the year and the existence of Budapest, Hungary as a cultural city is being established.

Ten countries will accede to the EU in May 2004, and accession

of Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia are approved. Croatia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Monte Negro are also eager to accede and it is expected that the Central and Eastern European Region will grow socially and economically and increase in significance in the future.

2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

One of the new movements in understanding Japan in Hungary is the rapid increase of the interest in Japanese pop culture through propagation of electronic media. The commercial distribution of Japanese movies is conducted several times a year.

Interest continues to remain high in traditional Japanese culture through judo, karate, kendo, aikido and other martial arts, religion (Zen Buddhism), tea ceremony, flower arrangement, bonsai, haiku and Japanese music. In both contemporary and traditional cultures, many wish to approach the Japanese spirit that is the background of the culture rather than merely a superficial understanding.

Advance into Hungary in the form of building plants and investment by Japanese enterprises have increased the opportunities for the Hungarian people to come into contact with Japan, and the increase in the number of Japanese tourists and Japanese family members and students residing in Hungary have created direct human relations, which supports strengthening of understanding. At the Liszt Conservatoire, in particular, many young Japanese music students are engaged in daily training.

As of March 2004, 18 members from the Japanese Peace Corps were dispatched to Hungary from the International Cooperation Institute, 9 of whom are Japanese-Language teachers. It is characteristic of Hungary that Japanese-Language is brisk in the elementary and secondary schools, and the Japanese Peace Corps members have supported Japanese-Language in Hungary for the past ten years. Many members are also conducting direct exchange with the Hungarian people including children through martial arts and sports.

Sister city agreements have been signed between local governments, and exchange projects and events are conducted through schools and local governments.

The Japan-Hungary Friendship Association has grown from 20 members at its establishment in 1987 to over 600 members today, and it continuously conducts various events.

3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, Budapest

<Activity policies>

The Foundation supported cultural exchange activities not only between Japan and Hungary but with the entire Eastern European Region as well. The year 2003 was the time for great change in the Central and Eastern European countries, and interest in Japan was also rising. The Foundation recognized that this was the time to face the issue of how to respond to the increasing interest and how to proactively conduct the projects at such a valuable opportunity, and the Foundation conducted as many projects as possible.

As a measure to appeal to those not sufficiently interested in Japanese culture at the moment, the Foundation built up the library in the Foundation, Budapest, conducted small-scale lectures and managed Japanese-Language classes.

The Foundation also maintained close contact with the diplomatic missions in the neighboring countries, offered information, toured with projects, and planned and conducted touring panel exhibitions from the collection and touring film festivals. The Foundation proactively dispatched the Japanese-Language advisors sent to the Foundation, Budapest to neighboring countries, collected information and called attention to the presence.

<Examples of FY2003>

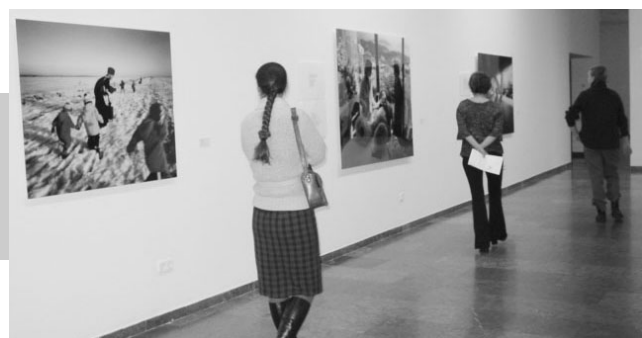
● “Tsugaru Jamisen Demonstration and Performance” (September 20, 2003 at the Liszt Memorial Concert Hall and September 21 at the Danube Palota Theater Hall)

Two shamisen players, Michihiro Sato, a representative artist who is active worldwide, and Michiyoshi Sato, who is expected to be one of the leaders in the next generation, joined by Sachiko Kaiho the so player and Masaki Yoshimi, the tabla (a Hindi musical instrument) gave a performance and introduced the charm of traditional Japanese musical instruments.

Nearly 200 people jam-packed the 130-seat concert hall on September 20. The musicians performed, introduced the musical instruments and held a Q&A session, but so many people wanted to ask questions and it was impossible to answer them all.

On September 21, the 300-seat hall was full, but at least 50 other people managed to enter and remain standing. Thunderous hand-claps to the beat continued during the performance, and the MC had to calm down the audience before proceeding to the next piece. After the last piece ended, the ceaseless applause confirmed the audience’s true enjoyment of the Japanese music.

The audience commented that they were impressed with the technique and the musical tone of the Tsugaru Jamisen, and that this



“Where the heart is: Contemporary Japanese Art Exhibition”

was their first view of the koto and they were deeply impressed by the delicate and romantic sound. It was a great success for the demonstration and performance.

- **“Where the heart is: contemporary Japanese art exhibition” (December 19, 2003 – February 8, 2004 at the Ludwig Art Museum in Budapest)**

The Foundation held an exhibition to introduce the contemporary art of Japan jointly with the Ludwig Art Museum in Budapest inviting curator Yuji Maeyama from the Saitama Museum of Modern Art. The exhibits comprised artwork by Yukio Fujimoto, Naoya Hatakeyama, Bakuhaturo Ikeda, Mikangumi, Midori Mitamura, Takashi Murakami, Eri Takayanagi, Koki Tanaka, Aya Tsukioka and Miwa Yanagi.

This exhibition was publicized by a large number of media, and 6,360 people visited during the 40 days. The results of questionnaires for the visitors showed that 43% were satisfied, 26% were very satisfied, and 63% answered that they had never seen contemporary Japanese art. Many requested that the Foundation continues this type of exhibition.

- **“Project Noism04” Dance Performance (January 30 and 31, 2004 at the Trafo Theater)**

The Foundation presented a dance performance by “Project Noism04” led by Jo Kanamori, a young representative Japanese dancer and choreographer. The 300 seats were full on both days, so the Foundation set up extra seats on the aisles and at front, where a total of 350 people appreciated the performance. The performance was in a representative theater of Hungarian contemporary performing arts and many visitors are connoisseurs, but the applause continued throughout the entire the performance and the reviews were excellent. The event was a great success.

- **Contemporary Japanese Film Festival (February 7 to 13 at the Urania Movie Theater)**

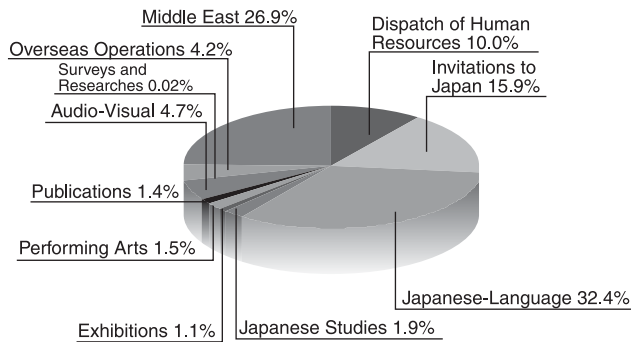
The Foundation showed nine films by young Japanese directors (4 of which were works by SABU) in the Urania Movie Theater, a representative cinema in Hungary. The Foundation invited director SABU to Budapest who participated in the opening ceremony and in the open discussion the next day. Director SABU was interviewed by many media personnel and was introduced in the newspapers, magazines, TV, mail magazines and many other media. At the opening ceremony, Director SABU, Ambassador Teruyoshi Inagawa from the Japanese Embassy in Hungary and Ferenc Kósa, a member of the Hungarian parliament delivered the welcome speech after which the film *Drive* by Director SABU was shown. The capacity of the large hall in the movie theater was around 450,

but it was nearly packed, and subsequent showings also had large audiences. The Festival ended successfully. The results of the questionnaires for the audience showed that 92% were satisfied and 8% were fairly satisfied (a total of 100% were satisfied). They commented that they wished the Festival were longer and they hoped that the Foundation would take some measures to resolve the difficulty of obtaining tickets, with the suggestion that an admission fee be charged.

This Film Festival toured to Serbia and Monte Negro after Budapest on a smaller scale.

Middle East and North Africa

Abstract



Total amount of operations: 495 million yen

The operation expense in the Middle East and North Africa in FY2003 was 495 million yen, an increase by 160 million yen compared to the previous year.

The projects on Japanese-Language occupied nearly a third (32.4%) of the total operation expense followed by the human exchange (25.9%).

In the fields of introduction of Japanese culture and arts exchange, TV broadcasting of *Oshin* in Iraq and Afghanistan and TV broadcasting of *Suzuran* in Egypt and Syria created pro-Japanese sentiment. The Foundation conducted ikebana (flower arrangement) demonstrations (Algeria, Sudan and Bahrain) and performances of Ryukyu dance (Syria, Lebanon and Bahrain) in the Middle East touring through the Middle Eastern countries, all of which received high reviews. In the publication and translation field, the Foundation translated the *Tale of Genji*, rewritten into contemporary Japanese-Language by Jakucho Setouchi, and *Hojoki* a classical essay by Kamo-no-Chomei into Arabic to raise the level of understanding of Japanese classical works. In the intellectual exchange field, the Foundation held cultural exchange dialogue sessions in the Middle Eastern Region in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Syria and Egypt for learned persons to exchange significant opinions, create mutual understanding and lead to further intellectual exchange in the future. In the Japanese-Language fields, an advisor from the Foundation conducted a broad range of activities and contributed to

the promotion of the local network.

The Foundation provided lectures to enhance the general public's understanding of the Middle East with the themes "Let's Get to Know Iraq" and "Is Islam the problem? Let's think about the relationship with modernization" to promote understanding in people in a wide range of generations and occupation.

■ Report by the overseas office Egypt

The Japan Foundation, Cairo

1. General

Egypt is an important country as the strategic point in the Middle East and Africa, and it is an influential leader in politics, diplomacy, culture, information and academics, particularly in the Arab world. In the Islamic world, Egypt plays an important role because there is the al-Azhar Institute, the highest authority in the Sunni Sect of Islam theology, in Cairo where students from all over the world come to study Islam.

The Mubarak administration maintains stability in domestic politics, but while the economy has grown to a certain degree by the restructuring of the economy toward a market economy in the 1990s, the problems of differences between the rich and the poor, and unemployment, have not been resolved causing disillusion and feelings of blockage to spread among the many youths who are not given opportunities for economic success. Under these circumstances, the general public's active commitment to Islam has spread steadily in the past few decades. While materialistic factors of European culture continue to flow in, underneath the surface, the devotion to Islam is spreading incorrigibly among the poor people and the students and university graduates who are dissatisfied with the present situation.

Economy was the largest domestic issue in 2003. Sudden price hikes triggered by the devaluation of the Egyptian pound at the end of January 2003 is oppressing the people's lives.

The health issue of President Mubarak was disclosed in November 2003, and as his second son was appointed to an important position in the ruling Party, the issue of his succession is arousing interest.

Military attacks and the subsequent occupation of Iraq by the United States and its allies in 2003 intensified the ill feelings of

the Egyptians against the United States. Criticism extended to Japan who supported and cooperated with the United States, but it was extraordinary that the citizens did not publicly voice their criticism against Japan as the Egyptians have been pro-Japanese, and this fact should not be taken lightly in Japan. Most of the criticism is based on misunderstanding and lack of knowledge. The importance of mutual understanding and exchange with the Arab world has never been higher.

2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

Japanese-Language education in Egypt has a history of over 30 years and is progressing stably. At the Japanese-Language and Japanese Literature Department in the Faculty of Literature at the University of Cairo, an Egyptian lecturer who graduated from this Department was promoted to a professor in 2003 for the first time, and he was appointed as the dean. This Department was established in 1974 as the first Japanese majoring course in the Arab world, and it has finally completed the process of independence after 29 years.

The Japanese-Language Department in Ain Shams University famous for foreign language education was established in 2000 and has attracted excellent students with successful achievement expected.

In the social science field, the Asian Studies Center in the Department of Economics at the University of Cairo conducted a research project and symposium (supported by the Japan Foundation) on the diplomatic policies of Japan. This Department is an elite institution in Egypt with strong social influence and connections with the policy makers, and it is remarkable that they started contemporary Japanese studies.

In the field of introduction of Japanese culture, the Egyptian national TV reran the NHK drama *Suzuran* in FY2003 after the original broadcast in FY2002, which is effective in generating pro-Japanese feelings. The Egyptian general public has a favorable impression of Japan as a country where original tradition and modernization co-exist harmoniously, but they lack specific knowledge of Japan. There is a strong need for the introduction of Japanese culture, which will be useful in understanding contemporary Japan in particular.

3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, Cairo

<Activity policies>

The Foundation cooperated in symposiums at the Department of Economics in the University of Cairo and dispatched a Japanese scholar for a lecture there as part of new efforts to promote intellectual exchange and Japanese studies in the social science field, the areas of focus for the operation in Egypt in FY2003. The Foundation planned a new operation to promote translation and publication based on research. These are preparations for operations in the coming years, which should lead to greater significance and effects in the medium to long run.

The Foundation introduced contemporary Japanese arts and cultural activities and traditional culture through the projects to promote introduction of Japanese culture in Egypt. The previous projects had tended to concentrate in the capital city of Cairo, but since Alexandria, the second largest city in Egypt, is energetic in cultural aspects through political reform in the prefecture and establishment of new cultural facilities, the Foundation increased the number of projects to introduce Japanese culture in Alexandria from FY2003. In the Japanese-Language field, the Foundation continued to support the domestic bases, endeavored in the formation of a network among the Japanese-Language teachers in the Middle Eastern region, reinforced the Japanese-Language teacher training program at the Foundation, Cairo and steadily conducted other activities.

<Examples of FY2003>

● Electronic media music: Japan-Egypt joint concert (June 15, 2003)

This is a collaboration project with musicians from Japan and Egypt. M. Abdul Wahab, an Egyptian composer and conductor of contemporary music, and three young Japanese composers of contemporary music composed new works of contemporary music using images and computer music, and the Cairo Orchestra performed them. The Japanese composers were Hiroyuki Yamamoto, Masahiro Miwa and Asako Miyagi, and video artist Akihiko Kaneko joined them to create the images. The Foundation supported this project and cooperated with the Cairo Opera House, which provided the hall.

Contemporary music is little known in Egypt, but as a result of a large-scale campaign, an unexpectedly large audience came to the concert. The local newspaper carried an article on this concert, and it was a good opportunity for the Egyptian people to know the tendency of the contemporary arts of Japan.



Japanese-Language education seminar in the Middle East

● **Japanese Culture Week in Alexandria (February 22 – 28, 2003)**

The Foundation held “Japanese Culture Week” with exhibitions, movie showings, concerts and other events in Alexandria with cooperation from the Alexandrian Arts Center. During this week, the Foundation exhibited ikebana, the photograph panels of the World Cultural Heritages in Japan and folkcrafts and showed Japanese movies with Arabic subtitles every evening, introducing a total of six films. On the evening of the opening day, the “Japanese International Wind Quartet” (woodwind quartet) held a concert at a theater in Alexandria.

The response was tremendous in Alexandria, which had had little opportunity to experience Japanese culture. The exhibition of ikebana attracted a particularly large amount of attention and the Japanese movies were so popular that many people could not even enter the hall.

A large number of the participants and visitors in Alexandria requested more events introducing Japanese culture and the Foundation confirmed the strong possibility and feasibility of further introducing Japanese culture in Alexandria.

● **Dispatch of a visiting professor to the Department of Economics at the University of Cairo (March 26 – April 2, 2003)**

The Foundation planned a lecture by a dispatched scholar to the Department of Economics at the University of Cairo to raise interest in Japanese studies in the social science field, which is not so active in Egypt. This Department is an elite institution that educates future diplomats, researchers and political officials. As criticism against Japan has risen due to the war in Iraq, the Foundation dispatched Assistant Professor Toshihiro Minohara from Kobe University who is a specialist in the history of diplomatic relations between Japan and the United States to deepen objective understanding of Japanese diplomacy. Minohara explained the large current of history of Japanese diplomacy, answered questions on the significance of the Japan-US alliance and the Iraq issue and presented an explanation of the background and frank opinions at an open lecture at the University of Cairo. It was not easy to plan a lecture on the relations between Japan and the United States inside the campus of a university in Egypt where anti-American feelings are strong and arguments on the Middle East dispute are emotional, but Minohara talked frankly and earnestly and was welcomed by the Egyptians. It was a fruitful exchange project. Many commented that it was good to hear a frank argument, and young students, in particular, surrounded

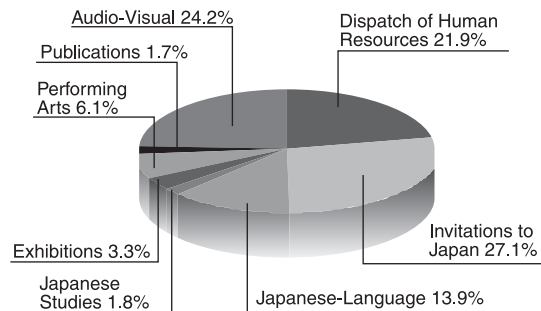
Minohara after the lecture and requested more talks from him. They seemed to have been strongly impressed and affected by the high-quality lecture by Minohara. An outline of the content of the lecture appeared in the local newspaper.



Symposium at the Asian Studies Center in the University of Cairo

Africa

Abstract



Total amount of operations: 95 million yen

The operation expense for this fiscal year in Africa (excluding North Africa) was 95 million yen. One of the reasons is the overall decrease in the number of personnel exchange projects.

In the cultural projects in Africa, the Foundation conducted a demonstration of ikebana in Sudan and a performance of Tsugaru Jamisen in Kenya, Senegal and South Africa. In the image field, the Japanese Film Festival in South Africa, Uganda and Kenya were received favorably.

In Japanese-Language field, the Foundation conducted a touring seminar in Madagascar and Kenya, gave a lecture for Japanese-Language instructors on the teaching method of beginners' oral communication and the usage of audio-visual teaching materials, and contributed to the formation of a network among Japanese-Language instructors.