

## International Exchange Conferences

International exchange conferences with participants from several countries are extremely effective projects whereby the participants formulate internationally common recognition through direct opinion exchange and international friendship, and comprehensive understanding can be promoted. The Japan Foundation has several grant programs for international conferences, seminars and symposiums conducted in Japan and abroad.

### 1. Grant Programs for Local Grassroots International Exchange Conferences

This program supports conferences aimed at promoting international mutual understanding and friendship at the local, grassroots level.

<Examples of FY2003>

- “Charter School Forum Vol. 3, Minnesota New Country School (MNCS) and Project Studies” (Specified non-profit organizations, 21st Century Education Research Institute)

The objective of this forum was to study the concept of the “charter school”, which is attracting attention in the United States, and to provide opportunities for practice and experience with students of “project studies” to review the educational environment in Japan and the United States.

- “Dialogs with Youths Around the World: Ring” (Execution Committee for Dialogs with Youths Around the World: Ring)

This project deepened the understanding among youths on various world issues and familiar international issues within Japan through panel discussions and working groups.

- “One World Festival” (One World Festival Execution Committee)
- This festival was conducted with cooperation from NGOs, international institutions, local governments and enterprises involved in international exchange and cooperation activities mostly in the Kansai Region to provide opportunities for citizens to recognize the significance of international exchange and cooperation and have them participate in the activities.

### 2. Grant Programs for International Conferences between Japan and Europe

<Examples of FY2003>

- “Conference for Cities in Japan and France” (Japan-France Industrial Technology Association)

At this conference, opinion leaders from Japan and France discussed how to sustain historical heritages in cities and how to create a new culture on those foundations.

- “Japan-Rumania World Heritage Conference: Reviving Monastery Culture in Moldova” (Executive Committee for International Conference on Preservation and Restoration of Monastery Culture in Rumania)

This was a symposium between Japan and Rumania with the theme of preservation of medieval architectural ruins in Rumania.

- “Comparison of Economy and Policies in Japan and Italy” (Bocconi Commercial University)

Researchers from Japan and Italy discussed issues common to both countries in the economic policies in Japan and Italy in the 1990s, such as reduction of the deficit, restructuring and the inflexible labor market.



“One World Festival”

## Surveys and Researches

The Japan Foundation conducts various surveys and researches that would contribute to understanding the trends of various international exchange activities by governments, special institutions, civilian organizations, etc. and to reviews on international exchange policies and plans and project planning at various industries and social strata. The Japan Foundation also conducts basic surveys on the cultural conditions and latest trends in foreign countries that are necessary in conducting international exchange programs.

### 1. Survey on Conditions of International Cultural Exchange

#### (1) Survey on public diplomacy in the UK

The Japan Foundation conducted a survey on the trends in major international exchange institutions in Europe and the USA in FY2001. The efforts to strengthen public diplomacy mostly in the Islamic world have been strengthened in the USA and UK since the Nine-Eleven terrorist attacks. The Foundation dispatched a specialist (Professor Kunihiko Wakamatsu of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) to the UK in March 2003 to gain an understanding of public diplomacy as a new trend in international cultural exchange, and published his report entitled *Public Diplomacy in the UK*.

### 2. Surveys on Cultures per Country

#### (1) Japan 2001 follow-up survey

The Foundation conducted a survey on the achievements and influence of grassroots exchange programs at various locations in the UK that had been developed in the Japan 2001 program with the slogan “participation and exchange” to probe the direction of the Foundation’s projects in the UK.

#### (2) Survey on Japan-China exchange

The Foundation conducted the “Survey on Japan-China Exchange” as a reference for deciding on future projects in China.

#### (3) Individual surveys by overseas offices

Overseas offices of the Foundation collected information on items that would be highly needed for conducting cultural exchange projects in the assigned countries to use in daily operation and as a reference for deciding on the direction of operations. They conducted the surveys “Basic Information on the Cultural Conditions in Korea”, “Cultural Facilities in Bangkok”, “Conditions of American Students Studying Japanese-Language in Japan” and “Management System of Cultural Projects in Italy”.

### 3. Fellowship Survey

As the Japan Foundation started surveys on the fellowship programs in Japan and 12 major countries (USA, UK, Korea, etc.) to grasp the supply conditions in FY2003. This survey was jointly conducted by the Japan Foundation and Hitotsubashi University (Professor Masahiro Yokota of the Foreign Students Center) and publication of the report is scheduled for FY2004.



*Public Diplomacy in the UK*

## Promotion of International Exchange Activities in Japan

With the awareness of globalization rising in Japan, the Japan Foundation established the Cultural Exchange Bureau and promotes projects to further energize international exchange activities and broaden the range in Japan through provision of support in various manners as described below. The Foundation provides feedback on the international exchange programs in Japan for human exchange, art exchange and media exchange through the formation of networks, and supports the activities of organizations through various grant programs.

### 1. Consultations on International Exchange Activities

The Japan Foundation offers a variety of information to individuals or organizations conducting international exchange activities and introduces the grant programs by the Japan Foundation and other foundation grant programs.

### 2. Publication of the *Cultural Program Newsletter*

The Japan Foundation publishes the *Cultural Program Newsletter* three times a year with the objective of promoting international exchange programs in Japan. This newsletter carries articles on interviews with those active in international exchange, know-how and overseas reports on international exchange and information on various international exchange activities by the Japan Foundation, foreign embassies, diplomatic establishments and various organizations in Japan.

### 3. “International Exchange Project Planning Seminar”

The Japan Foundation co-hosted the “Workshop on Bridging Local Culture and International Exchange: Stepping into the global stage” in Iida City, Nagano Prefecture; Toshiga Village, Toyama Prefecture and Takeo City, Saga Prefecture with the Suntory Foundation, where participants from all corners of Japan and the hosting area took initiative in opinion and information exchange on the significance of international exchange in their area.

The Japan Foundation co-hosted “Opening the Future of Cities” workshop and symposium with Yokohama City for discussion on urban revival plans with the focus on creativity, renovation and other dynamism exerted during the process of creation of culture

and arts.

### 4. Grant Programs for International Exchange Conferences

The Japan Foundation grants subsidies for part of the expense for international conferences, etc. held with the objective of promoting mutual international understanding (see p.85 “International Exchange Conferences” for details).

### 5. Grant of the Use of the Name for Support

The Japan Foundation grants the use of its name as a supporter to programs that would contribute to the promotion of international culture exchange (performances, exhibitions, film festivals, seminars, lectures, human exchange programs, etc.) and supports the activities.

Eighty-four events used the Foundation’s name in FY2003.



“Stepping into the global stage”