

Get to know about Japan

Get to know about Japanese society

Get to know about Japanese culture

Are you interested in Japan? Do you want to know more? You may be able to learn something useful and beneficial. Let's communicate, and you will have more chances for new encounters and further interaction with people from all over the world.

Mutual understanding can bring peace to the world.

The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 as a special public institution under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and later became an official independent administrative institution in October 2003. Currently, we are working globally through four domestic offices and 19 international offices in 18 countries, providing opportunities for cultural exchange.

Japan-Korea Friendship Year 2005

Commemorating the 40th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties between Japan and Korea, the Japan Foundation sponsored many events to promote cultural exchange as part of "Japan-Korea Friendship Year 2005." The following activities were held through March 2005:

Japan-Korea Friendship Year 2005 Super Live in Seoul

Held on January 28, 2005, the show promoted friendship between Japanese and Koreans through pop music. Top artists from both countries performed numbers like the Japanese-Korean friendship song "Dance with Me" (Korean/Japanese version), sung in Japanese by Chemistry & Lena Park unit.

Korea-Japan Road Club Festival 2005

This all-night event in seven venues included Japanese and Korean DJs in friendly rivalry, an exhibition showcasing young artists and, of course, stage performances.



Celebrating 150 Years of Japanese-American Relations

The year 2004 was the 150th anniversary of the establishment of amicable Japanese-American relations. Over this period, Japan and the United States have overcome conflicts and reinforced political, economic, and cultural ties to achieve ongoing friendship. Focusing on this commemorative year, the Japan Foundation promoted many cultural events in 2004:

US-Japan 150th Anniversary Symposium (See page 27.)

Public Symposium: Japanese American Leadership Delegation "Asian American Diversity: Building Coalitions"

From March 27 to April 4, 2004, 13 noted Japanese-Americans met to discuss better understanding between Japanese and Japanese-Americans and help reinforce Japan-U.S. ties. The gathering included appreciation of *kabuki* and *orimono* (tapestry), and a round-table conference with specialists in politics, economics, and education.

Revival of *Pacific Overtures* Musical on Broadway (Directed by Amon Miyamoto) (See page 13.)





FY 2004 in Review

Expanding Cultural Exchanges with Nations in the Middle East

We realized important cultural exchanges with countries in the Middle East:

Specialists Dispatched to the Middle East

In September 2004, the Second Cultural Exchange and Dialogue Mission to the Middle East went to Jordan and Iran to take part in a symposium on “Tradition and Modernization.” Members also discussed amicable ways to resolve policy issues and set a priority agenda for intellectual exchange between Japan and the Middle East through programs like the Japan-Arab Dialogue Forum.

Middle Eastern Film Festival (See page 12.)

Teachers and Leading Artists Invited from Iraq

To foster greater understanding of Iraqi culture, the Japan Foundation organized a theater tour by the Al-Murwass Group from Baghdad for October, followed by a November-December concert series showcasing the *oud*, the traditional Arab lute. We also invited Iraqi middle- and high-school teachers to Japan to meet primary and junior high school students and teachers, as well as to attend lectures on Japanese education.

Lectures on the Middle East

Responding to recent interest in the Middle East and Islam, the Japan Foundation arranged a series of eight lectures related to understanding the region. The series, a sweeping survey of Middle Eastern culture, drew an audience of 472.

Supporting Overseas Interest in Japanese Language and Culture

Results of 2003 Survey on Overseas Japanese-Language Education

This survey revealed that in 2003 about 2.3 million people were studying Japanese at schools and other institutions in 127 countries — a 12% jump in five years. The increased number of young learners starting Japanese study may be attributed in many countries to the growing popularity of Japanese pop culture.



Breakdown of 2004 program expenditures (by field)

