

New structure for refined focus

In response to the current era of globalization, the Japan Foundation has reorganized our group and operating plans. This allows us to refine our focus on the cultural values that Japan can bring to building a better world. We have streamlined our institution for greater synergy and flexibility, creating three major programs — Arts and Cultural Exchange, Japanese-Language Education Overseas, and Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange — with an Information and Resource Center to coordinate these three program areas. The following is a list of events and activities in 2004:

Arts and Culture Group

■ Contemporary Brazilian art exhibition, “Brazil: Body Nostalgia” ■ “JIKI: Japanese Porcelain, East and West, 1610-1760,” an exhibition that toured Faenza’s International Museum of Ceramics, the Japan Cultural Institute in Paris, and Belgium’s Royal Museums of Art and History ■ Special screenings of *Godzilla* and monster movies at American Cinematheque ■ Jazz tour of Middle East by Satoru Shionoya Unit (Lebanon, Jordan, Greece) ■ Middle-East Tour by Osaka Dadada-Dan *Tenko* drum troupe (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt) ■ Exhibition in Germany, “Time of Dawn: Japan’s Archaeology and History up to the First Emperors” (Mannheim, Berlin) ■ “Living Together is Easy” exhibition in Melbourne, Australia, featuring contemporary works by 12 Japanese and Australian artists ■ Participation in the 26th São Paulo Biennale ■ Exhibition at the 56th Frankfurt International Book Fair ■ *Bunraku-Gidayu* Music Concert Tour of Canada ■ Russian translation of *The Assassin’s Sword Eye of the Tiger: A Historical Novel of Contemporary Japan* (under Japanese Literature-in-Russian translation program) ■ Display of paintings by four Japanese artists at 11th India Triennale ■ Indonesia tour by a capella group INSPi

Japanese-Language Group

■ The intensive training program for the U.S./Canadian/the U.K. ■ Short-Term Training Program of foreign teachers of the Japanese language ■ The intensive training program for high-school teachers of the Japanese-Language from the Republic of Korea ■ Conference for the Association of Japanese-Language Teachers in Europe on the theme of “Accessibility in Japanese Language Education: Sharing Ideas, Theories, and Practices” ■ Launch of English-language version of the “Minna no Kyozaï” site ■ Administration of Japanese Language Proficiency Test worldwide ■ The Lee Soo-Hyun memorial program for extending invitation to Japan to young people from Korea (Japan-Korea Friendship Year 2005 program) ■ Conference of Japanese educational experts and young Japanese-language teachers returning from Chile, Indonesia, and India

Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Group

■ Cultural Diversity and Globalization, the Arab-Japanese Experience: a Cross-Regional Dialogue ■ Future Leaders Forum 2004: Korea-China-Japan ■ Public seminar on the development of teaching materials for USA understanding — Guidelines for Japanese junior & senior high school students— ■ Second Cultural Exchange and Dialogue Mission to the Middle East ■ Host for the Media Forum 2004 in The Philippines ■ Conducted a project under the Asia Leadership Fellow Program ■ “Bhutan and Gross National Happiness (GNH): In Pursuit of a New Paradigm for Human Development” ■ Public forum “Towards Peace and Prosperity in the 21st Century: Rethinking Global Governance and United Nations Reform” ■ Japanese-American leadership Delegation, “Practicing Multicultural Coexistence: From Minorities Perspectives” ■ International forum held in Okinawa, “Asia Pacific Youth Forum, Okinawa”

Information and Resource Center

The most important responsibilities of the Japan Foundation include dissemination of international exchange information, coordination of three program areas, and promotion of effective communications for smooth, efficient operation of domestic programs. The Information and Resource Center, established in May 2004, serves as our communications nexus in publicizing our message on the Internet and in print, ensuring due recognition of distinguished achievements, and supporting international exchange programs at the grassroots level.