



••• Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange

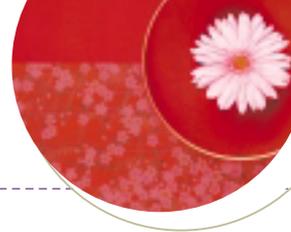
Since its inception, the Japan Foundation has supported Japanese studies programs in various overseas educational institutions in the conviction that deepening understanding of Japan can help improve international relations. It has flexibly extended assistance to programs ranging from the study of Japan's history, literature, society, art, and other aspects of Japan's civilization to social scientific and interdisciplinary analysts of the country. The Japanese Studies Fellowship allows foreign scholars to conduct research in Japan, while grants are extended for research projects and conferences by institutes of Japanese studies.

The Japan Foundation also promotes intellectual exchange to help expand and deepen international dialogue. This it does by planning and implementing assistance for symposiums, research, and network building so that intellectual leaders in diverse disciplines can work across national borders toward the solution of global and regional issues. Moreover, the Foundation conducts programs aimed at furthering understanding of problems shared globally or regionally, as well as fellowship programs for nurturing future leaders. It also supports the intellectual exchange programs planned and implemented by other organizations.

In 1991 the Japan Foundation founded the Center for Global Partnership, which offers fellowships and research grants for activities primarily in the United States. Having awarded Abe Fellowships to 234 individuals to date, it plays a key role in bilateral intellectual dialogue. With respect to Asia, meanwhile, the Japan Foundation focuses its energies on promoting network building.

Through these endeavors, the Japan Foundation aspires to advance mutual understanding on many fronts and levels, thereby contributing intellectually toward the world's development and stability.





● ● ● Symposium and Workshop—A Wild Haruki Chase: How the World Is Reading and Translating Murakami



▲ The two-day Tokyo program attracted a total of 750 people.



▲ Dmitry Kovalenin of Russia uses a blackboard to give a graphical explanation of Murakami's worldview.



▲ Richard Powers gives a keynote speech.

Novels by Murakami Haruki have been translated into more than 30 different languages. The author's works can thus be thought of as a lingua franca for young readers around the world. What is the biggest appeal of Murakami's stories? How does his message relate to the major issues confronting modern society? And what is the role of translation in a rapidly globalizing world? In March 2006 the translators, novelists, and critics most qualified to address these questions were invited to take part in symposiums and workshops titled "A Wild Haruki Chase: How the World Is Reading and Translating Murakami" in Tokyo, Kobe, and Sapporo.

The Tokyo program was held on March 25 and 26 and attracted a total of around 750 people. Richard Powers, one of the most celebrated novelists in the United States, gave a keynote presentation, which was followed by a panel discussion among translators. They shared their knowledge of how Murakami is being translated, published, and read in their respective countries, and offered insights on why Murakami is so popular and related interesting episodes during the translation process. During the workshop on translation, comparative analyses of technical points were made by examining how specific passages from Murakami's works were treated. Panelists also

related the joy of translating Murakami. In the workshop on representation, the global Haruki boom was examined from the viewpoint of cultural representation. Comparisons were made of how Murakami's works were being read in various countries, and trends were revealed in the foreign acceptance of Murakami's works. At Kobe High School, Murakami's alma mater, Professor Yomota Inuhiko gave a keynote speech and also moderated a panel discussion on the latest Murakami-related developments around the world.

In Hokkaido, which is deeply associated with some of Murakami's novels, Professor Mochizuki Tetsuo of Hokkaido University's Slavic Research Center led a discussion on the secret of Murakami's popularity in various countries. The Hokkaido program was held at Hokkaido University in the city of Sapporo.

The programs examined such issues as how foreign readers of Japanese literature regard Murakami's works, how the Murakami boom is changing Japan's image among foreign readers, and what the role of translation should be in a globalizing world.

The contents of the workshops and symposiums, which explored the possibilities of new forms of communication through Murakami literature, were published in book form in October 2006.

●●● The Asia Leadership Fellow Program (ALFP)

The Asia Leadership Fellow Program seeks to create a close personal and professional network of intellectuals in Asia who are deeply rooted in and committed to civil society beyond their own cultural, disciplinary, and geopolitical backgrounds. Jointly founded by the Japan Foundation and the International House of Japan in 1996, the ALFP annually provides an opportunity for selected leaders from across Asia to reside for two months at the International House of Japan in Tokyo and engage in collaborative and individual research and exchange activities. Since its initiation, the program has annually invited five to eight fellows from nearly 15 countries, and there are now over 50 fellows representing diverse professional backgrounds, ranging from academia, journalism, publishing, law, education, and the arts, in nongovernmental organizations and nonprofit activities.

Marking the 10th anniversary of the program, a reunion conference was held in Fukuoka and Busan from June 26 to 30, 2005, with the participation of 39 ALFP fellows. Under the theme, “Asia as a Community: Concept or Reality?” a wide variety of topics were discussed to examine the identity of Asia as a hybrid entity with diverse and pluralistic values and growing solidarity. Two other commemorative projects were conducted: the compilation of a directory of all 54 fellows with updated information on each fellow, including affiliation, specialty, and accomplishments, such as major publications, and an alumni book project, in which selected writings by ALFP fellows were edited into book form and published under the title, “The Community of Asia: Concept or Reality?” in May 2006.



●●● Beijing Center for Japanese Studies Twentieth Anniversary International Symposium

The year 2005 was the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies, as well as the twenty-fifth year since the founding of its predecessor, the Ohira School. To celebrate this milestone, an international symposium was conducted under the theme of current Japanese affairs. The program included a commemorative lecture, panel discussions, group sessions, and a presentation on posters.

The commemorative lecture, titled “A Comparison of Chinese and Japanese Cultures: The Past and Present of Things ‘Chinese’ and ‘Japanese,’” was given by Managing Director Liu Deyou of the China International Culture Association. Liu introduced traditional concepts and recent research topics of Japanese studies in China by referring to familiar examples, such as a comparison of haiku and Chinese-style poetry. He spoke to the audience about “heart-to-heart” exchange while emphasizing the importance of creative Japanese studies from a scientific perspective.



In a panel discussion focused on the power of Ghibli’s *Anime* films, three panelists—Professor Susan J. Napier of the University of Texas, Assistant Professor Yonemura Miyuki of Konan Women’s University, and Wang Zhong Yi, editor-in-chief of *People China*—were joined by Professor Qin Gang of the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies, who served as moderator.

At the group sessions, more than 150 presentations and discussions were held in 18 venues under the themes established for each of three fields.



●●● Fortieth Anniversary of Normalization of Korea-Japan Diplomatic Relations



To commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Korea and Japan, the Japan Foundation supported a major international conference drawing upon the academic communities of Japan and Korea, organized by the Korean Association of Contemporary Japanese Studies. The three-day event, which received ample media coverage,

explored the cultural, political, and economic dimensions of the bilateral relationship and featured four roundtables of business, political, and military/security leaders and opinion makers.

Approximately 2,000 people attended presentations and workshops led by about 200 experts from Japan, Korea, China, and other countries. The outstanding attendance and breadth of the conference set the stage for frank, passionate discussions focusing on the past, present, and future of Japan-Korea relations.

●●● Japan-Arab Dialogue from a Global Perspective



In the context of advancing globalization, relations between Japan and Arab nations are growing in importance, necessitating a fresh look at policy issues and potential areas of collaboration.

The Japan Foundation and the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Egypt sponsored two discussion meetings in Cairo and Tokyo. The meetings brought together intellectuals from both nations primarily engaged in policy studies in the social sciences to sketch out a common

agenda. Topics of discussion included: the role and responsibility of the media in resolving misunderstandings between cultures; the potential of applying Japan's experience of modernization to Arab countries; optimum scenarios for economic reform and regional economic integration in the Arab and Asian regions; an effective Japan-Arab security dialogue framework for comprehensive security; and fair definitions of terrorism and other concepts that are prone to political and factional biases.

Public symposiums and lectures were also held in both cities, and the results were reported through media channels.

●●● Second Japan-EU Think Tank Roundtable

The Second Japan-EU Think Tank Roundtable took place in Brussels, Belgium, in mid-November 2005, following up on the first roundtable held in Tokyo in January. Both roundtables were jointly hosted by the Japan Foundation, the National Institute for Research Advancement, and the European Policy Center, a Belgian think tank.

In contrast with the discussions on global governance and reform of the United Nations that took place at the first roundtable, the second roundtable focused on the declining populations in Europe and Japan and the Asian and

European approaches to regional integration.

A report summarizing the content of the discussions and presentations along with policy recommendations was widely distributed to research institutions, policy makers, and other concerned organizations.



●●● Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Fellowships

Since its establishment, the Japan Foundation has invited more than 5,500 overseas researchers and scholars to visit Japan for study and for networking with experts in Japan under the Japanese Studies Fellowship Program.

In 2005, 137 researchers and doctoral candidates were selected. Fellows Seminars provided public forums for their work at the Japan Foundation Headquarters in Tokyo (5 seminars) and the Kyoto Office (18 seminars). To support intellectual exchange, the Japan Foundation invited 18 young overseas researchers to conduct surveys and research in Japan addressing univer-

sal issues in contemporary society and offered 23 fellowships to Japanese researchers to pursue their studies abroad. It also awarded six Fellowships for Leaders of the Next Generation in Asia to staff members from Japanese non-profit organizations and graduate students to develop human resources for solving common issues across Asia, as well as five Obuchi Japan Foundation Fellowships to Okinawan researchers for joint research at the East-West Center in Hawaii, which aims to strengthen mutual understanding and relationships between the Asia-Pacific region and the United States.

●●● Japanese Studies Surveys

The Japan Foundation conducts surveys of the overall status of overseas Japanese studies to discern current trends, formulate medium- to long-term policies, and develop appropriate support for promoting Japanese studies in each country and region.

In 2005, the survey was conducted in Korea, Southeast Asia, South Asia, the United States, and Europe, with analysis to be completed in

2006. The survey in the United States, which is home to the largest number of Japanese studies institutions and researchers in the world, represented the first full-scale survey in 10 years. Also in 2005, results were published from the Latin America (Hispanic region) survey and a new preliminary survey was conducted in the Middle East and African region.

●●● Support for Japanese Studies Institutions

The Japan Foundation supported overseas institutions that play a central role in Japanese studies through 12 projects for strengthening hub institutions primarily consisting of funding for research and publications and book donations. The Foundation dispatched 28 visiting scholars to Japanese studies institutions including the University of Delhi and Moscow State University. To promote the employment of Japanese studies faculty, the Foundation supported the funding of 5 posts, and it also helped researchers to develop rich networks by offering 42 grants for international conferences and other research efforts. In addition, significant support was provided to the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies. A total of 25 Japanese professors were dispatched as guest

lecturers and 31 graduate students and teachers were invited to Japan.

The Russian Association of Japanese Studies and the European Association for Japanese Studies received grants for publications and websites.



●●● The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership

The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership was established in April 1991 with offices in Tokyo and New York to encourage closer dialogue and interchange between Japan and the United States and contribute to global welfare through cooperative efforts.

To carry out its mission, CGP operates grant programs in three areas—intellectual exchange, grassroots exchange, and education—as well as self-initiated projects and fellowships. It supports an array of institutions and individuals, including nonprofit organizations, universities, policymakers, scholars, and educators, based on a belief in the power of broad-based, multichannel approaches to effect positive change.

●●● Soft Power and Public Diplomacy



In March 2006, CGP in New York cohosted a seminar titled “Soft Power and Public Diplomacy” to review the concept and application of soft

power in Japan and the United States. The panelists were Joseph S. Nye, former dean for the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, who created the concept of soft power; Watanabe Yasushi, associate professor at the Graduate School of Media and Governance of Keio University; Lawrence Repeta, professor at Omiya Law School; Kondo Seiichi, ambassador for international economic affairs for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan; and William G. Crowell, former officer of the US Department of State. The event engaged researchers, NGO personnel, and students majoring in Japanese studies in multifaceted discussions on the critical role of soft power.

The seminar was coorganized with the Harvard University Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies and the Social Science Research Council in the United States.

●●● The Rebuilding of Kobe and Its Lessons for New Orleans



Hurricane Katrina caused unprecedented damage in New Orleans and surrounding areas in August 2005, exposing pressing issues in disaster prevention and response and post-disaster reconstruction. In March 2006, CGP in New York invited researchers and reporters involved in reconstruction after the Great Hanshin Earthquake to give a seminar titled

“The Rebuilding of Kobe and Its Lessons for New Orleans,” which drew about 110 people including city and federal workers as well as members of civic organizations.

The event was co-organized with the Consulate-General of Japan in New Orleans, the World Affairs Council of New Orleans, and the Port of New Orleans.

●●● Abe Fellowship and NPO Fellowship

The Abe Fellowship supports intellectual exchange and cultivates an international network of researchers in the humanities and social sciences with the joint sponsorship of the Social Science Research Council in the United States. Sixteen fellows were named in 2005, bringing

the total since the program's launch in 1991 to more than 230.

The NPO Fellowship, meanwhile, provides training in the United States for leaders of Japanese nonprofit organizations. Three fellows were selected in 2005.



●●● Japan Outreach Initiative

The Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) dispatches volunteer coordinators to spend two years preparing and arranging presentations in U.S. regions that have little contact with Japan.

In 2005, new coordinators were sent to

the Japan-America Society of Dallas/Fort Worth in Texas, the Multicultural Center of the South in Louisiana, and Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina to enhance grassroots exchange.



CGP publishes reports of its activities, which can be downloaded from its website at: <http://www.cgp.org/>.

●●● Other Major Programs

Intellectual exchange conferences

The Foundation cosponsors intellectual events and provides financial support to cover the costs of holding intellectual exchange conferences as well as participant travel expenses. In 2005, the Japan Foundation cosponsored with the Korea Foundation and the All-China Youth Federation the Future Leaders Forum 2005: Korea-China-Japan and held an open seminar, "Negotiating Diversity: Challenge to Global Citizenship," for 18 participants from 12 countries as part of the Asia Pacific Forum Okinawa. In addition, it offered financial support to 51 conferences in 11 countries, as well as providing financial assistance to cover the transportation expenses for experts attending international conferences.

Support for Asian studies centers

Under the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program, the Japan Foundation supported the projects of eight universities in four Southeast Asian countries to promote Southeast Asian studies and build an academic network of institutions in the region.

The Foundation also held an Asia Emporium lecture series in Thailand on Southeast Asian studies for Southeast Asian students, attracting 15 participants from 6 countries.

An Introductory Bibliography for Japanese Studies

The Japan Foundation regularly publishes *An Introductory Bibliography for Japanese Studies*, a comprehensive English-language bibliography of overseas researchers on Japanese studies. In 2005, Volume 14, No. 2 (humanities) was published and sent to 850 institutions in 90 countries.

