

Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange

The benefits of promoting Japanese studies in foreign countries and intellectual exchange between Japan and other countries are not limited to improving the understanding of Japan around the world but also include creating stronger and closer international partnerships that can be leveraged to address global and regional challenges. Given this, the Japan Foundation offers fellowship programs to international scholars seeking to conduct research in Japan as well as supporting the research activities and human resources development of leading academic institutions around the world.



Drawing on Japan's experience for disaster recovery

The Japan Foundation arranged for a Japanese delegation to visit the earthquake-affected areas near Chengdu in Sichuan Province between October 22 and 29, 2008. The delegates consisted of eight students and faculty members from an environment and disaster mitigation course offered by Maiko High School in Hyogo Prefecture's Kobe City and the Disaster Prevention and Social Contribution Unit at Kobe Gakuin University. Maiko High School launched its course following the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and is the only high school in Japan to have done so. During the visit to Chengdu, course leader Suwa Seiji and two seniors presented the Chinese victims with messages written by their schoolmates, together with donations the students had collected from residents of Kobe, and shared their stories of recovery from the earthquake that devastated their own city. Meanwhile, Japanese and Chinese officials and experts involved in the recovery process exchanged information and developed proposals for future support, including planning cooperative actions.

Also in China, the Second China-Japan Science Forum, on the theme of the "2008 Wenchuan Earthquake and Natural Disaster Mitigation," was held in Beijing on March 9 and 10, 2009, attended by three Japanese experts in disaster prevention. These specialists joined a discussion on how to support recovery efforts through cultural activities, which emphasize personal connections with and among the members of affected communities.



Chinese delegation in Kobe

Chinese civil society has been emerging and expanding during the course of China's recovery from the disastrous earthquake, just as rehabilitation efforts following the catastrophic quake in the Kobe area became a catalyst for the significant growth of Japanese civil society. To spur this development, Global Links Initiatives (GLI) invited 10 Chinese social entrepreneurs to come to Kobe and Tokyo from January 13 through 18, 2009 to meet with their Japanese counterparts who were involved in rehabilitation efforts in the quake-damaged areas around Kobe. The Japan Foundation provided a grant to GLI to support this initiative.

In another program, the Hyogo Kobe Special Committee for Supporting the Recovery from the Sichuan Earthquake invited a total of 160 Chinese governmental officials who were leading the disaster recovery activities on two separate tours in December 2008 and January 2009. The Chinese officials visited Hyogo, Tokyo and other parts of Japan, meeting with Japanese disaster prevention officers, community leaders and others to hear about their experiences and discuss how lessons learned in Japan can be applied to China's ongoing situation.

Japan-Africa Journalist Conference — The New Prospect of Japan-Africa relations

Although Japan-Africa relations have recently been highlighted by several high profile events such as the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in May, 2008 in Yokohama and the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit in July, 2008, where support for Africa was one of the key agenda, the Japanese media coverage of Africa and African media coverage of Japan is still rather limited. The Japan-Africa Journalists Symposium, held in Yaounde, the capital of Cameroon on March 4, 2009, was organized in order to address this issue of limited media coverage.

The symposium began with the reading of a message from Cameroon's Communication Minister and opening remarks delivered by the Japanese ambassador to Cameroon, Yamamoto Keiji. Panelists from Japan and Cameroon then gave detailed presentations on Japanese media reporting on Africa and vice versa, and offered suggestions for improving mutual understanding, followed by a lively discussion. The event was broadcast live online by a local radio station and attended by 100 audiences, who engaged the panelists in further discussion with comments and questions.

Subsequent to the symposium, with cooperation provided by the Japanese Embassy in Cameroon, two of the Japanese panelists, Hirano Jiro and Matsumoto Jinichi, gave talks for more than 100 students at the University of Yaounde.

Note: Special thanks to the Japan Foundation's Intellectual Exchange Fellows in FY 2007 and 2008: G. Ndjaka (head of International Assistance Department, Cameroon Radio Television Corporation (CRTV)), R. Kometa (deputy editor-in-chief of the *Cameroon Tribune*).

Panelists:

- Takao Tomonari, Johannesburg bureau chief, the *Mainichi Newspaper*
- Matsuda Motoji, professor, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University
- Matsumoto Jinichi, former Editorial Board columnist, the *Asahi Shimbun*
- Hirano Jiro, professor, Gakushuin Women's College
- P. Kwei, professor, University of Yaounde
- F. Wete, deputy general manager, Cameroon Radio Television Corporation (CRTV)
- G. Ndjaka, head of International Assistance Department, CRTV



(From left) Messrs. Ndjaka, Kwei and Wete

Building Stronger Japanese Studies Networks

Strengthening Japanese Studies Networks

Participants in this year's European Association of Japanese Studies (EAJS) PhD Workshop

To contribute to the development of Japanese studies overseas, the Japan Foundation provides support for overseas researchers and academic institutions active in the field, and facilitates the development of extensive networks within them.

We conduct fact-finding surveys on Japanese studies in a different country or region every few years, to identify trends in Japanese studies and local needs. The survey results are published in a report or organization list format to enhance collaboration and networking among individuals and organizations engaged in Japanese studies. In fiscal 2008, we conducted a survey in China, and finalized and published the results of the previous survey on Europe.

We also provide support for plenary conventions and other gatherings of Japan-related academic societies around the world, aiming to facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations and partnerships among Japanese studies researchers and institutions. In fiscal 2008, we provided funding for a general conference, publication of a journal, operation of a website and other activities of 14 selected organizations, including the Japan Studies Association of Canada; the Japanese-Language and Literature Society of Korea; Asosiasi Studi Jepang di Indonesia (ASJI); the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi VNU; the European Association of Japanese Studies (EAJS); the Russian Association of Japonologists; and the Turkish Association of Japanese Studies.

EAJS, the world's largest Japanese studies association, holds an international conference every three years, with the 12th conference taking place in Lecce, Italy from September 20 to 23, 2008. Attended by more than 600 researchers, the conference consisted of sessions on specific themes including urban and environmental studies; language; literature; visual and performing arts; sociology; economics; history, politics and international relations; and religion and the history of ideas as well as interdisciplinary panels, all of which were characterized by an array of presentations and lively discussions. At the same time the EAJS PhD Workshop, an event held concurrently with the conference, provided young researchers with an opportunity to get a broader perspective on their research projects.

Intellectual Exchange Conference: France

Symposium "Towards Plurality: Globalization, Identities, and Traditional Cultures"

Jack Lang, former Cultural Minister of France during the Mitterrand administration and one of the architects of the "cultural superpower" status that the country enjoys today, and still an active speaker in the 21st century who works in various ways to improve contemporary society was invited to give a speech at a symposium titled "Towards plurality: Globalization, Identities, and Traditional Cultures," held in Kongou Nohgakudou in Kyoto on February 6, 2009, organized by the Japan Foundation, Nikkei Inc., and the Tale of Genji Millennium Committee.

The symposium dealt with four themes: globalization; traditional culture; regional cultural diversity, national and local identity; and the multipolarization of the global community. It began with a performance of the *Noh* play *Astumori* by Kongou Hisanori (the 26th head of the Kongou school of *Noh*), giving attendees a glimpse of the essence of Japanese classical culture.

Lang then delivered his keynote speech, which urged listeners not to give in to the threat of homogenization that lurks within the growing force of globalization, but rather to transform that reality into an opportunity. He also emphasized that we cannot overstate the importance of public policies that value arts, culture and education and of multicultural and multilingual education in overcoming the current economic crisis.

Following the speech, Lang then joined in a panel discussion with Haga Toru, former dean of the Kyoto University of Art and Design, and Ogoura Kazuo, president of the Japan Foundation. Each of the panelists expressed passionate opinions, including, for example, on the connected nature of a growing awareness of cultural identity and increasing exposure to greater diversity, and that "Japanese" should be thought of as a particular mindset or spiritual framework, rather than simply as a cultural category. On one particular point—the importance of education that fosters children's sensibility and awareness—all three speakers were in heated agreement. The approximately 300 people attended to the stimulating discussion and the sublime *Noh* performance.



Keynote speech by Jack Lang in a *Noh* theater

Intellectual Exchange: Russia

Japan-Russia intellectual forum Japan and Russia — Outlook for a New Era

Taking the opportunity of the visit to Japan by leading members of the Russia's top public policy adviser group, the November Fourth Club, the Japan Foundation organized a forum to discuss new relations between Japan and Russia. The forum was attended by more than 40 specialists in the field and featured on the NHK satellite channel news program *Kyoto Sekai* (Today's World) on May 28, 2008 in a story titled "The New Russia—conversations with presidential brains." The discussions raised public interest in the political, economical, and cultural relations between the two countries.



Presentation by Mr. Fadeev, editor-in-chief of *Expert* magazine and president of the Institute for Social Planning

Intellectual Exchange: Russia

Japan-Russia Literature Talk: Dostoyevsky in Today's Globalized Age



Mr. Akunin and Prof. Kameyama

On October 25, 2008, the Japan Foundation presented a public conversation between leading Russian novelist Boris Akunin and president of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies Kameyama Ikuo, who is also the author of a new translation of *The Brothers Karamazov* at the Moscow Higher School of Economics. A public lecture titled "Why Has Dostoyevsky Gained Fresh Popularity in Contemporary Japan?" by Kameyama was also arranged at the All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature. These events received wide media coverage in the both countries, including reports by the *Mainichi Newspaper*, *Jiji Press*, *Voice of Russia*, *Moskovskaya Pravda*, and *Moskovskiy Komsomolets*, some of which also discussed the exploding popularity of Russian literature in Japan.

Intellectual Exchange Conference:
Japan, China, Korea

Future Leaders Forum for developing trilateral partnerships and human network

The Futures Leaders Forum is a program designed to nurture the development of a network among the next generation leaders in Japan, China, and South Korea in the fields of politics, public administration, academia, journalism and others. The program which started in fiscal 2002 is co-organized by the Japan Foundation, the All-China Youth Federation, and the Korean Foundation. During July 10 to 20, 2008, 19 participants visited Shanghai and Nantong in China, Tokyo and Kanazawa in Japan, and Seoul and Busan in South Korea under the theme of "Vision 2030 for Northeast Asia." Through lectures, discussions, site visits, and cultural events the program provided opportunities for the participants to gain insight into each others' societies and cultures as well as to share common recognition of the challenges each nation is facing.

Intellectual Exchange: ASEAN+6

JENESYS Programme: East Asia Future Leaders Programme

The Japan Foundation organized the East Asia Future Leaders Programme as part of the JENESYS Programme, which aims to promote intellectual exchange and network building among future leaders in various fields in the Asia and Oceania regions. The participants joined this program to enhance their understanding of Japanese society and culture through lectures, site visits, and study trips to regional cities. By offering the participants opportunities to share the goals and related challenges in specific field to engage in candid discussions, the 10-day program also facilitated network building among participants.

The fiscal 2008 East Asia Future Leaders Programme:

- Migration in Asia and Oceania: Towards a Win-Win and WIN Scheme for the Origin-Destination Countries and the Migrants themselves
 - Urban Community Development Inspired by Culture: The Potential of Creative Cities
 - Overcoming Poverty through a Social Inclusion Approach: The Status Quo of Asia and Oceania in a Globalized Economy
 - Environmental Conservation through Biodiversity: In Search of Sustainable Development
- (20 participants in each group)



Participants engaged in a discussion with an advisor

The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP)

NPO Fellowship Symposiums

CGP launched the NPO Fellowship program in 1998, aiming to provide leaders of Japanese non-profit sector with opportunities to work with American NPOs for a mid-term or longer period to obtain practical knowledge and experience of organizational management. While the program was completed in fiscal 2007 with the eighth group of three fellows, CGP continues to help Japanese NPOs draw on the experience and knowledge of their U.S. counterparts by organizing public symposiums featuring program alumni. At these symposiums, co-organized with local non-profit supporting organizations, the former fellows share their experiences in the United States and a panel discussion explores the future of Japan's civil society. Topics include how communities in Japan can support NPOs in their human resource development activities and efforts to expand financial bases and networks, what support is needed to support and nurture start-up social enterprises, and how NPOs, the private sector, and local governments can collaborate. In fiscal 2008, symposiums were held in Kobe, Nagoya, Wakayama, and Joetsu cities.

CGP hopes the alumni of the NPO Fellowship will continue to play a significant leadership role in non-governmental and non-profit sectors in Japan, drawing upon knowledge and experience gained through the program.

Japan-U.S. Leaders Network Program

The Japan-U.S. Leaders Network Program, a joint program operated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CGP since fiscal 2006, each year invites five or six young U.S. professionals in their 30s or 40s who are expected to be influential in future U.S. policy-making and public opinion shaping. As it is vital for Japan to maintain a strong and close relationship with the United States, the program offers participants opportunities to build networks with figures within Japan's political, bureaucratic, academic, business, and media experts with holding of various meetings. At the same time, the participants learn about the cultural and historical background to understand Japan's diplomatic and other policies through workshops, visit regional cities, factories and so on. This year's trip also included a cultural excursion to Kyoto where participants visited Saiho-ji temple and Nijo-jo castle, lingered in a traditional Japanese garden and tried *shakyo* (a meditative practice of transcribing Buddhist sutras by hand) and Japanese tea ceremony.



Symposium in Nagoya



About the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP)

The mission of CGP is to promote collaboration between the people of Japan, the United States and beyond, in order to address issues of global concern. CGP has offices in New York and Tokyo, the latter of which also houses the Japan secretariat of the U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON).

The Japan Foundation China Center

Long-term Exchange Program for Chinese High School Students
Launched in fiscal 2006, the Long-term Exchange Program for Chinese High School Students entered its third year in fiscal 2008. After saying goodbye to the 37 participants of the second year's program at the end of July, we welcomed 26 new Chinese students in September.

Program participants stay with Japanese host families and attend local high schools for a period of 11 months. By exposing them to the Japanese school environment and giving them the chance to experience daily life in the same way as ordinary Japanese students, as well as opportunities for interaction with classmates and host families, the Chinese high school students are able to develop both a broad and deep understanding of Japanese culture and society. High school students who are studying Japanese and receive a recommendation from the Chinese government can apply for the program and participants are selected following an interview by the Japan Foundation.

The students involved in the third year of the program started their new lives in cities all across Japan in fall 2008. It is expected that the many new experiences they will have as part of school events and club activities as well as with their host families will help them to develop independence and a cooperative outlook.

Of the 37 students who came to Japan in the first year of the program, 12 are set to return soon—this time as students enrolled in Japanese universities.

Centers for "Face-to-Face Exchanges"

Located in provincial cities in China where access to Japan-related information is limited, Centers for "Face-to-Face Exchanges" stocking a range of media, including fashion, *anime* and other magazines, novels, *manga* books, Japanese-language learning books, and music and film DVDs and CDs, provide local residents with a window into contemporary Japanese culture. In addition, the Centers provide a space for international cultural exchange between young Chinese and Japanese people living in the area.

At present, three Centers are operated in cooperation with Chinese partner organizations. The first center was established in Chengdu in Sichuan Province in fiscal 2007, the second in Changchun, Jilin Province in May 2008, and the third in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province in December 2008. In fiscal 2008, two additional Face-to-Face Cultural Exchange Centers were opened in Yanji in Jilin Province and Nantong in Jiangsu Province, with the Japan Foundation providing support through donations of books, magazines and other materials, and subsidizing part of their operational costs.

Heart to Heart Community Site

The Heart to Heart Community Site is a place for young people to post and read each others' real-life accounts of their experiences in China and Japan. Its main feature is a blogging function. Both Chinese high school students who are currently or have previously lived in Japan—including those who participated in the short-term language course run by the JENESYS Programme and the Long-term Exchange Program for Chinese High School Students—and Japanese high schools students can post on these blogs. The blog posts can then be instantly translated into either Japanese or Chinese, making it easy for users to express their ideas and exchange thoughts. The site had 817,030 hits in fiscal 2008, translating to approximately 68,000 a month.

URL: <http://www.chinacenter.jp> (Japanese and Chinese only)



Chinese high school students coming to Japan for the third year of the program



About the Japan Foundation China Center

The Japan Foundation China Center was established in April 2006 with the aim of enhancing the level of interaction between Chinese and Japanese youth and others and, ultimately, forging strong, forward-looking relations between the two countries. The China Center operates a wide range of programs related to the three broad initiatives represented by the Long-term Exchange Program for Chinese High School Students, the Networking for Grassroots Exchange (the Heart to Heart Community Site), and the Centers for "Face-to-Face Exchanges."

Summary of Japanese Studies and International Exchange Programs

1—Support for Japanese Studies Organizations

We support a number of programs by leading Japanese studies institutions worldwide aimed at improving these institutions' research capabilities and developing high-caliber academic talent. In fiscal 2007, we began to provide more comprehensive, cross-functional support tailored to the needs of recipients. This includes supporting visiting professors, providing grants for research and conferences, funding increases in teaching staff, and supporting libraries.

(1) Support Recipients in the Americas

A total of 22 institutions in the United States (the University of Colorado, the University of Virginia, the University of Hawaii, Inter-University Center for Japanese-Language Studies, the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources, and others), Canada (the University of British Columbia, the Université de Montréal), and Central and South America (El Colegio de México, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, Universidad de Guadalajara, and Universidad de Colima).

(2) Support Recipients in the Asia Pacific

A total of 21 institutions in East Asia (Seoul National University, Nankai University, Fudan University, the National University of Mongolia and others), Southeast Asia (Universitas Indonesia; Chulalongkorn University; Thammasat University; the University of the Philippines; the University of Malaya; University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hanoi VNU; and others), South Asia (Jawaharlal Nehru University, the University of Delhi, and the University of Dhaka), and Australia (the Australian National University).

(3) Support Recipients in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa

A total of 25 institutions in Europe (the University of Milan, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, the University of Sheffield, Leiden University, Universidad de Salamanca, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, the Université Catholique de Louvain, Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, the University of Zagreb, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski," and others) and the Middle East (East Asian Studies Department of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the University of Bagdad, the University of Teheran, Ain Shams University, and others).

(4) Beijing Center for Japanese Studies

We supported the program run by the Beijing Foreign Studies University by sending a total of 12 teaching staff, including Japanese professors, inviting 25 graduate students and university staff to Japan, and providing grants for research and publishing projects. We also supported Peking University by sending 10 Japanese professors to participate in its Contemporary Japanese Study Course and inviting 24 graduate students and course staff to Japan.

2—Japanese Studies Fellowships

The Japan Foundation has been inviting scholars and researchers engaged in Japanese studies to Japan since its establishment. Through this fellowship program, approximately 6,000 academics have visited Japan to date to advance their studies in Japan and develop networks with Japanese specialists.

In fiscal 2008, we provided long-term fellowships to 41 scholars or researchers from 19 countries and 50 PhD candidates from 12 countries as well as awarding short-term fellowships to 26 researchers from 18 countries to support their research projects in Japan.

We also organized Fellow Seminars at our Headquarters and Kyoto Office for these fellows to present their academic achievements to the public.

3—Strengthening Japanese Studies Networks

We continued to promote the development of cooperative and collaborative international and interdisciplinary networks for Japanese studies. Specific activities include the support of annual conferences of major overseas societies of Japanese studies researchers, a survey on Japanese studies in China, and the publication of our survey results on Japanese studies in Europe (p.24). We also supported the activities of associations of ASEAN intellectuals who have studied in Japan, with the view of promoting mutual understanding between people in Southeast Asia and Japan (9 projects).

4—Intellectual Exchange Conferences and Programs

We organized international conferences and intellectual forums to address global and regional issues (33 events) and provided funding for external events (43 grants).

(1) Invitation of Chinese Intellectuals (February 14–22, 2009)

This program aims to develop a forward-looking intellectual network connecting China and Japan outside of the field of Japanese studies. A delegate of eight Chinese public intellectuals who have limited association with Japan visited Japan for nine days to meet and exchange views with Japanese researchers, visit organizations, and travel to regional cities.

(2) Japan-Korea Symposium on Social Entrepreneurs (March 6–7, 2009)

In Tokyo, we organized a public symposium and meetings on social entrepreneurship in Japan and Korea, in view of the similar social structure the two countries share. The events provided a meaningful opportunity for social entrepreneurs who have started their own organizations in response to various social issues and researchers engaged in the study of social enterprises to meet and exchange views.

(3) Lecture by Orhan Pamuk (May 15, 2008)

Orhan Pamuk is a Turkish novelist who won the Nobel Prize in 2006. Taking his visit to Japan as an opportunity, we organized for him to give a lecture at Aoyama Gakuin University and meet with Japanese poet and novelist Tsujii Takashi with the aim of promoting mutual understanding and cultural exchange between the literary communities of Japan and Turkey.

(4) Traveling Seminars in the Middle East for Intellectual Exchange (Jordan, Syria, and Iran, October 2008)

A series of traveling seminars were held under the title of "Intellectual dialogues between Japan and the Middle East: Women's professional and family life—learning from the Japanese experience." The seminars consisted of presentations on the lifestyles of Japanese women and the reality of equal opportunity in Japan as well as lively discussions with local women on related topics, centering on women's entry into workforce. The seminars were designed not only to share information about the Japanese experience and current status but also about the position Middle Eastern women occupy in a society in which culture, custom, and gender roles are different from those in Japan.

(5) *The Tale of Genji* International Forum (Organizer: Tale of Genji Millennium Committee, November 2 to 4, 2008)

With the participation of leading international scholars of Heian literature, a forum on *The Tale of Genji* was held in Kyoto to revisit and renew appreciation for the unique Japanese expression of beauty and philosophy underlying this classical masterpiece of Japanese novel writing. The forum, held as part of a series of events celebrating the millennium anniversary of *The Tale of Genji*, was marked by a wide variety of presentations reflecting international perspectives and robust exchanges among prominent thinkers. The Japan Foundation supported the forum by covering

the travel costs for panelists.

(6) Cross-Border Cinema Culture—The Role of Films in Promoting Cross-cultural Communication (Organizer: the Council of Europe, July 18, 2008)

The Cross-Border Cinema Culture conference was held as part of the Kiev Initiative, a program implemented by the Council of Europe to promote cultural cooperation among the Caucasus nations. The Japan Foundation supported the conference, funding part of the conference costs and recommending Japanese participants. Film industry professionals from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Europe, and Japan convened at an international film festival in Yerevan, Armenia to discuss the roles of films as a tool for facilitating cross-cultural communication and network building.

(7) Aceh Children's Conference (August 16 to 20, 2008)

This conference was held as a follow-up of the performing arts workshop in 2007 which aimed to support the conflict-ridden and tsunami-affected area of Aceh in Indonesia. Twenty-five junior and senior high school students from various regions shared their thoughts on peace and participated in poetry readings, theatrical performances, and vocal and dance performances.

5—Intellectual Exchange Fellowships

(1) Intellectual Exchange Fellowships

Through these fellowships, we supported young researchers in the humanities and social sciences from East Europe, the Middle East, and Africa who are striving to respond to the common global issues faced by contemporary societies by providing them with opportunities to conduct research in Japan and build networks with Japanese specialists for future intellectual exchange (17 fellowships).

(2) Keizo Obuchi Fellowship

We granted fellowships to the participants in a joint research program that forms part of the Obuchi Okinawa Education and Research Program, which is based on an agreement between the governments of Japan and the U.S. (2 fellowships). The participants—researchers, public officials, journalists, NGO workers and other qualified individuals from Okinawa—will engage in joint research at the East-West Center in Hawaii, established to facilitate mutual understanding and stronger relations between the U.S. and the Asia-Pacific region.

6—Intellectual Leaders' Exchange

Under the Asia Leadership Fellow Program, seven intellectuals invited from various countries in Asia, including Japan, spent two months together in Tokyo. The participants, who are all active in addressing social issues attended specialist lectures, engaged in intensive discussions on global challenges, and developed networks with individuals and organizations in Japan and among themselves. Through a wide variety of programs, such as tours to regional cities, they were also able to obtain better understanding of Japanese society and culture.

7—Support for Asian Studies

The Japan Foundation and the Toyota Foundation co-sponsored the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program, a program organized by the SEASREP Foundation with the aim of promoting Southeast Asian studies by Southeast Asian scholars, nurturing talented academics in this field and region, and creating a network of universities and other organizations engaged in studies of the region.

8—Center for Global Partnership (CGP)

[Programs organized and co-organized by CGP: 12 programs]

(1) Abe Fellowship

A total of 13 researchers and other specialists became fellows

in fiscal 2008. The purpose of this fellowship program is to encourage research on pressing global issues that need urgent international, government-level response, and to develop and foster a collaborative relationship and network of Japan and U.S. experts in this field. During the year, a new fellowship category for journalists was created, with the aim of helping to improve the quality of media reporting on issues of great importance to Japan and to the United States. Four journalists received fellowships in the new category.

(2) Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI)

Four Japanese coordinators were sent to the United State under the JOI program, which aims to develop a deeper understanding of Japan and promote a grassroots level of cultural exchange in the U.S. cities where there are relatively few opportunities to participate in Japan-related activities or to interact with Japanese individuals and organizations.

(3) Other programs include a program to promote interaction and communication between Japanese citizens and Japanese-Americans, as well as the Japan-U.S. cooperative program to incorporate cultural activities into disaster recovery and prevention/preparedness.

[Grant programs]

(1) Grant Programs

After an extensive review process, three fields were identified as new target areas of the CGP's grants programs: traditional and non-traditional approaches to security and diplomacy, global and regional economic issues, and the role of civil society. Accordingly, 18 grants were provided to joint projects in the target field organized by Japanese and U.S. organizations. In addition, 38 smaller-scale grants were offered in the United States, consisting of 16 grants for intellectual exchange, 5 grants for grassroots exchange, and 17 educational outreach grants.

(2) Initiatives to Strengthen Japan-U.S. Exchanges

During his visit to the United States in November 2007, then Prime Minister Fukuda announced initiatives to strengthen Japan-U.S. exchanges in three major areas: intellectual exchange, grassroots exchange, and Japanese-language education. As a part of these initiatives, the CGP provides grants to five leading think tanks in the U.S. (the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, the Brookings Institution, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the RAND Corporation), supports Japan-America Societies based in the United States, and operates an invitation program to promote exchange with Japanese-Americans living in the U.S..

9—CULCON

The U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON), whose U.S. secretariat is the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, held its 23rd joint conference in Tokyo in June 2008, at which both sides agreed to adopt a report prepared by specialists of the two countries. The report, *Re-defining the Japan-U.S. Relationship*, proposed specific future directions for cultural, educational, and intellectual exchange between the two countries and recommended related actions. The report was subsequently submitted to the Japanese Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

10—China Center

The China Center operates a wide range of programs related to the three broad initiatives represented by the Long-term Exchange Program for Chinese High School Students, the Networking for Grassroots Exchange (the Heart to Heart Community Site), and the Centers for "Face-to-Face Exchanges" (p.27).