

Activities by Overseas Offices

Asia and Oceania

The Japan Foundation, Beijing

Numerous cultural exchange programs held to mark the 30th anniversary of the signing of the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship

The year 2008 was a big year for China, with a number of big events and memorable occasions. One of these was the Beijing Olympic Games held in August, which impressed the world with its success. On a more somber note, the world media reported the dreadful news about the snowstorm disasters and the Sichuan earthquake. Even in such a year, the continuing progress of Sino-Japanese relations did not falter. Most symbolically, the Treaty on the Establishment of a Cultural Center was concluded between the two governments when the President Hu Jintao visited Japan in May. In response, the Japan Foundation, Beijing made a new start with a status of Cultural Center. In October, the event was celebrated with a ceremony attended by government officials of the two countries and other prominent cultural figures. At the ceremony, Soothe, a Japanese band featuring Japanese taiko drums and shamisen guitar, treated guests to a performance of their contemporary sounds to celebrate the occasion.

The year 2008, the 30th anniversary of the signing of the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship, was also

designated the Japan-China Exchange Year of Culture and Sports, which the two countries commemorated by hosting a number of different cultural exchange programs organized within both the private and public sectors. In November, the Japan Foundation, Beijing hosted the J-pop Concert in Beijing featuring Misato Aki and HALCALI, Japanese singers of anime theme songs, on campus at the Beijing Foreign Studies University. Their performance was enjoyed by nearly 1,000 mostly young people.

To promote Japanese studies and intellectual exchange, the Japan Foundation organized seminars with various themes, including environmental conservation and Japanese policies. We also invited Wang Jisi, dean of the School of International Studies at Beijing University and other experts to Japan to enhance the intellectual network between China and Japan. In Japanese-language education, Japanese-language experts from the Japan Foundation, Beijing and other staff members organized training sessions for university Japanese-language teachers from across the entire nation at Guangzhou and for teachers working in the secondary education sector in Beijing and Changchun. They also provided information to and advised Japanese-language teachers in different cities and towns throughout China.



Above: HALCALI performing at the J-pop Concert in Beijing

Below: Soothe playing at the ceremony for the new start of the Japan Foundation, Beijing.

The Japan Foundation, Seoul

More youth programs

In fiscal 2008, the Japan Foundation, Seoul placed special focus on the enhancement of youth programs and promotion of multilateral exchanges. Among these programs, a concert by Les Frères, a popular piano duo from Japan, was very successful and received enthusiastically in Seoul, Busan and Jeju. The Seoul International Cartoon and Animation Festival was joined by KAGAYA, a prominent artist, as well as popular animation movie directors Morita Shuhei and Ando Masahiro. The Seoul Office, in cooperation with Japanese corporations and other organizations, hosted the National Japanese-Language Students Play Recital to encourage high school

students who are studying Japanese. In the field of literature, the Second Japan Foundation BORANABI Award for authors / translators was given to Lee Young Mi for her translations of *Hinata* and *Akunin*, original books written by Yoshida Shuichi, a Japanese writer also very popular among Korean youth. The award ceremony, attended by Mr. Yoshida, received a lot of media attention.

For the promotion of multilateral exchange, the Japan Foundation, Seoul supported the 2008 International Conference on Japanese-Language Education, which was held in Busan under the theme of wide-area network building. We also supported the Korea Japan China East Asia Literature Forum in 2008, attended by numerous authors and critics representing the three countries.



MMJAZZ, a Korean music magazine, featuring Les Frères on the cover

The Japan Foundation, Jakarta

Friendship between Indonesia and Japan celebrated by a large series of events

The Japan Foundation, Jakarta was busier than ever in 2008, a year in which Indonesia and Japan celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. The large number of Japanese cultural events, both traditional and contemporary, included kabuki plays, jiuta folk song and koto music performances, talks and demonstrations on traditional Japanese wagashi confectionary, the contemporary art event KITA!!: Japanese Artists Meet Indonesia, the contemporary dance event "Odori ni iku ze!" ("We're Gonna Go Dancing!"), Bigeikou (a play based on a story written by Tsutsui Yasutaka), and igo board game

competitions. These events were held not only in Jakarta but in regional cities and were very well received.

Indonesia has the fourth largest population of Japanese-language learners in the world, and most of them are high school students. The Japan Foundation, Jakarta, therefore, prioritizes skills training for high school teachers. In cooperation with the Japan Foundation's Japanese-language experts working in local high schools, the Jakarta Office organized training and study sessions for Japanese-language high school teachers. Also in 2008, the Office developed Sakura, a Japanese-language textbook for elective studies.

In order to support the centers for Japanese studies and education, the Japan Foundation, Jakarta provided support for Postgraduate Studies for



Japanese, Korean, Chinese, and Indonesian Igo fans living in Jakarta playing in the Four-country International Friendship Igo Tournament with Mukai Kozue (first-dan) of the Nihon Ki-in acting as main judge.

Japanese Area Studies, University of Indonesia and the Center of Japanese Studies at the same university. In addition, lectures and seminars by Japanese experts in such areas as international relations, sociology, and education helped the people of Indonesia to better understand Japan today.

Southeast Asian Bureau (Bangkok)

Umbrella office for the Southeast Asia projects

The Southeast Asian Bureau pursues the following three objectives in a comprehensive and interconnected way:

- To make policies for Japan Foundation projects based on inter-regional and comprehensive viewpoints.
- To facilitate collaboration and build networks with other organizations.
- To collect information and analyze results of surveys on the trends of international cultural exchange.

In fiscal 2008, the second year of its operation, the Bureau mainly worked on the collection of information and

coordination needed to determine policies and plans for the Japan Foundation's Southeast Asian projects. Specifically, the projects to be carried out as part of the Mekong-Japan Exchange Year 2009 were organized in cooperation with several countries, while cooperative preparations were for the Japan Creative Center to be built in Singapore. The Southeast Asian Bureau supported Thammasat University of Thailand in its organization of the "Prospects for Japanese-Language Education in Southeast Asia," an international symposium held in October 2008. It also conducted surveys needed for planning of intellectual exchange projects based on the Five-year Plan for Japan-Southeast Asia Cultural Exchange, as well as entrusted surveys for intellectual exchange.

Asia and Oceania

The Japan Foundation, Bangkok

Training course produced 13 new Thai Japanese-language teachers

The Japan Foundation, Bangkok held a number of events and exchange programs in fiscal 2008. In particular, "Celebration of Sakura and Japanese Spring," a film festival centered on the theme of cherry trees—a favorite among Thai people—proved to be a real crowd-pleaser. In addition, distinguished experts in various fields, including theater director Noda Hideki, film critic Yomota Inuhiko, contemporary artist Iwai Shigeaki, and illustrator Kin Shiotani, were invited to present lectures and workshops. For music fans, a classical music concert featuring a trio of musician was staged, in addition to the two "house concerts"

held in the hall at the Japan Foundation, Bangkok.

To support Japanese-language instructors, especially those in secondary education, various kinds of teacher training courses were carried out. From a 10-month long training course conducted jointly with the Thai Ministry of Education, 13 new Japanese-language teachers emerged. In addition, the Bangkok Office issued newsletters, published a journal and textbooks, and organized grant programs, while holding seminars in Japanese-language education.

In November, to mark the opening of the Japanese Studies Center at Chiang Mai University, the Japan Foundation, Bangkok hosted a lecture by Wisut Ponnimit, a Thai cartoonist. To promote intellectual exchange, a series of seminars titled "Old Town Revitalization Seminar:



Hideki Noda (center) at a talk event

Sharing Experiences between Thailand and Japan" was held in February, with three Japanese experts on the Machiya district of Kyoto and Tokyo's Yanaka district. This series of seminars was held in Bangkok, Nan, Phrae and Chiang Mai, all dealing with issues related to the conservation of old town areas.

The Japan Foundation, Manila

Japanese culture introduced as part of the Philippines-Japan Friendship Month and the NIHONGO FIESTA

The Japan Foundation, Manila hosts a diverse lineup of events twice a year. In fiscal 2008, as part of celebrations of the Philippines-Japan Friendship Month in July, the main event was an Okinawan dance performance, which took place alongside a Japanese film festival, a contemporary photography exhibition, and a J-Pop animation festival. Then in February 2009 came the NIHONGO FIESTA, which featured a Japanese-language speech contest accompanied by a demonstration of traditional Japanese edodako kite flying and a koto music performance. The events were selected

to provide a balance of popular culture and traditional arts.

In its efforts to promote Japanese-language education, Japan Foundation, Manila focuses on teacher training and network building. In fiscal 2008, it hosted its annual national forum, attended by over 100 people. Within the capital region, a pilot project to introduce Japanese-language courses in secondary education was started at high schools, with young Japanese-language teachers dispatched from the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Program.

In the area of intellectual exchange, Japan Foundation, Manila prioritizes programs involving people in the conflict-affected region of Mindanao and promotes intercultural friendship between the people of Mindanao and Japan by



Okinawan dance performance

inviting groups of Muslim women, young NGO leaders, and high school teachers to participate in study-tour and related activities in Japan.

The Japan Foundation Center for Cultural Exchange in Vietnam

Focused on Japanese-language education, a new Center opened its doors

Since its opening in March 2008, the Japan Foundation Center for Cultural Exchange in Vietnam has been carrying out a variety of programs. Support was provided for trial Japanese-language courses at junior high and high schools, while Japanese culture was introduced through exhibitions and Japanese film festivals. In 2008, the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Japan, the Center supported an international symposium on Japanese studies hosted by the Vietnam National University Hanoi, College of Social

Sciences and Humanities, as well as an international symposium held to mark the launch of Japanese studies at Hanoi University.

To support the rapidly increasing number of Japanese-language learners, the Center, with support from Mitsubishi Corporation, produced a Vietnamese version of the television program, *Erin's Challenge! I Can Speak Japanese*. The program was aired and enjoyed by learners nationwide.

In addition, a range of lively events and exhibitions were held in the hall of the Center. These included an exhibition on World Heritage sites in Japan, an exhibition by photographer Viet Van of shots taken in Japan, another photography exhibition, this one featuring Vietnamese scenes by Katsu Megumi, The Hanoi I Love exhibition by Japanese residents in Vietnam, a display of Japanese toys,



The Hanoi I Love, an exhibition by Japanese residents in Vietnam

and an exchange program for junior high school students studying Japanese.

In the spring of 2009, the Center opened a new space separate from the library where visitors can browse current Japanese journals and music. The Center continues to serve as a hub of Japanese culture for the people of Vietnam.

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

New location for more efficient operation

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur moved in September 2008 to Mid Valley in the southern part of Kuala Lumpur with the aim of improving the efficiency of operations. New location, which became closer to the University of Malaya and the Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur, contributes to an increase in the number of visitors.

As part of its arts and culture program, the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur staged performances by UNIT ASIA (jazz), Mizuno Nobuyuki Horn Trio, Fukuda Chieko (koto), the Condors (dance), as well as a theatrical workshop and public talk by Noda Hideki and visual art programs such as a contemporary Japanese pottery exhibition. For the film lovers, there were

the annual Japanese Film Festival and Weekend Japanese Film Show. Other events in the comprehensive programs included a demonstration of traditional Japanese wagashi confectionary and the Sarawak Japanese Cultural Festival.

To support Japanese studies and intellectual exchange, lectures and seminars were held in different parts of the country and support was provided for academic conferences and research programs, through which the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur hopes to promote a strong network of researchers.

In the area of Japanese-language education, apart from co-sponsoring a total of six speech contests both at national and regional levels, The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur continues to make steady improvement to the infrastructure development of the



Performance by the Condors

Japanese-language programs, particularly in secondary education level through collaboration in teacher training and syllabus development.

The Japan Foundation, New Delhi

International exchange through film and music

In fiscal 2008, the Japan Foundation, New Delhi hosted a number of big events to introduce Japanese culture to the people of India, including a Japanese Film Festival, which toured the country from October to January, the classical music Trio Concert in Delhi in January, and a nationwide tour of Japanese taiko drum performance, the Wadaiko Ensemble Abeya in March. In Bhutan, a Japanese Ikebana flower arrangement workshop was held in July.

In the area of Japanese-language education, the Japan Foundation, New Delhi supported curriculum and textbook development and teacher training courses

for secondary education. To expand support to other areas of Southern Asia, three Japanese-language education advisors were assigned to India to carry out a variety of support programs, including workshops for teachers both in India and neighboring countries.

To promote Japanese studies in India and intellectual exchange between India and Japan, the Japan Foundation, New Delhi sent visiting professors to Jawaharlal Nehru University and the University of Delhi and supported the upgrading of libraries.

Through JENESYS Program, young Japanese-language teachers were assigned to India, and Indian teachers and learners of Japanese, along with young creative professionals and next-generation leaders, were invited to Japan for training and study.



Nationwide tour by the Wadaiko Ensemble Abeya

The Japan Foundation, Sydney

Japanese Film Festival attracted more than 10,000 people

The Japan Foundation, Sydney's annual Japanese Film Festival was expanded in 2008 in both Sydney and Melbourne. A total of 21 films, including the Academy Award winner, Okuribito (Departures), were screened over 31 separate sessions and viewed by more than 10,000 people. Also in the arts, a five-part exhibition, Facetnate!, featured emerging artists both from Australia and Japan. Other exhibitions titled Secrets of the Karakuri: Japan's Original Robot and Kumamoto Artpolis: Architecture through Communication introduced a wide range of Japanese culture and art.

As part of its Japanese studies and

intellectual exchange program, the Japan Foundation, Sydney published the second issue of New Voices, an academic journal focused on emerging researchers and available in both a printed and open access online version. To introduce the Australian people to Japanese culture and society, a range of lectures on a variety of themes, including multiculturalism in Japan, the world of geisha in Asakusa, Tokyo ("Sayuki: Inside the Flower and Willow World") and the Tale of Genji were presented. All lectures attracted large audiences.

The Japan Foundation, Sydney supports Japanese-language education in Australia by developing online Japanese-language courses and intensive training for teachers living in remote locations as well as by hosting Japanese speech contests.



Crowds gathering at the Japanese Film Festival

The Americas / Europe

The Japan Foundation, Toronto

Entrancing Kabuki presented using the most advanced screen technologies

To celebrate 80 years of Japan-Canada diplomatic relations, the Japan Foundation, Toronto organized a number of different cultural events in fiscal 2008.

By co-hosting or supporting art events and film festivals held in numerous cities throughout Canada, the Japan Foundation, Toronto gave Japanese culture a boost all over the country. For example, "Cinema Kabuki" was shown for the first time in Canada in Toronto, providing local people with a rare chance to see this traditional performing art. To pull off this feat, the Japan Foundation, Toronto cooperated with film production companies and visual equipment manufacturers from both

Canada and Japan, to precisely recreate a Kabuki stage on the big screen in digital high-definition with detailed stereo sound. The cutting-edge visual technologies and the artistic sophistication of this traditional theatrical art had viewers fascinated.

In its efforts to promote Japanese-language education, the Japan Foundation, Toronto held lectures and seminars for teachers and high school students, while continuing its program of sending Japanese-language education experts to Alberta.

To promote intellectual exchange, the Japan Foundation, Toronto joined with the University of Toronto and the Shibusawa Ei'ichi Memorial Foundation to host a symposium on the future direction of the Canadian-Japan relationship and the issues to be addressed following 80 years of diplomatic ties. A separate



Kabuki theater brought to life on a high-definition big screen

lecture by Iokibe Makoto, the President of the National Defense Academy of Japan was also held. With these programs, the Japan Foundation, Toronto provided opportunities for experts to come together with the general public and discuss the relationship between Canada and Japan from a global perspective.

The Japan Foundation, New York

Unique position of Japanese arts in the U.S. recognized

To promote arts and cultural exchange in regions where there are not many opportunities to be exposed to Japanese culture, the Japan Foundation, New York organized Japanese film screenings in four universities in the southern part of the country. These events were very well received at each institution.

In New York, a symposium on Japanese arts, titled Japanese Art in America: Building The Next Generation, was organized in cooperation with Japan Society in New York. The symposium explored the distinctive position of Japanese arts in the United States from the perspectives of exhibition, research, and collection. The future of Japanese

arts in the U.S. was also discussed in terms of both possibilities and possible challenges.

In the area of performing arts, the Japan Foundation, New York served as the office for Performing Arts Japan, a U.S.-Japanese collaborative project aimed at bringing new performances to both countries. Support was provided for a total of 11 pieces, including six tours by different groups (one of which was a seven-city tour by theatrical group chelfitch) and a collaborative project with the Dairakudakan led by Maro Akaji and an American choreographer supported by the American Dance Festival. As part of the ongoing project to dispatch Japanese artists living and working in the U.S. to Central and South America, the Japan Foundation, New York sent three groups of artists to seven cities in six countries.

To promote Japanese studies and



Japanese Art in America, a symposium held in March 2009 in New York

intellectual exchange, the Japan Foundation, New York served as the secretariat office for the American Advisory Committee for Japanese Studies. It also supported network building for researchers in Japanese studies through international conferences and symposiums, including the Annual Meetings of the Association for Asian Studies.

The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles

Promoting Japanese-language education throughout the United States

The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles started a new program for Japanese-language education, the Japan Foundation Group-Tour Program for Educators (U.S. group).

In the United States, many Japanese-language courses are offered in the elementary and junior high school levels. To support Japanese-language education in these schools, the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles invited a total of 25 educational administrators and leaders in the teaching community, whose Japanese courses are already running or are interested in offering those courses,

to participate in a two-week program in Japan. The participants visited several places in Tokyo, Shimoda (Kanagawa Prefecture) and Kyoto to learn about Japanese education, culture, and society and exchange ideas with teachers and government education officials.

As well as enabling the participants to improve their understanding and appreciation of Japanese culture and society, the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles organizes this program to promote and improve elementary and secondary school level Japanese-language education in the U.S..

In the area of arts and cultural promotion, the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles held NOH: Pathos Behind the Mask, consisting of a lecture and demonstration of Noh in five cities



Cultural programs for the participants of the Japan Foundation Group-Tour Program for Educators (U.S. group)

across the western part of the United States. Each performance drew large and enthusiastic crowds and received significant coverage by local media.

The Japan Foundation, Mexico

Twenty thousand people visit the “Spirit of Budo: The History of Japan’s Martial Arts”

Around 20,000 visitors—including many practitioners of kendo, judo and other forms of martial arts—came to see the international exhibition, “the Spirit of Budo: The History of Japan’s Martial Arts,” when it toured Mexico.

Movie buffs in Mexico were also catered for this year, with screenings of the films of director Ozu Yasujiro at the annual Japanese film festival, co-hosted by the Japan Foundation, Mexico and Cineteca Nacional-México. The Ozu films were specially selected in response to current popular interest in the director.

Mexican audiences were also treated

to a performance of Japanese traditional music with shakuhachi, koto and sangen (shamisen), held in the hall at el Palacio de Bellas Artes (the Palace of Fine Arts). The performance and interviews with the musicians were aired twice by local FM radio stations.

The 2008 Symposium on Japanese-language Education was attended by 124 Japanese-language teachers from Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Bolivia, resulting in a stronger network.

Also, the Japan Foundation, Mexico, the only Japan Foundation center in Central America, supported various programs aimed at introducing Japanese culture to other countries in the region by supporting visits by prominent Japanese cultural figures resident in Mexico to neighboring countries.



Traditional Japanese music performance featuring shakuhachi, koto and shamisen

The Japan Foundation, São Paulo

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Brazil

The 100th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Brazil was celebrated in 2008 with more than 2,500 events throughout the country. The main ceremony held in June in Sao Paulo was attended by 40,000 people, while the 170 events organized under the umbrella of the concurrent Japanese Cultural Week drew a total of 120,000 visitors over 10 days.

The Japan Foundation, Sao Paulo celebrated the anniversary by assisting in the running of Japanese Cultural Week as well as organizing a number of its own

programs throughout the year, including the Contemporary Dance Tour by Miyako Kato Dance Space, When Lives Become Form: Dialogue with the Future - Brazil, Japan, and the Karaoke Caravan.

When the Japan Brazil Network Television (JBN) hit the airwaves in June 2008 as a television station specializing in Japanese culture, the Japan Foundation, Sao Paulo initiated a joint project with the station to co-produce specific programs introducing Japanese culture. So far, a total of 36 programs, including the “Wisdom of Flavors” series, have been completed. These programs are aired successively on JBN, providing more opportunities for greater numbers of local people to learn about Japanese culture and study the language.



Contemporary Dance Tour by Miyako Kato Dance Space

The Japan Cultural Institute in Rome (Istituto Giapponese di Cultura)

Organizing events to celebrate the 1000th anniversary of The Tale of Genji

In 2008, the 1000th anniversary of the publication of The Tale of Genji (Genji Monogatari), the Japan Cultural Institute in Rome carried out a number of events to celebrate the occasion. These events included a Heian Kana demonstration, a lecture on the Genji Monogatari Emaki hand scroll and accompanying exhibition of a replica scroll, Kyogen and poetry performance about the story’s protagonist, Hikaru Genji, a lecture and reading by the translator of the Italian translation, and a demonstration of a traditional kodo incense ceremony.

The Institute also hosted a variety of regular events, including an a cappella music performance, a “musical saw”

concert, and a concert featuring Tsugaru folk song and saxophones. The film programs for the year included a tribute to Madame Kawakita and a series of animations. Other events include exhibitions on Japanese contemporary photography, dolls, and calligraphy as well as an exhibition by Shinoda Toko.

The Institute also engages in collaborations with local governments in Japan and Italian organizations in Italy. In fiscal 2008, for instance, it cooperated with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to organize the Tokyo-Edo exhibition, while the exhibition Traditional Crafts and Contemporary Glass Art Craft in Hokuriku was held in cooperation with the Toyama City Government. In addition, a performance of Gagaku, a traditional form of Japanese music, was held at the Rome Auditorium.

In recent years, more Japanese cultural events have been held in cities outside Rome. The Institute supports this movement



The origin, techniques, and expressions of Kyogen: a lecture and demonstration
© Mario Boccia

by hosting various programs in local cities and neighboring countries. In 2008, shakuhachi and koto performances were held in Modena, San Marino, and Malta, and Gakaku was performed in Florence.

In the arena of Japanese-language education, the Institute continued to run evening and Saturday courses to respond to the needs of the learners from different backgrounds. The Institute also provided seminars on teaching methods and other related services for Japanese-language instructors.

Europe and the Middle East

The Japan Foundation, London

Developing programs for Japan-U.K.150

In 2008, a number of organizations worked together to develop and carry out a range of programs for Japan-U.K. 150 in celebration of 150 years of diplomatic ties between the United Kingdom and Japan. The Japan Foundation, London contributed by organizing a number of different programs and events.

In the area of Japanese studies and intellectual exchange, the office launched a series of lectures titled "Movers and Shapers: Japan-U.K. Relations," focusing on key historical figures such as Miura Anjin (aka William Adams) and the Choshu Five. In culture and arts exchange, the Japan Foundation, London organized a variety of events including a symposium

featuring dance professionals from the U.K. and Japan, a lecture by sound artist Fujimoto Yukio, a lecture on contemporary art by Kataoka Mami, an art curator, a reading by British actor of a play written by a Japanese playwright Kokami Shoji, and a lecture by film critic Sato Tadao. It also organized a series of seminars with different themes, and film screenings in a number of cities and towns across the country.

Japanese-language education programs included training courses for instructors on using original resources developed by the Japan Foundation, London as well as on the British examination system. Japanese-language teaching courses for non-native speakers of Japanese, the Talking Contemporary Japan course for general learners of the language, a speech contest, and a seminar on how to



Refresher Course for non-native speaking teachers of Japanese-language

launch Japanese-language courses were also provided. These programs were carefully designed to address a range of different issues, including the need to support instructors, encourage learners, and support organizations planning to offer Japanese-language education.

The Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne (Japanisches Kulturinstitut)

Anime events and cooking demonstrations bring Japanese culture to a wider audience

The Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne hosts art exhibitions, concerts, film screenings, and lectures with its main focus on the promotion of contemporary Japanese culture. It also emphasizes intellectual exchange programs such as symposiums, and also promotion of the Japanese-language. To introduce Japan and Japanese culture to a wider audience, the Institute carried out programs in 2008 introducing Japanese pop culture, including a workshop by anime producer Tsuji Shinya, and a demonstration of European-style yakuzen cooking, in which

dishes are prepared using medicinal herbs. The Dialogue Exhibition, a series of art exhibitions started in 2001 to launch dialogues between young German and Japanese artists on a chosen theme, was also held in 2008. For its performing arts program, the Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne carefully selected performing arts works that ensure a good balance between traditional and contemporary. The Institute also continued its role as the only public organization that screens and introduces Japanese films on an ongoing basis.

As part of its intellectual exchange activities, the Japan Cultural Institute in Cologne hosted a symposium on aging societies in cooperation with the University of Cologne. The symposium served as an opportunity to address various issues for both countries, as well as to introduce a variety of citizen-based activities.



Animation workshop by Tsuji Shinya
© Ueno Jun

The Japan Cultural Institute in Paris (Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris)

Exchange programs to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Franco-Japanese relations

The year 2008, the 150th anniversary of Franco-Japanese relations, saw more exchange programs than ever held in numerous cities and towns throughout France. For example, the Japan Cultural Institute in Paris co-hosted with the Second Imperial Academy a lecture event on the topic, "Conclusion of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between France and Japan." The talks, which shed light on the origin of Franco-Japanese relations, were attended by a large number of people.

In addition to its intellectual exchange programs, the Japan Cultural Institute in Paris focused on activities that

presented more contemporary aspects of Japanese culture to the people of France. These included, in the spring, the touring exhibition PARALLEL NIPPON Contemporary Japanese Architecture 1996-2006 and, in the fall, the exhibition WA: the Spirit of Harmony and Japanese Design Today, featuring as many as 160 examples of superior product design from Japan. Moreover, there were lectures and demonstrations on traditional Japanese wagashi confectionary making and separate presentations on the unique ingredients and spices, a series of screenings of 24 popular films, including the Tora-san series, under the title History of Shochiku (the second series of film-based events introducing Japanese production companies), concerts by HALCALI (a pop group), and a performance by the celebrated young dancer Moriyama



Scene from WA: the Spirit of Harmony and Japanese Design Today
Photo: C.-O. Meylan

Kaiji, along with a host of other events in a variety of fields.

It is committed to designing and presenting innovative regular programs that introduce different aspects of Japanese culture. These include classes in tea ceremony and other cultural courses and programs to help promote Japanese-language education.

The Japan Foundation, Budapest

The Japan-Danube Friendship Year 2009

The year 2009 is the 140th anniversary of the original establishment of diplomatic ties between Japan and Hungary and the 50th anniversary of the restoration of relations. To celebrate the occasion, the year was designated the Japan-Danube Friendship Year 2009 and celebrated with a variety of different cultural events in Hungary as well as Austria, Romania, and Bulgaria. On January 28 and 29, YO-SORO marked the official launch of the year with a live performance of Japanese taiko drums, shamisen and Japanese flute at the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music. The celebrations will continue throughout the year, with more than 60 events.

The year 2008 was also the second year

of the Japan-Hungary Cooperation Forum. The Salary Support Program for Japanese-Language Teachers, a program started as a part of the Forum, was expanded with the addition of seven organizations, making a total of 10 organizations receiving financial support. The office also provided training courses for Japanese-language instructors, symposiums on Japanese-language education, and published Japanese-language textbooks in Hungarian.

It also hosted monthly cultural lectures and film screenings. At Animecon, an animation festival held in September for local animation fans, it participated by organizing a Japanese calligraphy workshop, a Japanese-language trial class, quizzes on Japan, and other fun programs designed to get young people interested in Japanese culture.



Calligraphy workshop at Animecon

The Japanese Culture Department "Japan Foundation" of the All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature

Long-awaited cultural spot opened in Moscow

In July 2008, the much-anticipated Japan Foundation's transitional office in Moscow was finally opened in the city, where Kabuki had been performed for the first time outside Japan, with cooperation from the All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature. Our library was opened to the public in January 2009.

In a city where Japanese cars and restaurants densely populate the landscape, Japanophiles have been waiting for meaningful opportunities to experience Japanese culture. To address these needs, the Japan Book Design

Exhibition was organized in February, with a lecture given by Kashiwagi Hiroshi, professor of Musashino Art University. In March, the photography exhibition *Deadly Ashes* was organized. The accompanying public talk by the photographer, Hosoe Eikoh, and his discussion with Kida Shunichi, an artist who employs a special technique of printing photographs on Japanese washi paper, were warmly received by the audience.

From February through March, four lectures on Japanese literature were given by T.L. Sokolova-Delyusina, the 1993 winner of the Japan Foundation Special Prize and well known as the translator of *The Tale of Genji*. Free Japanese culture classes, including on the language, origami and ikebana have also proved very popular.



Talk session with photographer Hosoe Eikoh and photo print artist Kida Shunichi

The Japan Foundation, Cairo

More Concentration on Japanese-language education as the core of cultural exchange

In Egypt, where the public has little direct access to information on Japan, the Japan Foundation, Cairo prioritized nurturing new generation of people interested in Japan centered on Japanese-language learners.

To this end, the office provides year-round opportunities for people to engage in Japanese culture, including regular flower arrangement classes and tea ceremony events. In 2008, the office arranged a kite making workshop, where the staffs utilized the know-how obtained from the Japanese specialists invited to Cairo the year before. Origami workshop

in collaboration with a popular private cultural center was offered for the first time and attracted a large audience.

To support Japanese-language education and Japanese studies, the Japan Foundation, Cairo focused its Japanese-language courses to the general public and continued its cooperation with Cairo University and other institutions in higher education to develop their regular Japan-specialized courses. JF has extended its comprehensive support towards Ain Shams University, which launched master's program in 2004. Support includes dispatch of both language specialists and visiting professors to guide the students in studying and writing thesis.

As the office covering whole region of the Middle East, the Japan Foundation, Cairo has run several programs for the



8th Middle East Seminar on Japanese-Language Education

benefit of the wider area beyond Egypt. The office organized the 8th Middle East Seminar on Japanese-Language Education, which was attended by 50 people from eight countries, and its language advisor traveled to Kuwait, Jordan, and Morocco for training and consultation. And the office has also arranged artists from Europe to visit Middle East countries for performances, including Japanese Taiko drum performance in Riyadh and Masqat, and a piano concert in Jidda.