

2008 Annual Report

JAPAN FOUNDATION

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About the Japan Foundation

The Japan Foundation was established in October 1972 as a government-affiliated special corporation with the objective of promoting international cultural exchange through the implementation of comprehensive programs. On October 1, 2003, the Foundation was relaunched as an independent administrative institution under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

With its global network consisting of the Tokyo headquarters, a Kyoto office, two domestic Japanese-language institutes (the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa; and the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai) and 22 overseas offices in 20 countries, the Foundation operates a number of programs, often in partnership with other organizations, focusing mainly on three areas: Arts and Cultural Exchange, Japanese-Language Education Overseas, and Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange.

Based on a government endowment of 113 billion yen, the Foundation's activities are financed by annual government subsidies, investment revenue, and donations from the private sector. As of March 31, 2009, the Japan Foundation has 230 staff members.

Our Mission

The mission of the Japan Foundation is: to contribute to the improvement of a good international environment, and to the maintenance and development of the harmonious foreign relationships with Japan, by the efficient and comprehensive implementation of activities for international cultural exchange, which will deepen other nations' understanding of Japan, promote better mutual understanding among nations, and contribute to the culture and other fields in the world.

("The Law of the Japan Foundation Independent Administrative Institution, Article 3")

A Message from the President

The fiscal year 2008 was a year of political, economic, and social upheaval for Japan and for the world. During such a difficult period in which the global community is faced with a number of challenges, the need for mutual understanding and collaboration among people beyond the boundaries of their own national borders greatly increases. This means that international cultural exchange has an even greater role to play than ever before. With this in mind, we at the Japan Foundation continued to implement our international cultural exchange programs surely and effectively, while making great progress in streamlining our operations as an independent administrative institution.

The population of Japanese learners has been increasing every year. According to our 2006 survey, approximately three million people study the language outside of Japan.* The Japan Foundation, with our proven track record and longstanding commitment, has already been providing leadership in Japanese-language education. Public expectation for us to do more in this regard is only increasing. In response to this, we have worked to develop the JF Standards for Japanese-Language Education in order to provide a core framework for studying and teaching Japanese and evaluating learners' proficiency, and have recently released a pilot edition. We also launched the JF Nihongo Network, also known as the Sakura Network, of core Japanese-language institutions across the world, aiming to build a framework for supporting activities undertaken in each country and region to meet local needs. In addition, we established the Center for Japanese-Language Testing in October 2008, to improve the content of the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), ensure the smooth transition from annual to semi-annual JLPT testing, and strengthen the organization for the overall test administration. A total of nearly 560,000 people took the test in 2008.

Intellectual exchange is an important channel through which to develop partnerships through collaborative projects to address global issues. During fiscal 2008, we supported China's efforts to recover from the devastating earthquake in Sichuan Province by sending a volunteer team—the members of which included high school students—and a disaster recovery expert team to the affected area, and by inviting Chinese government officials to Japan to exchange ideas and build network. We also invited future leaders in a variety of fields in Asian countries to visit Japan and learn about our country's efforts to incorporate cultural perspective into city planning by participating in site visits and discussions.

In response to growing interest in increasingly diverse strands of Japanese culture, our programs cover a wide variety of categories, ranging from traditional and contemporary arts, to anime (animation) and culinary culture, and adopt various formats to best suit local needs. Taking another step forward, in fiscal 2008, we also started to work in the area of peace-building through culture. This initiative has invited a fresh examination of the role of culture by highlighting its potential use in addressing today's global challenges, such as the facilitation of recovery efforts in conflict- and disaster-affected areas. We will continue to explore further areas where culture can make positive contributions.

While providing timely, relevant, and effective programs to fulfill social needs, we also recognize the vital importance of—and thus strive to increase—the operational efficiency of our organization. We successfully achieved specific streamlining targets for fiscal 2008, including the reduction of administrative expenditure, which is mainly attributable to the relocation of our headquarters. We also made good progress in optimizing program operations by increasing our organizational flexibility and seeking more collaboration and cooperation with other organizations and businesses.

With the power of culture in the global spotlight, the Japan Foundation will continue to serve as an active provider of effective and efficient programs that meet present societal needs, while never losing sight of the need for ongoing operational reforms. As we continue on our journey, we look forward to your further support.

September 2009

* Source: Survey Report on Japanese-Language Education Abroad 2006: Present Condition of Overseas Japanese-Language Education, published by the Japan Foundation in 2007.



Ogoura Kazuo, President

Program Highlights

Peace-building through culture

We support peace-building and recovery efforts in areas damaged by conflict and natural disasters through cultural exchange.

- Inviting potters from the Afghan pottery town of Istalif (p.10)
- Organizing Aceh Children's Conference in Indonesia for children in conflict-torn areas (p.29)



Introducing new aspects of Japanese culture to the world

We introduce a broad spectrum of internationally popular contemporary Japanese culture through exhibitions, performances, lectures, demonstrations, etc.

- Introducing Japanese popular culture with growing global popularity—often collectively referred to as “Cool Japan”—such as anime, fashion, J-Pop music and cuisine
- “KITA!!: Japanese Artists Meet Indonesia” —an artist exchange project and exhibition, celebrating the Japan-Indonesia Friendship Year (p.7)
- Large-scale exhibition, research and publishing projects commemorating the Japan-Brazil Exchange Year and the Japan-Danube Friendship Year (p.8 and 9)

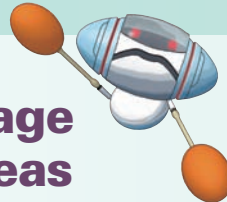


“PIKA PIKA GAMBAR HALILITAR 2008” by TOCHKA, in 2008

Japanese-Language Education Overseas

With approximately three million learners of Japanese-language around the globe, we take strong leadership in the field of Japanese-language education.

- The JF Nihongo Network, also known as the Sakura Network, has expanded its membership to include 54 Japanese-language institutions worldwide (p.15)
- Development of Web- or TV-based teaching materials that can be utilized throughout the world (p.17)
- Development of the JF Standards for Japanese-Language Education, to serve as the leading framework for teaching Japanese and evaluating learner proficiency (p.16)
- Administering the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test to nearly 560,000 people in 52 countries and regions worldwide (p.16)



Developing extensive networks of intellectuals and researchers

We strengthen intellectual networks to address common challenges in the world.

- Japan/China/Korea Future Leaders Forum (p.25)
- Inviting a group of Chinese intellectuals to Japan (p.28)
- Japan-U.S. Leaders Network Program (p.26)
- Intellectual dialogues between Japan and Russia (p.25)
- Japan-Africa Journalists Conference (p.23)
- Enhancing the network of researchers in Japanese Studies (p.24)



Active partnerships with businesses regarding CSR activities

- Conducting surveys on CSR activities of Japanese corporations in the U.K., France, Germany, and five other countries, to build broader and deeper partnerships (p.31)



© Tamashige Sachiko

The Japan Foundation Awards 2008

The Japan Foundation has presented the Japan Foundation Awards each year since 1973 to individuals and organizations for significant contributions to the enhancement of mutual understanding, the promotion and friendship between Japan and other countries through academic, art and other cultural field. In fiscal 2008, the Japan Foundation Award and the Japan Foundation Special Prize were integrated into the Japan Foundation Awards in three categories: Arts and Culture, Japanese-Language, and Japanese Studies.



The Japan Foundation Award for Arts and Culture Marco MÜLLER

Italy
Director of the Venice International Film Festival

In his capacity as director of several major international film festivals in Europe, Mr. Müller has made a significant contribution to the creation of a new dimension in global culture through his efforts to seek out outstanding Japanese and other Asian films and to introduce the rich and diverse world of Japanese films to the world.



Commemorative lecture: "Japanese Movies and Me"
At the Italian Cultural Institute in Tokyo on October 2, 2008
Jointly held with the Italian Cultural Institute



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The Japan Foundation Award for Japanese-Language Angela HONDRU

Romania
Professor of Japanese Literature and Civilization,
Hyperion University

Professor Hondru has made significant contributions to introducing modern and contemporary Japanese literature and culture to Romania through her translations, as well as to promoting Japanese-language in the country through her longtime devotion as a pioneering teacher, textbook author and more, and through her extensive research on the Japanese-language.



Commemorative lecture: "Encounter with Japanese culture"
At the JFIC Hall "SAKURA," the Japan Foundation on October 4, 2008
Held as a JF Supporters Club event



The Japan Foundation Award for Japanese Studies Kenneth B. PYLE

U.S.A
The Henry M. Jackson School Professor of History and Asian Studies
at the University of Washington

With his outstanding achievements in academic research on Japanese history centering on modern and contemporary periods, and as the editor in chief of a Japanese studies journal and a member of leading committees relating to Japan-U.S. relations, Professor Pyle has made significant contributions to fostering greater understanding of Japan and advancing Japanese studies in the U.S., and promoting academic exchange between the two countries.



Commemorative lecture: "Emerging Political Generations in East Asia"
At Iwasaki Koyata Memorial Hall, the International House of Japan on October 2, 2008

**The Japan Foundation is
making positive contributions
through timely and effective programs
to fulfill changing social needs.**

Targets and Achievements of Operational Reform

Since making a fresh start as an independent administrative institution in October 2003, we have been striving to improve our programs and operations for greater effectiveness, efficiency, and responsiveness to social needs.

In fiscal 2008, or the second year of our Second Mid-Term Plan (for the five-year period from fiscal 2007 to fiscal 2011), we continued to make steady progress toward achieving the Plan's targets and launched a new initiative to incorporate greater flexibility into our operation.

Mid-Term Plan: Operations of independent administrative institutions are guided by their approved mid-term (three- to five-year) plans, developed by the institutions based on the guiding plans for the corresponding period established by the respective ministers. The Japan Foundation successfully achieved the targets of its First Mid-Term Plan (three and a half years from October 2003 to March 2007). The Second Mid-Term Plan outlines specific targets and plans for the five years from April 2007 to March 2012.

More efficient operations and more flexible program implementation

Target 15% reduction in administrative expenses within the five years from fiscal 2007

▶▶ In the second year, we were able to reduce these expenses by 13.3% in total, primarily attributable to the relocation of our headquarters to Yotsuya, Shinjuku-ku in Tokyo in April 2008.

Target Annual reductions of at least 1.2% in the program operation costs funded by government subsidies

▶▶ We endeavored to reduce costs while maintaining the quality of programs by collaborating with other organizations, promoting price competition, focusing on prioritized programs, and other strategies.

Target Building stronger partnerships with other organizations

▶▶ We have partnered up with a number of domestic and international organizations including the operation of the Joint Research Institute for International Peace and Culture with a leading higher educational institute in Japan, and the Center for Japanese-Language Testing. At the same time, we undertook a greater number of commissioned projects and solicited donations, resulting in the growth of our revenues.

Target Increasing operational efficiency and flexibility

▶▶ We have consolidated some departments within our headquarters and language institutes, and empowered remaining departments by establishing internal teams initiatives which began in April 2009.

Target Expanding our global networks

▶▶ In addition to our overseas offices, our key partners include the members of the JF Nihongo Network (the Sakura Network) and those groups involved in the Face-to-Face Cultural Exchange Center project in China.

Seeking greater flexibility for more efficient program operations

The Japan Foundation Overseas Offices

- 1 The Japan Foundation, Seoul (est. 2001)
- 2 The Japan Foundation, Beijing (est. 1994)
- 3 The Japan Foundation, Jakarta (est. 1974)
- 4 The Japan Foundation, Bangkok (est. 1974)
- 5 The Japan Foundation, Manila (est. 1996)
- 6 The Japan Foundation Center for Cultural Exchange in Vietnam (est. 2008)
- 7 The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (est. 1989)
- 8 The Japan Foundation, New Delhi (est. 1994)
- 9 The Japan Foundation, Sydney (est. 1977)
- 10 The Japan Foundation, Toronto (est. 1990)
- 11 The Japan Foundation, New York (est. 1972)
(Including the Center for Global Partnership NY)
- 12 The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles (est. 1982)
- 13 The Japan Foundation, Mexico (est. 1987)
- 14 The Japan Foundation, Sao Paulo (est. 1975)
- 15 Istituto Giapponese di Cultura (est. 1972)
- 16 The Japan Foundation, London (est. 1972)
- 17 Japanisches Kulturinstitut (est. 1972)
- 18 Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris (est. 1975)
- 19 The Japan Foundation, Budapest (est. 1991)
- 20 The Japanese Culture Department "Japan Foundation" of the All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature (est. 2008)
- 21 The Japan Foundation, Cairo (est. 1994)



FY 2008 Activity Summary by Country / Region

Cultural exchange programs run by the Japan Foundation are designed to meet local situations and needs, while giving due consideration to diplomatic policies of Japan and relations with the relevant countries. In fiscal 2008, we conducted a number of activities with a special focus on China, Korea, the U.S., and Brazil (commemorating the Japan-Brazil Exchange Year), and other diplomatically important countries and projects.

China

In 2008, the Japan-China Youth Friendship Exchange Year, commemorating the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and the People's Republic of China, a number of cultural exchange events and programs were organized in the two countries both in the government and private sectors. As promoting exchange between young people is one of our long-standing commitments, we also celebrated the year with projects including the Long-term Invitation Program for Chinese High School Students (p.27), and concerts for young audiences (p.8). We also supported China's recovery efforts following the devastating earthquake in Sichuan Province in May 2008 by facilitating the passing on of Japan's experience in similar situations (p.23), to support disaster recovery through cultural exchange.

Korea

In 2006, we established the Five-Year Plan for Japan-Korea Cultural Exchange (2006 to 2010), to strengthen our cultural exchange programs between the two countries. In line with this plan, we organized a series of intellectual dialogues for young leaders and specialists (p.25) along with a number of other programs targeted youth (p.33).

Asia

Funded by the Japanese government, the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Programme is a project which approximately 6,000 young people are invited from ASEAN and other Asia Pacific countries to come to Japan in five years since its inception, with a view to establishing a solid basis for Asian solidarity by expanding youth exchange. As part of this program, we sent and invited Japanese-language specialists and learners (p.20 to 21), and organized exchange programs to nurture future leaders in various fields.

United States

Our programs in the U.S. occupy an important position in our activities. Specific examples include: intellectual and grassroots exchange programs by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, such as "Japan-U.S. Leaders Network Program" to cultivate among the American leaders of the next generation a good understanding and strong interest in Japan, (p.26); support for Japanese teacher training to improve Japanese education in the U.S.; and programs to raise understanding and to promote the spread of Japanese-language education (p.36).

Brazil

The year 2008 was the Japan-Brazil Exchange Year, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first Japanese immigrants to Brazil. The governments of the two countries agreed to conduct a wide variety of exchange programs to forge stronger ties between Japan and Brazil. Accordingly, we organized a large-scale contemporary art exhibition (p.8), stage performances, and programs on Japanese popular culture and cuisine (p.37), aiming to introduce diverse elements of Japanese culture and promote dynamic interaction between the two nations.



In addition to its overseas offices, the Japan Foundation works with a number of international cultural exchange organizations, such as the Goethe-Institut (Germany), the Japanese-German Center Berlin (Germany), Casa Asia (Spain), the Korea Foundation, and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, exchanging information on the latest cultural developments, as well as participating in staff exchange programs, and conducting projects jointly.

Arts and Cultural Exchange

Arts and culture has the power to break through barriers of language or cultural difference and speak to our common humanity. Positive experiences of Japanese culture can leave long-lasting impressions and lead people to develop a greater interest in and feelings of closeness to Japanese culture, and may ultimately serve as the basis of true understanding of Japan. Aspiring to create such a basis, the Japan Foundation actively communicates the appeal of Japanese arts and culture both traditional and contemporary, working in partnership with young people, grassroots organizations, artists and professional arts and cultural organizations.



Towards the shared future of *KITA* (“ours”) —Project on “50 years of diplomatic relations between Japan and Indonesia”

“KITA!!: Japanese Artists Meet Indonesia” was an ambitious art project involving a number of Japanese artists in variety of fields such as contemporary art, music, fashion, food, dance, and manga. The project progressed through a research trip into the condition of the Indonesian arts community in March 2007, and the preliminary research trip for the artist in July 2007, before culminating in a one month residency period from April to May of 2008 when the artists resided in the regional cities of Bandung and Yogyakarta, leading workshops and making works of art before holding an exhibition. This aspiring project originated from a concept developed by curators Toyoshima Hideki and Takahashi Mizuki:

The title of the project “KITA” means “we,” or “us,” in Indonesian. However, without knowing the Indonesian meaning, Japanese would immediately think of the identical Japanese word “kita,” which is the past tense of the verb “to come.”

For an exhibition like this – where the underlying theme is to shift the focus from objects to people, and to create an alternative form of international artistic exchange - having each side interpreting the title in their own language is in some ways self-defeating. That was the reason that one of the curatorial objectives was to bridge this gap that existed between kita (us) and kita (came). It was important for the artists who “came” to Indonesia from Japan to share with the local people the joys of self expression and creativity, and thereby think of each other not in terms of “Indonesians” and “Japanese” but simply as “us.”
(Quoted from: *KITA!! The Document*, p.157)

2008 was the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Japan. The two curators needed to organize a project that took into consideration the history of art exchange between the countries and also pave the way for another 50 years of good relations. In other words, the brief required something special - something that would elevate the project beyond the level of a one-off celebration. As an answer, the curators decided to send over Japanese young people as they are today, in order to incorporate the culture of Japanese young people as it is today. They also added in the popular elements of music, fashion and manga. And thus it was that no less than 60 Japanese artists set foot on Indonesian soil.

Prompted by the encounter with the earnest activities of alternative art spaces and museums in their nascent stages in Indonesia’s regional centers, the curators made another decision to hold the project’s exhibitions not in the capital of Jakarta where larger crowds could be expected, but in the secondary centers of Bandung and Yogyakarta, where the local arts and communities seemed to be more deeply ingrained in the social fabric. At the end of the whole project, there were approximately 10,000 visitors all together.

Considering the local attitudes and customs regarding art were very different to those of Japan, it goes without saying that the more ambitious the curator’s plans, the

more challenging it became for Japanese young artists. However, although it was the first time in Indonesia for most of the artists, they displayed surprising adaptability. Epitomized by the touching opening of the exhibition by Yodogawa Technique who made a giant Arowana fish out of rubbish with locals who lived by a river, the artists were warmly received in the local community and gained all kinds of intangible benefits in the process.

The power of the performing arts also could not be underestimated. The unique dancing by the Strange Kinoko Dance Co. and performances by Chanchiki Tornade especially seemed to resonate with the locals, as the excitement generated from these live performances thrilled the crowds in ways not possible with an exhibition alone.

The KITA!! project was comprehensively documented in book and DVD, and published as exhibition document/catalog.

Curators: Toyoshima Hideki (Director, graf media gm), Takahashi Mizuki (Curator, Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito)
Artists: Oishi Akinori, Kotaka Takuro, Tochka, Kondoh Akino, Shiriagari Kotobuki, Hachiya Kazuhiko, Takagi Masakatsu, Nishijima Daisuke, Nanpu Shokudo, Theatre Products, Chanchiki Tornade, SONTON, Namaiki, Asai Yusuke, Yodogawa Technique, Nishio Yasuyuki, Chim ↑ Pom, Strange Kinoko Dance Co., YNG (Yoshitomo Nara + graf), Tsuzuki Kyoichi, Shiga Lieko, Matsumoto Chikara, paramodel, Ujino Muneteru



Above: “Kinky Muff Land III—edible urban party jungle studio (free food forest foundation),” Namaiki, 2008
Below: Yodogawa Technique creating “Yogyakarta’s Arowana,” 2008
Photos courtesy of YUKARI ART CONTEMPORARY

Performing Arts Exchange

—Overseas Performance: China, South Korea

Cultural exchange with South Korea and China through music

Concerts by young Japanese musicians in South Korea and China facilitate interaction among young people.

Les Frères piano tour in South Korea

Piano concerts by a Japanese brotherly duo called Les Frères were organized in the three South Korean cities of Seoul, Busan, and Cheju, in October 2008. Prior to the tour, the two performed on a popular music program, which helped them to attract large live audiences, manifested in long lines of young Koreans waiting outside venues.

Inside the venues, huge screens showed close-ups of this fascinating four-handed performance, in which the two musicians sat at and played a single piano, adding a visual element that helped create a sense of intimacy with the audience. The tour served as a successful introduction to contemporary Japanese music to Korea. Les Frères are planning to expand their concert tour to other Asian countries.



Les Frères' live concert in Seoul © Yuu Kamimaki

Soothe concert tour in China

Soothe is a group of Japanese musicians trying to create music by their five instruments—tsugaru-shamisen, taiko drum, guitar, bass guitar, and drums. Their first tour outside of Japan in China attracted roughly 14,000 people, mostly young, to performances at theaters, universities, and clubs in the seven cities of Beijing, Harbin, Nanjing, Shanghai, Macao, Hong Kong, and Zhuhai. The group's innovative harmonies along with their shamisen, guitar and taiko drum solos won over the Chinese audiences. During the tour, the group enjoyed sessions with VJ (video jockey) group DaDaKingZ in Beijing and in Shanghai, a local band that incorporates the sounds of a Chinese *pipa* guitar, called Cold Fairyland (named after a book by Murakami Haruki).

Visual Arts Exchange

—Overseas Exhibition: Brazil

Exhibition of cultural hybridism —A collection of Brazilian and Japanese artworks

The Japan Foundation organized a contemporary art exhibition, “When Lives Become Form: Dialogue with the Future,” at the Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo from April to June 2008, as a key project commemorating the Japan-Brazil Exchange Year.

Curated by Hasegawa Yuko, the exhibition covered a wide array of artistic practices, including architecture, fashion, design, video, and music, presenting the works of Japanese and Brazilian artists from the 1950s and 60s, and the 90s to the present.

According to Hasegawa, cultural similarities between Japan and Brazil can be seen in the way the two countries, geographically remote from the center of the global modernization process, were free to independently develop their own unique cultures based on their own local history and customs, as well as in the high levels of hybridism and acceptance of foreign cultures.

Selected works by 18 Japanese and 20 Brazilian artists were presented in thematic sections titled, “Proposal for living together,” “Geometry as a new order,” “Pop culture and art,” and “Poetic micro-politics.”

The exhibition space itself was buzzing with the energy and interest of the visitors, many of whom also participated in workshops led by the Japanese artists, creating a new dialogue between two countries.

Curator: Hasegawa Yuko (Chief Curator of Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo)

Artists:

Japan: Aoki Ryoko, Akasegawa Genpei, Adachi Kiichiro, ISSEY MIYAKE, Ito Zon, Odani Motohiko, Kojin Haruka, Koganezawa Takehito, SANAA, Takagi Masakatsu, Takano Aya, Tanaka Atsuko, Chim ↑ Pom, Teruya Yuken, Ban Shigeru, Mori Mariko, Yamaguchi Katsuhiro, Yoshioka Tokujin

Brazil: Assume Astro Vivid Focus, Isabela Capeto, Rogerio Degaki, Lina Bo Bardi, Lygia Clark, Lucia Koch, André Komatsu, Leonilson, Marepe, Ruy Ohtake, Tomie Ohtake, etc.



Exhibits at the Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo
© Luigi Stavale, 2006

Introduction of Japanese Culture:
Portugal, Spain

Japanese cuisine as culture

The Japan Foundation organized lecture and cooking demonstrations on the theme of Japanese *Kaiseki-ryori* cuisine for spring in a number of cities in Portugal and Spain.

The combination of outstanding cooking skills demonstrated by our experienced guest chefs and their comprehensive presentations based on in-depth knowledge, made a significant contribution to increasing the understanding and popularity of Japanese cuisine as a form of culture.

Presentation topics:

- (1) Climate and customs: the four seasons and their associations, and characteristics of Japanese geography
- (2) History of Japanese cuisine: rice farming, salt production and the evolution of fermented foods, the establishment of *Honzen-ryori* style, and the influence from abroad
- (3) Tableware: earthenware, porcelain, lacquerware, wood tableware, metalware, glassware and their seasonal uses
- (4) Cooking tools: the different knives used in Japanese cooking
- (5) Key elements of Japanese cuisine: season, table manners and etiquette, nutritional facts, presentation, and *dashi* broth.



Demonstration at a cooking school in Salamanca, Spain

Introduction to Japanese Culture: Sweden, Norway, Finland

Discovering Japanese culture through animation



Lecture in Stockholm, Sweden

The Japan Foundation organized a lecture tour by Kon Satoshi, director of the animation films *Millennium Actress* and *Tokyo Godfathers*, in Sweden, Norway, and Finland. Along with screenings of his films, he talked about his work and production processes. The talk received fantastic response, providing audiences with a first-hand account of how he created his own original world and brought it to life. Some of the audience members even posed their questions in Japanese, which implemented the link between an interest in Japanese anime and the desire to study the language.

In Sweden, Kon delivered lectures on his production process to university students specializing in film production, and met with students interested in Japanese culture.

Performing Arts Exchange
—Overseas Performance: Romania, Austria

Opening event for the Japan-Danube Friendship Year —Nohgaku performances in two European countries



Noh play, *Aoinoue Azusanode* in Vienna
Lead actor: Takeda Yukifusa
© The Nohgaku Performers' Association

The Japan Foundation organized *Nohgaku* theatrical performances in Romania and Austria in February 2009, as one of the opening events celebrating the Japan-Danube Friendship Year in 2009, aimed at deepening the friendship between Japan and the countries along the Danube river.

The event consisted of a *Kyogen* play, *Obagasake*, and a *Noh* play, *Aoinoue Azusanode*, performed by 20 *Nohgaku* actors from the *Nohgaku* Performers' Association. Being the first *Nohgaku* performance in Romania, the players received a very enthusiastic welcome, with the Teatrul National București in Bucharest filled to its full capacity of over 1,000 seats at each performance over the two days. *Nohgaku* performers also led four-session *Noh* and *Kyogen* workshops, for local actors and dancers.

Performing Arts Exchange
—Overseas Performance: Singapore, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Thailand

UNIT ASIA Jazz Concert Southeast Asia Tour

With support from the Japan Foundation, a jazz ensemble named UNIT ASIA was formed and toured around five Southeast Asian countries for about a month beginning mid-October 2008. Consisting of members from Japan (Miyoshi Isao on guitar, Noritake Hiroyuki on drums and Ippon Shigeki on bass), Thailand (Koh Mr. Saxman on saxophone) and Malaysia (Tay Cher Siang on piano), the band began its tour following rehearsals in Malaysia, evolving its performance at each gig and developing a synergy and energy that had audiences thrilled. In February 2009, the group came together again to conduct a successful Japan tour, visiting Tokyo, Kyoto, and Nagoya.



UNIT ASIA in Manila

Cultural Cooperation: Afghanistan

Japanese potters support the rebuilding of a country's traditional culture following civil war

Since the summer of 2002, the Japan Foundation has been supporting the efforts of Istalif, a town in Afghanistan, to rebuild its traditional pottery industry and reinvigorate the area by inviting future leaders of the local industry to Japan. The program has been widely acclaimed for its contribution to restoring Afghan tradition and national pride.

The main objectives of the program in fiscal 2008 were to provide technical guidance to the next generation of craftspeople, develop a human network, and promote understanding of the culture of pottery in Japan. To achieve these aims, we invited the two youngest potters from the group that visited Japan as part of our 2005 program.

To provide the training, we invited Shirakata Yasuhiko of Hachi-zui Kiln, a master potter in the traditional *Tobe-style*, and Nagaoka Yasunori, an pottery artist working in the Joseon Dynasty style, both of whom had participated in this program in the past: Shirakata visited Istalif for fieldwork and workshops in 2003 and Nagaoka conducted research in Japan into the clay and glaze used in Istalif pottery in 2006. The two instructors made it possible to lead more specialized training such as making gas-fired kilns, casting using plaster molds, and making large pieces.

The program was supported by number of Japanese and international organizations*, particularly by the partnership with the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park.

* National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan, Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Yogyo Vocational Training Institute of Aichi Prefecture, Mizunami City Ceramic Industrial Technical Laboratory, Ena City Kushihara Junior High School, Association of Shigaraki Ceramic Company, and others.



Learning about glaze at Yogyo Vocational Training Institute of Aichi Prefecture



Istalif ceramics, 2007
Photo by PAO Corporation

Visual Arts Exchange—International Art Exhibition

Yokohama Triennale attracts over 300,000 visitors



"Baby Marx," by Pedro Reyes, 2008;
photo by Ueno Norihiro
Courtesy of the artist and Yvon Lambert Gallery



We organized the third Yokohama Triennale, an international contemporary art exhibition, which was held from September 13 to November 30, 2008.

Including three main sites in the Shinko Pier area, the exhibition was spread over seven Yokohama City venues selected for their character and visited by more than 300,000 people over 79 days.

The theme of the exhibition was "Time Crevasse," a concept minted by the exhibition's artistic director Mizusawa Tsutomu. In accordance with the theme, which aimed to "provide an opportunity for a thrilling experience to peer at the edge of 'time crevasses' which tend to pass unnoticed in the everyday life overloaded with information," the exhibition was characterized by the selection of the artists with site-specific works and performances.

The exhibition was enlivened by numerous weekend events. These included a series of "National Days," co-organized by the Tokyo embassies of the participating artists' home countries and other international exchange organizations, and "Ring Dome events," which consisted of talk events, music and dance performances staged by young Japanese artists at the "Ring Dome," which was itself one of the artworks on display. This diversity of the related programs and site-specific works attracted large visitors, giving the Yokohama Triennale a distinct and unique appeal.

The increased international attention was another notable feature of the 2008 exhibition. With the cooperation with major biennales in Asia region (Shanghai, Kwangju, Singapore, and Sydney) and invitation of foreign journalists to the event, international media coverage increased fourfold over the last Triennale.

Artistic director: Mizusawa Tsutomu

Curators: Daniel Birnbaum, Fang Hu, Miyake Akiko, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Beatrix Ruf

Artists: Ono Yoko, Nakaya Fujiko, Herman Nitsch, Teshigawara Saburo, Douglas Gordon, Matthew Barney, Paul Chan, Cao Fei, etc.

Communication and networking among NGOs striving for a sustainable society

We invited 15 young NGO workers from seven countries to share their experiences and knowledge and create networks in the field of education for sustainable development (ESD). During the 12-day tour, participants from Brazil, Mexico, Ecuador, Indonesia, Laos, Kenya, and South Africa visited various environmental education initiatives in Tokyo and Okinawa to learn about their operation. They also participated in the International Forum on ESD 2008, organized by UNESCO and others, to obtain a better understanding of international ESD trends and Japan's efforts toward creating a sustainable society.

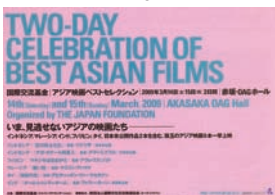


Visit to the Umi-no-Mori (Sea Forest) site, a project to transform a landfill site into a forest

Two-Day Celebration of Best Asian Films

In March 2009, we organized an event dubbed the “Two-Day Celebration of Best Asian Films—a collection of not-to-be-missed Asian films” at OAG Hall in Akasaka, Tokyo. Since our first Asian film festival in 1982 featuring masterpieces of South Asian movies, the Japan Foundation has continued to introduce Asian cinema created from fresh and innovative perspectives. For the latest event, we selected six films from Indonesia, Malaysia, India, the Philippines, and Thailand, depicting Asia today, including the Indonesian movie, *Rainbow Soldiers*. Attracting more than 1,300 people, the film festival was a great success with some programs completely sold out. Audience were

impressed with the diversity and cultural depth of the films and their detailed and sincere portrayals of contemporary Asian society and daily life, and reported getting a sense of an emergence and burgeoning of a new type of film.



The 18th Kaiko Takeshi Memorial Asian Writers Lecture Series



Do Hoang Dieu, Writer

The Kaiko Takeshi Memorial Asian Writers Lecture Series was started in 1990, funded by an endowment from the family of the late Kaiko Takeshi. Each year as part of this program, a writer or other member of the Asian literary community, who would otherwise have little chance for exposure in Japan, is invited to present a lecture at various locations in Japan. The selected recipient in fiscal 2008, the 18th year of the program, was up-and-coming Vietnamese novelist Do Hoang Dieu, who gave a lecture titled “Between the Vietnam War and Doi Moi,” in Hakodate, Sendai, Tokyo, and Osaka. Coinciding with her visit, we published the first Japanese translation of her best known work, *Bong De* (“Incubus”), translated by Kato Sakae, associate professor at Daito Bunka University. We also arranged a meeting between Do Hoang Dieu and Takagi Nobuko, a Japanese writer who is very active on the Asian literary scene.

Participation in Book World Prague 2008



Czech translation of *The Tale of Genji* (in four volumes)

In April 2008, the 14th International Book Fair and Literary Festival—Book World Prague 2008, took place at the Palace of Industry in Prague. The Japan Foundation, in cooperation with the Publishers Association for Cultural Exchange and the Japanese Embassy of Czech, represented Japan with our own booth. Opportunely, the final volume of Karel Fiala's Czech translation of *The Tale of Genji* (published by Paseka Publishers with support of the Japan Foundation) was released just prior to the exhibition in February 2008, an event that garnered a great deal of attention in the country, coinciding as it did with the 1000th anniversary of the original publication of this Japanese classic masterpiece. The translator Fiala had listeners in rapt attention when he gave a special talk on the merits of the book in an area adjacent to our booth.

Summary of Arts and Cultural Exchange Programs

1—Cultural Presentation Abroad

The Japan Foundation organized lectures, demonstrations, workshops abroad, sending specialists in 15 fields of Japanese culture such as animation, literature, architecture, craft work, cuisine (p.9), and martial arts: Yokota Masao (President of the Japan Society for Animation Studies), Ito Hiromi (poet), Tanabe Shochiku (bamboo artist), in addition to the aforementioned Kon Satoshi (p.9) (24 projects in 69 cities in 45 countries). We also provided a total of 52 arts and cultural grants.

2—Invitation Program for Cultural Leaders

Distinguished overseas cultural figures, including President of Universitas Indonesia Gumilar Rusliwa Somantri, U.S. writer Stuart Dybek, and Russian film director and theatrical producer Kirill Serebrennikov, were invited to Japan to engage in research and participate in discussions with their Japanese counterparts (27 people from 25 countries).

3—Cultural Cooperation

We organized two-way exchange programs to support training for Afghan potters (p.10), the documentation of the production of cultural properties and historical records in Bhutan and Russia, and the conservation and restoration of historical ruins in Vietnam (4 projects in 4 cities in 4 countries), as well as providing a total of 10 grants in this area.

4—Cultural Exchange at the Grass-roots level

We invited 15 young NGO members active in the field of education for sustainable development (ESD) from seven countries including Brazil and Indonesia to Japan (p.11), as well as six film students from three Middle Eastern countries, including Afghanistan, to make documentaries about Japan. We also provided a total of 79 grants in this area.

In addition, as part of the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Programme, we invited young NGO/NPO staffs and primary and secondary school educators working on environmental issues and environmental education (48 people from 15 countries) to participate in a project with the theme of "Environment:Symbiosis with Nature and a Sustainable Society."

5—Group Tours Program for Secondary School Educators

With a view to giving young people around the world a better understanding of Japan and improving the understanding young Japanese people have of other cultures, we invited junior high school and high school teachers from around the globe (201 teachers from 55 countries) to visit schools and cultural facilities across the country. Participating schools include Iwate Prefectural Morioka Senior High School for Handicapped, Saitama Municipal Omiya Yahata Junior High School, and Kyoto Municipal Shinmachi Elementary School.

6—Kaiko Takeshi Memorial Asian Writers Lecture Series

Started in fiscal 1990 with an endowment from the family of the late Kaiko Takeshi, this lecture program for Asian writers marked its 18th year in fiscal 2008. This year we invited up-and-coming Vietnamese novelist Do Hoang Dieu to present lectures in Hakodate, Sendai, Tokyo, and Osaka (p.11).

7—International Exhibitions

We represented Japan at the 11th International Architecture Exhibition at the Venice Biennale 2008 (commissioner of

the Japanese pavilion: Igarashi Taro; artists: Ishigami Junya, Ohba Hideaki) and the 13th Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh (commissioner: Uematsu Yuka; artists: Yoneda Tomoko, Suda Yoshihiro). At home in Japan, we organized the Third Yokohama Triennale (artistic director of the Triennale: Mizusawa Tsutomu) in cooperation with the City of Yokohama, NHK (Japan Broadcasting Cooperation), and the *Asahi Shimbun* (p.10).



Exhibit at the International Architecture Exhibition, Venice Biennale
© The Japan Foundation

8—Exhibitions Abroad

In addition to the aforementioned "KITA!!" and "When Lives Become Form" (p. 7, 8), we organized a number of original exhibitions, including "WA: The Spirit of Harmony and Japanese Design Today" in France, "Emotional Drawing" in South Korea, "What a Place Tells Us" in Thailand, and "Advertising Photographs Today" in Russia and Singapore (8 exhibitions in 9 cities in 7 countries). We also provided a total of 45 grants in this area.

Working with Japanese embassies and consulates as well as host museums, we also organized touring exhibitions around the world under 17 different themes, showcasing a wide range of Japanese culture ranging from traditional to contemporary including "Painting for Joy: New Japanese Painting of the 1990s," "Japanese Design Today 100," "The Dolls of Japan," "Japanese Pottery," and "The Spirit of Budo," (94 exhibitions in 94 cities in 53 countries).

9—Exhibitions in Japan

Aiming to introduce world-class art that is little known in Japan, we co-organized exhibitions with host museums. These include "Emotional Drawing," with the National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo and the National Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto, and "Avant-Garde China," with the National Art Center in Tokyo, the National Museum of Art in Osaka, and the Aichi Prefecture Museum of Art. We also provided a total of 9 grants in this area.

10—Information Exchange in Visual Arts

To facilitate interaction among arts-related professionals, we organized programs such as the Fourth Asian Museum Curator's Conference in Japan to build a network of experts in the Japan-Australia Art Forum (4 projects in 16 countries).

In addition, as part of the JENESYS Programme we invited young artists, designers, and other individuals engaged in creative fields to produce artistic works and develop networks (22 people from 13 countries).

11—Overseas Performances

In addition to the aforementioned performances by Les Frères, Soothe (p.8), *Nohgaku* actors, and UNIT ASIA (p.9),

we organized performances covering various genres, such as jazz (Masaru Imada Quartet in France and Uzbekistan), contemporary Japanese-Western fusion music (Group BAKK Japan in Russia, Ukraine, and Lithuania), *Tsugaru-shamisen* (Yoshida Brothers in New Zealand and Fiji), contemporary dance (Shirai Tsuyoshi in Luxembourg), and *kabuki buyo* dancing and *Nishiki-e* art (Bando Kotoji, et al. in Indonesia and Thailand) (25 tours in 84 cities in 48 countries). We also provided a total of 105 grants in this area.

We also offered 28 grants through Performing Arts Japan, a grant program for non-profit organizations in the U.S. and arts and culture organizations in Europe to introduce top Japanese performing arts groups to local audiences.

12—Invited Performances in Japan

Aiming to introduce outstanding yet little-known overseas performing arts to Japan, we organized a percussion orchestra concert by Doudou N'Diaye Rose from Senegal. We also provided a total of 10 grants in this area.

13—International Performing Arts Co-production

For our Tosca Project 2008, theater groups from Japan, the Philippines, and South Korea worked together to create a new production of *La Tosca* by French playwright Victorien Sardou. The play was performed in South Korea and the Philippines. We also supported the creation of a contemporary dance work *Kokashita*, which was choreographed by Ide Shigehiro (head of idevian crew) and performed by Japanese and Thai dancers as part of the first Festival/Tokyo performing arts festival.

14—Information Exchange in Performing Arts

We worked continuously to facilitate information exchange among performing arts groups, presenters, festival organizers, theaters, and local public organizations. Key initiatives include the operation of a bilingual Japanese-English website Performing Arts Network Japan (<http://www.performingarts.jp>) which provides updates on performing arts in Japan, and co-hosting of the Tokyo Performing Arts Market 2009 (11 projects).

15—Translation and Publication on Japan

Through our grant program, we supported 65 publication projects for the translation of Japanese-language texts on subjects relating to the humanities, social sciences, and the arts, as well as for the publication of books on Japanese culture written in foreign languages. In fiscal 2008, two projects that had been ongoing since fiscal 2007—the translation into Arabic of *Meiji* by the NHK *Meiji* Project and *The Path Traveled by Japan as a Developing Country* by Ohno Kenichi—were completed. We donated copies of these translations to educational institutions in Arabic-speaking countries and arranged for one of the authors to present a lecture in Cairo.

16—Book Fair Support Program

To introduce Japanese publications and promote better understanding of Japan, we participated in the 53rd International Belgrade Book Fair at which Japan was the year's guest of honor, the 14th Book World Prague (p.11), and other international book fairs overseas (12 book fairs in 12 cities in 12 countries).

17—Promotion of TV Broadcasting Abroad

We provided support to overseas television stations to facilitate the broadcasting of Japanese television programs, including providing *Project X: Challengers* to Zambia's national broadcaster (22 projects in 20 countries).

18—Support Program for the Production of Film and TV Programs on Japan

To facilitate a better understanding of Japan in other countries, we provided financial support for the production of films and television programs that took some aspect of Japan as their subject, including a French documentary film *Astroboy in Roboland* (7 grants in 4 countries).

19—Film Festivals Abroad

In cooperation with Japanese embassies and consulates, local cultural organizations, and other partners, we screened Japanese films and co-sponsored film festivals around the world, including the "Nakadai Tatsuya series screenings" in New York and the "East Europe Travelling Film Festival" (51 projects in 45 countries). We also provided grants to facilitate the screenings of Japanese films at international film festivals abroad (49 grants in 22 countries).

20—Film Festival in Japan

With the aim of introducing Japanese audiences to foreign films that would otherwise not likely to be screened in Japanese theaters, we organized Two-Day Celebration of Best Asian Films (p.11). We also provided a total of 11 grants in this area.

21—Information Exchange in Film, TV and Publication

We issued a quarterly newsletter titled *Japanese Book News* for overseas publishers and translators, and a catalog providing basic information on Japanese films called *New Cinema from Japan*. The latter was published in cooperation with UNI JAPAN. We also presented the Japan Foundation President's Prize at NHK's international educational media contest JAPAN PRIZE 2008, in recognition of excellence in an educational program that contributes to mutual understanding among different nations and ethnic groups. We also recognized young South Korean writers and translators dealing with Japanese themes with the Japan Foundation BORANABI Award for author / translator.



Left: *Japanese Book News*, Winter 2008 Issue
Right: *New Cinema from Japan*, Autumn 2008 Issue

22—Support for the International MANGA Award and the Anime Ambassador project

We invited to Japan three winners of the Second International MANGA Award (organized by the International MANGA Award Executive Committee), including top prize winner Lau Wan Kit. We also cooperated in overseas screening events for Japanese DVDs subtitled in local languages, held as part of the Anime Ambassador Doraemon project (84 screenings in 61 locations).

Japanese-Language Education Overseas



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An increasing number of people outside of Japan are studying Japanese-language for various reasons and in various learning environments. Irrespective of such diversity, learning Japanese and about Japanese culture is the first step toward developing a better understanding of Japan. In recognition of this, the Japan Foundation has played, and will continue to play a leadership role in the promotion of Japanese-language education overseas. To this end, we send Japanese-language specialists abroad, offer training programs in Japan for international Japanese-language teachers and learners, administer the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test, and implement numerous other programs.



Supporting Japanese-Language Education through the “Sakura Network”

Strengthening partnerships with core Japanese-language institutions
The JF Nihongo Network, also known as the “Sakura Network,” is a global network linking core institutions and teacher associations striving to promote the Japanese-language and improve the quality of Japanese-language education in cooperation with the Japan Foundation.



As of March 31, 2009, the network comprises 54 core member organizations from 31 countries, in addition to our overseas offices. We aim to increase the core member to 100 organizations by 2010.

With an international trend of expanding multiculturalism and multilingualism, Japanese-language education abroad has entered into a new phase. The number of learners is growing, their demographics are becoming more diverse, and their reasons for studying Japanese-language, their style of studying, and their learning environments are becoming more varied. The challenges for Japanese-language teachers and institutions have also become increasingly broad in scope. The Japan Foundation is accelerating information sharing and cooperation among the core members of the “Sakura Network” so as to implement more effective and meaningful programs that will better serve local needs.

Implementing the “SAKURA Core Project”

We implemented the “SAKURA Core Project” in fiscal 2008 to support projects operated by “Sakura Network” core members that are identified as having extensive ripple efforts on the development and growth of Japanese-language education over an entire area or country. In fiscal 2008, we provided grants to 13 projects designed to best accommodate local situations and needs. We also invited 87 educational representatives from 15 countries to Japan, most of whom were either government education officials in charge of their country’s Japanese-language programs or principals of schools that offer Japanese-language courses. The project offered them an important opportunity to reexamine the meaning and benefits of teaching Japanese-language in their countries.



“SAKURA Core Project” Group Tour Program for Educators 2008–2009

Supporting Japanese-Language Specialists and Institutions

The key to assisting Japanese-language education to take root and develop in foreign countries is making sure that local teachers and schools are of high quality and have the capacity to work together to provide effective programs and lessons without having to rely on external resources.

Japanese-language specialists are assigned to such overseas organizations as educational ministries, universities and other educational institutions, as well as the Japan Foundation’s overseas offices, to provide teacher training, teaching language classes, developing curriculums and teaching materials, and supporting local teachers in building their networks.

We also provide grants to cover local teachers of Japanese-language courses abroad, overseas Japanese speech contests, and seminars for Japanese-language teachers.



Team teaching in a school in Hanoi

Specialists’ activity report

In Vietnam, an experimental project on Japanese-language education in the secondary education system has been in place since 2003. Under this project, approximately 2,500 Vietnamese students were learning Japanese as their first foreign language as of May 2008.

Specialists dispatched to the Japan Foundation Center for Cultural Exchange in Vietnam Inami Yukiko, Ito Aiko

We visit four participating schools to this project in Hue and Da Nung seven to eight times a year. The schools do not have full-time Japanese-language specialist to observe and support lessons. However, with even a small question or suggestion from us, the local teachers are consistently able to improve their lessons. After the improved classes, the students are always beaming with joy, which keeps the teachers energized and motivated. We are often impressed with the local teachers’ professional growth, which seems to be linked to the repetition of these kinds of positive experiences with students.

To provide and maintain a good learning environment for students, we have to make sure that teachers can concentrate on teaching without having to worry about other problems. We will continue working with our local partners to meet this objective.

(Source: *From the Frontline of Japanese-Language Education around the Globe*: FY 2008)

The JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education

Release of a pilot in preparation for the future development of the first edition

Japanese-language education is developing almost on a daily basis. Approximately 2.98 million people study Japanese outside of Japan and 120,000 international students are studying in Japan, according to the Japan Foundation's 2006 survey and the Japan Student Services Organization's 2007 survey, respectively. These surveys also revealed that in today's globalizing world, the objectives of Japanese learners have broadened and range from academic and professional reasons to making life in Japan easier to just for fun.

These changes require educators to rethink traditional ideas and methodologies and take meaningful steps to bring them up to date. The Japan Foundation aims to become part of the solution by developing the JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education, based on its extensive experiences in Japan and abroad.



Pilot edition of the JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education

Throughout fiscal 2008, information about the JF Standard was released to Japanese-language educators through academic journals and conferences. In March 2009, the pilot edition of the JF Standard was released to Japanese-language teachers and institutions. In the pilot edition, we defined the vision and objectives of the JF Standard and described the development processes that took place at our German and Korean offices and at the Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa.

We plan to release the first edition of the JF Standard by the end of fiscal 2009. To help realize the vision of the JF Standard, the first edition will include a database containing can-do descriptors and a portfolio sample designed to develop learners' competence in autonomous learning and understanding of different cultures. It will also include examples of practices illustrating ways in which the vision and tools can be adopted in a real classroom.

Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

Hosting JLPT all over the World

Since 1984, the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) has provided a reliable means of evaluating and certifying the Japanese proficiency of those studying Japanese as a second language. In most countries outside of Japan, the test is administered by the Japan Foundation in cooperation with local host institutions. In Japan, the test is administered by the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services and in Taiwan it is administered by the Interchange Association, Japan.

The JLPT provides four different levels of testing. For each of the four levels, the test comprises three sections: writing and vocabulary, listening, and reading and grammar.

The 25th examination of the JLPT was implemented across the world on December 7, 2008 in 144 cities in 51 countries and 29 prefectures in Japan. A total of 660,000 people applied to take the test, of which 559,000 actually took the exam. Among them, the Japan Foundation administered the test in 141 cities in 50 countries or regions and it was taken by 390,000 learners of Japanese. China supplied the largest number of examinees, topping 200,000, and approximately 80 percent of the overseas examinees are from East Asian countries, especially China and South Korea. The number of Southeast Asian examinees, such as those from Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia, has also been increasing.

To address the growing number of examinees, seven additional cities, including Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei, Mumbai in India, and Saint Petersburg in Russia have been included in the JLPT test locations since fiscal 2008.

We also launched the Center for Japanese-Language Testing in October 2008 to ensure the smooth transition from annual to semi-annual JLPT testing from fiscal 2009 and prepare for the successful administration of the new JLPT examination, to be introduced in fiscal 2010.

	Country (region)	Number of examinees
1	China	207,964
2	South Korea	81,739
3	(Taiwan)	59,186
4	Thailand	15,846
5	(Hong Kong)	15,414
6	Vietnam	13,854
7	Indonesia	8,397
8	India	6,669
9	Singapore	4,994
10	Malaysia	3,697
	Overseas total	449,810
	Japan total	109,247

Top 10 overseas countries (regions) with regard to number of examinees in fiscal 2008

Redesigning the Minna no Kyozaï website

Minna no Kyozaï has been offering useful teaching materials and opportunities for networking to Japanese-language teachers worldwide since 2002. The website was redesigned in October 2008 to improve usability, making it easier to locate specific materials and contact community members. The remodeled website also features approximately 700 additional teaching items.



Minna no Kyozaï website
<http://minnanokyozaï.jp/kyozai/>

Launching the Indonesian version of the Nihongo de Care-navi website

The Nihongo de Care-navi website offers Japanese-language learning support for non-Japanese nursing and caregiving professionals. Originally a bilingual site in English and Japanese, an Indonesian version has now been made available. In addition to the existing dictionary function, users can also benefit from new features such as audio pronunciation guides and quizzes. This web-based resource is also now available in an easily portable paperback-sized publication titled the *Japanese-English Wordbook for Care Workers: Nihongo de Care-navi*.



Nihongo de Care-navi
<http://nihongodecarenavi.jp>

Broadcasting the television program *Erin's Challenge! I Can Speak Japanese in four countries*

The television program, *Erin's Challenge! I Can Speak Japanese* is designed to support young learners who are primarily motivated to study by their interest in “cool” Japanese culture like anime and manga. First started in fiscal 2007, the overseas broadcasting of this study program was expanded to Vietnam (by two stations in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City), Laos, the United States, and Indonesia in fiscal 2008. The program is shown with subtitles in the local language and a dubbed version is also available in certain countries.



Erin's Challenge! I Can Speak Japanese (DVD)

Publishing Teaching Materials

The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa published two volumes of the *Nihongo Kyojuho Series*: the 2nd volume, *Onsei Wo Oshieru: Teaching Pronunciation*, and the 14th volume, *Kyozaï Kaihatsu: Teaching Materials Development*. The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai also published *Nihongo "Doki-Doki" Taiken Koryu Katsudo-shu: Japanese through Real Activities*, a Japanese-language textbook for learning Japanese through experience by utilizing various resources outside the classroom, such as visiting local sites and schools.



Nihongo Kyojuho Series

Long-Term Training Program for Foreign Teachers of the Japanese-Language The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa

The Japan Foundation offers various training programs for Japanese-language educators teaching abroad, including the Long-Term Training Program, one of the best established programs for international Japanese-language teachers. Target participants are teachers 35 years old or younger who have six months or more experience teaching Japanese. For the past 20 years, 1,014 teachers from 69 countries and regions have joined the program, studying the Japanese-language, Japanese-language teaching methods, and Japanese culture.

Alumni testimonials



Palma Gil, Frolinda Amparo Adarayan, participant in the fiscal 1998 program (University of the Philippines, the Philippines)

With the other participants coming from a number of different countries, the program gave me an opportunity to make friends of fellow Japanese-language teachers from all over the world, with whom I still keep in touch online. We were also able to develop close relationships with the teachers and staff at the Institute. They are like my second family.

Because my background is in linguistics, I didn't have any previous formal training in teaching Japanese. The Long-Term Program enabled me to obtain an in-depth understanding of the underlying theories, objectives, and rationales of various teaching methodologies and activities. The program also taught me how to incorporate *anime*, drama, and Japanese pop music into classes, an idea on which I made presentations at subsequent academic conferences and workshops in the Philippines. Now, I have come back to the Institute and joined the master's course to pursue my research theme of improving of lessons by introducing drama and project work.



Najoan Franky, participant in the fiscal 1991 program (University of Manado, Indonesia)

I came away from the program with truly useful teaching techniques. I have applied everything I learned here, such as the development of the lesson plans, lesson timelines, and classroom materials, to my teaching activities. After coming back from the program, I started to get involved in the activities of the Indonesian teachers association, where I planned seminars and study groups, as well as coach students on speech-making. Japanese proficiency has improved significantly through the program, especially in oral expression and *kanji*. Enhanced confidence in my own language ability motivated me to take on an upper level program to the level of master's and then the doctoral course at the Institute. To pursue my particular interest in pronunciation and listening comprehension, I am now undertaking a doctorate in Japanese aural-oral pedagogy. My future ambition is to develop a teachers' guidebook on Japanese aural-oral pedagogy as a resource for Indonesian Japanese-teachers to use on their own.

About the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa

Established in Saitama City as an affiliated organization of the Japan Foundation in July 1989, the Institute offers training programs for overseas Japanese-language teachers and helps develop future leaders of the Japanese-language education community in countries around the world. For the 20 years since its establishment, the Institute has assisted the professional growth of nearly 10,000 educators from 105 countries and regions. The Institute also provides grants for the development and production of teaching materials, donates teaching materials, and operates a special library focusing on Japanese-language education.



Japanese programs for overseas learners

The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai

Through its Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai, the Japan Foundation offers special Japanese-language programs for diplomats, public officials, young Japanese studies scholars, and other individuals from a number of countries to help them improve their Japanese-language capabilities in light of their respective professional and academic needs. The Institute also invites outstanding overseas Japanese learners to further promote the studying and teaching of the Japanese language abroad.

Japanese-Language Program for Foreign Service Officers and Public Officials

We offer a Japanese-language and culture program for young diplomats and public officials, mainly from nations that receive official development assistance from Japan. Since its commencement in 1981, a total of 554 diplomats and public servants have completed the program. Among these alumni, 61 were working at their country's consulate or embassy in Japan, four of which were serving as ambassadors in 2008. The fiscal 2008 program was joined by 30 participants, including five from Africa, thirteen from Asia, five from Central and South America and the Caribbean nations, two from Europe, one from Oceania, and four from the Middle East.

Testimonial from an alumna of the Japanese-Language Program for Foreign Service Officers and Public Officials (Participant in the Japanese-Language Program from October 2008 to May 2009)

With the rapid development of the world and the impact of globalization visible in all facets of everyday life, being multilingual is more valuable than ever. Having said that, I suspect people reading this report or considering joining the program would ask, "Is the eight-month training program enough to improve my Japanese?"

My answer is a resounding yes. Every single day from the moment of arrival at the Institute to the last day of the eight-month program, you will find your Japanese improving at a surprising rate. You will be able to attend dynamic lessons every day, while at the same time also learning about and experiencing new aspects of Japan on a daily basis. The Institute is an expert provider of comprehensive Japanese-language programs, incorporating multicultural elements of the language into classroom activities. The diversity of the participants and excellence of the program are the hallmark strengths of the Institute.

Japanese-Language Program for Indonesian candidate for "Kaigo-fukushi-shi"

Following the signing in August 2007 of the Japan-Indonesia Economic Partnership Agreement, Japan made it easier for nursing and caregiving professionals from Indonesia to come and work in Japan. The Institute was commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide a pre-program Japanese training course for 56 Indonesians who came to Japan to pursue a career in caregiving. During the course from August 2008 to January 2009, they learned basic Japanese needed for everyday life, as well as practical language skills for the workplace.



Program participants, experiencing Japanese calligraphy

About the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai

The Institute was established in Tajiri-cho, Sennan-gun, Osaka, in May 1997 to provide residential Japanese-language programs. In addition to classrooms and accommodation facilities, the Institute has a library of nearly 44,000 books, a cafeteria, a hall, a self-study hall, and other facilities to ensure program participants have a comfortable and productive stay.

The Institute also works with local government and other organizations in neighboring areas to operate cultural exchange events and programs, with a view of creating opportunities for both program participants and local community members to interact and spend enjoyable times together.



Summary of Overseas Japanese-Language Education Programs

1—Building and Strengthening a Network of Overseas Japanese-Language Institutions

(1) Survey on Japanese-language education overseas

We surveyed 152 countries and areas to find out the availability of Japanese-language education. The details of the survey results are posted on our website.

(2) Provision of Information on the Current Status of Japanese-Language Education

We issued periodical publications on Japanese-language education, both in print and web-based electronic formats. The print versions were donated to libraries. The specific titles of the publications are as follows:

Nihongo Kyoiku Tsushin, Vol. 61 to Vol. 63

Kokusai Koryu Kikin Nihongo Kyoiku Kiyo (The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Education Bulletin), Vol. 5

Japanese-Language Education around the Globe, Vol. 18 and 19

(3) International Speech Contest in Japanese

As part of events celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa, we held the 49th International Speech Contest in Japanese in Kawagoe City. The event was attended by Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado.

(4) The Japan Foundation's Original Initiatives

The Japan Foundation's JF Nihongo Network (the "Sakura Network") links core Japanese-language institutions in various countries around the world. The network aims to expand its core membership to 100 organizations within the three years from fiscal 2008. This year, we also implemented the "SAKURA Core Project" to support projects undertaken by the "Sakura Network" core members that we identify as having extensive ripple efforts on the development and growth of Japanese-language education over an entire area or country. As part of this new project, we provided 13 grants in 12 countries and invited educational representatives from overseas, such as principals of schools that offer Japanese-language courses and government education officials.

Other highlights during the year include support for developing a Japanese-language textbook in Vietnam, which is planning to introduce Japanese-language into its secondary education curriculum, and support for developing online training systems for the acquisition and renewal of Japanese-language teaching licenses, which was part of the Japan-U.S. Intellectual Exchange Initiative, commenced in response to a call from the then Japanese Prime Minister.

(5) Japanese-Language Specialists Dispatch

We dispatched Japanese-language specialists and junior specialists to core Japanese-language institutions overseas and provided preparatory training covering technical knowledge and skills for 2009 program participants. The details of the fiscal 2008 are as follows:

- Japanese-Language Specialists: 70 projects in 38 countries
- Junior Specialists: 28 projects in 16 countries
- JF volunteers (Assistant Teachers, senior visiting professors): 7 projects in 7 countries
- Pre-Dispatch Training for Japanese-Language Specialists: 1 project in 1 country

(6) Commissioned Programs for the JENESYS Programme

We were commissioned to dispatch qualified young Japanese nationals, who, for example, majored in Japanese-language teaching at university, to East Asian countries under the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Programme:

- Sending Young Japanese-language Teachers: 48 people to 12

countries

(7) Supporting Japanese-Language Institutions and Projects

We provided the following grants to core overseas Japanese-language institutions, as well as to the Society for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language, which support Japanese-language education abroad:

- Grant Program for Japanese-Language Courses Abroad <Salary Assistance>: 6 grants in 3 countries
- Grant Program for Japanese-Language Courses Abroad <Support for Courses>: 24 grants in 21 countries
- Japanese Speech Contest Support Program: 119 grants in 68 countries
- Grant Program for Developing Networks of Japanese-Language Teachers and Institutions: 30 grants in 23 countries
- For the Society for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language: 1 grant

2—Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

In December 2008, we administered the JLPT examination for a total of 390,624 test takers in 50 overseas countries and regions (excluding Taiwan).

Other key JLPT-related progress includes: study and deliberations by the Panel for the Improvement of the JLPT, a group of external experts established within the Japan Foundation to improve the examination content; the pilot-testing of a revised JLPT; and the launch of the Center for Japanese-Language Testing to ensure the smooth transition from annual to semi-annual JLPT testing and to strengthen the organization for the overall test administration.

We also published *the Report on the Analysis and Evaluation of the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test 2006* and continued to operate the Sushi Test, our online Japanese test for young learners.

3—Training Programs at the Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa

(1) Training programs for overseas teachers

At the Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa, we provided the following training programs for overseas Japanese-language teachers, and organized cultural exchange events to meet local needs and promote interaction between the program participants and local community members:

- Long-Term Training Program for Foreign Teachers of the Japanese-Language: 38 teachers from 22 countries
- Short-Term Training Program for Foreign Teachers of the Japanese-Language: 100 teachers from 31 countries
- Training for Japanese-language teachers in high schools in South Korea: 55 teachers
- Training for Japanese-language teachers in China: 60 teachers
- Training for Japanese-language teachers in secondary schools in Indonesia: 20 teachers
- Training for Japanese-language teachers in primary and secondary schools in the U.S., Canada, and the U.K.: 7 teachers from 2 countries
- Graduate Program on Japanese-Language and Culture (Master's Course: new entrants): 6 students from 5 countries
- Graduate Program on Japanese-Language and Culture (Master's Course: existing students): 8 students from 6 countries
- Graduate Program on Japanese-Language and Culture (Doctor's Course: new entrants): 1 student from 1 country
- Graduate Program on Japanese-Language and Culture (Doctor's Course: existing students): 4 students from 4 country
- Training Program for Leading Teachers of the Japanese-Language: 6 teachers from 5 countries

In addition, we also provided training programs for international JET programme participants on Japanese-language education:

- Training for JET participants in Japan: 27 people from 11 countries

(2) Initiatives commissioned by the JENESYS Programme

- Training by special invitation for young Japanese-language teachers in East Asia: 40 teachers from 9 countries
- Training by special invitation for young Japanese-language teachers in South Asia: 23 teachers from 5 countries

4—Supporting the Development and Production of Japanese-Language Educational Materials

(1) Production and promotion of Japanese-language educational materials

● In fiscal 2008, we continued to develop and promote our proprietary materials for teaching and studying Japanese:

- *Erin's Challenge! I Can Speak Japanese* (broadcast)

In fiscal 2008, this program was rescreened on NHK and NHK World, and also broadcast on local TV networks in Vietnam (Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City), Laos, the United States, and Indonesia, with the appropriate subtitling or dubbing.

- *The Japan Foundation Nihongo Kyojuho Series* (publications)

We published the two volumes of this 14-volume series: the 2nd volume, *Onsei Wo Oshieru: Teaching Pronunciation*; and the 14th volume, *Kyozai Kaihatsu: Teaching Materials Development*.

- Minna no Kyozaï (website)

Minna no Kyozaï was redesigned in October 2008 to make it easier for users to search teaching materials and build their own communities, and new teaching materials were added. Total traffic to the site amounted to 4.29 million hits.

- Nihongo de Care-navi (website and publication)

In addition to the existing Japanese-English version, we have made a Japanese-Indonesian version available on this website. We also published a paperback-sized book of the Japanese-English version.

- *Nihongo "Doki-Doki" Taiken Koryu Katsudo-shu: Japanese through Real Activities* (publication)

We published this textbook for learning Japanese through experience by utilizing various resources outside the classroom, such as visiting local sites and schools.

- The JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education

We released a draft edition of the Standards, following pilot operations and reviews conducted by our Korean and German offices as part of Japanese-language courses and by the Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa as part of its teacher training courses.

(2) Supporting the creation of teaching materials

We provided grants for overseas projects for publishing Japanese-language education textbooks, supplementary teaching materials, and dictionaries (8 grants in 6 countries).

(3) Donations of teaching materials for Japanese-language education

We donated Japanese teaching materials, which are otherwise often difficult to obtain locally, to overseas schools that offer Japanese-language courses (996 donations in 103 countries).

(4) The Library of the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa

With its 43,562 books and audio-visual materials and 559 journals and periodicals, this special library provides access to information and reference materials in the field of Japanese-language education.

5—Training Programs at the Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai

(1) Japanese-language training programs

At the Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai, we provided

Japanese-language programs, the like of which, due to their highly technical content, are not produced by any other organization, and other training programs to encourage overseas Japanese-language learners. We also organized programs to meet the needs of the Institute's surrounding areas and promote interaction between the program participants and local residents. The main programs for fiscal 2008 are as follows:

- Japanese-Language Program for Foreign Service Officers: 25 people from 25 countries

- Japanese-Language Program for Public Officials: 5 people from 5 countries

- Japanese-Language Program for Researchers and Postgraduate Students: 34 people from 19 countries

- Japanese-Language Program for University Students Group: 53 people from 31 countries

- Japanese-Language Program for Outstanding Students: 54 people from 50 countries

- Japanese-Language Program for High School Students: 32 people from 18 countries/regions

- Japanese-Language Program for Young Korean Students (Lee Soo-Hyun Memorial Program): 19 people from 1 country

- Asian Youth Fellowship Japanese-Language Program: 18 people from 11 countries

- Osaka and Queensland Japanese-Language Teacher Training: 5 people from 1 country

We also provided Japanese-language programs for international JET programme participants:

- Training for JET participants in Japan: 56 people from 9 countries

- Training for new JET participants in Osaka: 48 people from 7 countries

(2) Initiatives commissioned by the JENESYS Programme

- College in Japan program in East Asia: 40 people from 1 country

- Japanese-Language Program for University Students in East Asia (spring): 20 people from 4 countries

- Japanese-Language Program for University Students in East Asia (summer): 30 people from 7 countries

- Japanese-Language Program for University Students in East Asia (fall): 10 people from 2 countries

- Japanese-Language Program for University Students in South Asia: 39 people from 6 countries

(3) Other commissioned programs

- Short-term training program for the Japanese Teacher Association of Thailand: 18 people

- Japanese program for University of Naples "L'Orientale": 26 people

- Japanese-Language program for Japanese-Language teachers from New Zealand: 4 people

- Japanese-Language program for Japanese-Language teachers from Gyeongsangnam-do, South Korea: 20 people

- Japanese-Language program for Indonesian candidate for "Kaigo-fukushi-shi": 56 people

- Japanese-Language program for university students from Indonesia: 2 people

(4) The Library of the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai

With its 45,836 books and audio-visual materials and 282 journals, the library provides access to information and reference materials on Japanese culture and society.

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).

Information Services and Domestic Networking

Information Center

Providing access to cultural exchange information

The Japan Foundation Information Center (JFIC) provides information on international cultural exchange activities through a variety of channels, including public relations activities (*Wochi Kochi* magazine, annual report, website, blog, email newsletters and others), cooperative programs with other organizations in Japan, the JF Supporters Club, award programs (the Japan Foundation Awards, the Japan Foundation Prizes for Global Citizenship), and the management of the JFIC Library and Event Space. The Information Center also welcomes school excursion and other tour groups.

Our bimonthly magazine *Wochi Kochi* (“Near and Far”) is the only periodical in Japan specializing in international cultural exchange (Japanese only). During fiscal 2008, we published six issues from No. 22 to 27 featuring special anniversary reports on Brazil, Indonesia, and the U.K. as well as issues titled, “Translations that Create Japanese,” “Art Connects the World,” and “NIPPON in the Eyes of Researchers around the World.”

JF Supporters Club organizes numerous events for its members to let them know more about our activities and offers opportunities for international cultural exchange. Events in fiscal 2008 include lectures by distinguished guest speakers, including Samantha S. Sannella, President and CEO of Canadian design organization, the Design Exchange, and a talk and concert by Kanou Yasukazu, a *Shino Fue* player who had performed a concert tour in India sponsored by the Japan Foundation. We also issued the JF Supporters Club Newsletter to Club members in Japanese.

In terms of partnership with other organizations in Japan, major events in fiscal 2008 include the Sendai Creative Forum 2009, co-organized with Sendai City with the aim of promoting international cultural exchange between regional cities. Following the presentation of a case study of the U.K.’s leading international digital arts festival, a lively discussion arose on the subject of how talented and creative individuals can be nurtured within their local communities and how Japanese creative talents can carve out their work in the international arena.

Make a difference locally and globally—The Japan Foundation Prizes for Global Citizenship

With its Prizes for Global Citizenship, the Japan Foundation honors individuals and organizations who conduct outstanding international cultural exchange initiatives, maintain strong local ties, and serve as exemplary models. This award program was started in 1985 as the Prizes for the Promotion of Community-Based Cultural Exchange, and renamed in 2004. To date, 73 prizes were awarded, including a special award from the President of the Japan Foundation.

Prize recipients for fiscal 2008

○ NPO Sapporo Artist-in-Residence (S-AIR)

Established in 1999, in Sapporo City, Hokkaido, S-AIR has invited 57 young artists from 27 countries around the world to work and stay in Sapporo. S-AIR has been conducting artist-in-residence programs with the aim of introducing art from around the world to the local community and establishing a network of Japanese and international artists.



©S-AIR

○ NPO Oizumi International Education and Skills Diffusion Center

In Oizumi, Gunma, the center actively supports local Brazilian children in learning the Japanese language, customs, and culture. It also organizes a cultural festival where local Japanese and Brazilian can understand each other about their own culture.



© Oizumi International Education and Skills Diffusion Center

○ SUKIYAKI Meets The World Committee

Every year, the Committee organizes the “SUKIYAKI Meets The World Festival” in Nanto City, Toyama, to introduce music from Asia, Africa, and Central and South America. The cultural activities of the Committee have taken root in the local community and have expanded to the world.



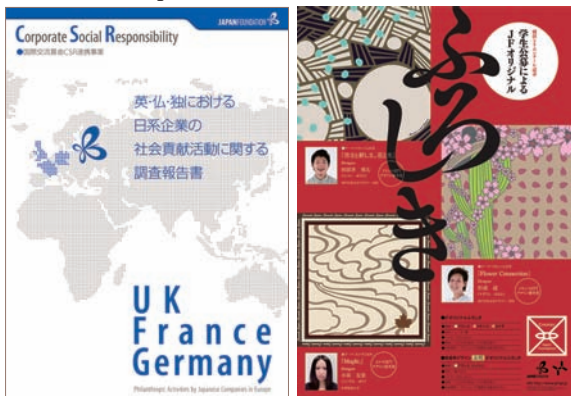
© SUKIYAKI Meets The World Committee

Office for Project Development and Corporate Partnership

Working more closely with the private sector

The Office for Project Development and Corporate Partnership is working with overseas offices of Japanese corporations committed to international cultural exchange as part of their social responsibility activities. In fiscal 2008, we published reports on our corporate social responsibility surveys conducted last year in Europe (the U.K., France, and Germany), Thailand, India, and Mexico, in Japanese and English (or the local language), and held meetings in those countries to explain the survey results.

The Office is also engaged in the development of original products as part of its PR activities. In fiscal 2008, we introduced “JF Original Furoshiki” (“wrapping cloth”) in commemoration of the Yokohama Triennale 2008. The furoshiki comes in three designs, which were selected from submissions by Japanese students of arts and design. Showcasing the beauty and originality of everyday Japanese products, these commemorative furoshiki cloths were sold in Triennale venues in Yokohama and in museum shops in Tokyo, provided as complimentary gifts to our Japanese and international guests, and provided as prizes for various events and competitions.



Left: The survey report on Japanese corporations' CSR activities in the U.K., France, and Germany (published in August 2008)
Right: JF Original Furoshiki
The both products are available at the JFIC Shop

Joint Research Institute for International Peace and Culture

Contributing to the advancement of intercultural exchange

In April 2008, the Japan Foundation teamed up with Aoyama Gakuin University to establish the Joint Research Institute for International Peace and Culture, located at the Majima Archives on the University's campus.

The mission of the Institute is to contribute to the advancement of international exchange by conducting academic research on international exchange, analyzing and evaluating specific international exchange activities, developing methodologies for international exchange, and using the research outcomes to give back to society. The major activities of the Institute include:

(1) Research on theories and policies on international exchange

- (2) Education on international exchange
- (3) Collection and organization of information related to international exchange
- (4) Publication of research journals
- (5) Interaction with research organizations studying international exchange activities in Japan and abroad

In its first year, the Institute engaged in joint research projects on the themes of “fostering peace through cultural initiatives,” “community revitalization and international exchange,” and “comparative studies on international culture organizations,” and organized related study meetings, symposiums, and a series of lunchtime seminars. The research results were published as a report, *Fostering Peace through Cultural Initiatives (Preliminary Research Report)*, and a journal, *Peace and Culture*. For more details about the Institute, please visit the website at: <http://www.jripec-aoyama.jp> (Japanese only)

Kyoto Office

Promoting collaboration and networking in the Kansai region

Since its foundation, the Kyoto Office has operated as the Japan Foundation's only branch in Japan and has striven to develop an extensive network of the organizations engaged in international exchange activities in the Kansai region.

Specifically, the Kyoto Office offers various event programs, such as *Noh*, *Kyogen*, and other stage performances and the screening of Japanese films, to provide international students and resident foreign nationals with more opportunities to experience Japanese culture. It also organizes lectures, seminars, and meetings by the JF fellows to meet and engage with local citizens interested in international cultural exchange.

Key events in fiscal 2008 include five Fellow Seminars, three film screenings, conducted in the Kansai region, and “An Evening of Noh and Kyogen” in Kyoto Kanze Kaikan, an annual event which has been held since 1973.

The relocation of the office took place on February 23, 2009. At its new office located within the Kyoto International Community House building in Kyoto City's Sakyo-ku, the Kyoto Office has renewed its commitment to promoting international exchange activities through more active and stronger partnerships with local governments and a variety of cultural, arts and academic organizations.



An Evening of Noh and Kyogen

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 Gagaku 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

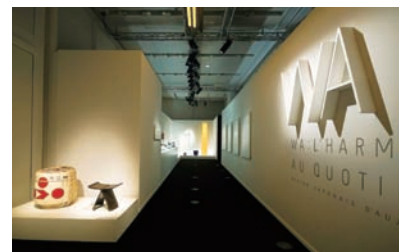
The Japan Cultural Institute in Paris (Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris)

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.

How to get more information from the Japan Foundation

Search on the Official Website of the Japan Foundation

The official website of the Japan Foundation, contains a variety of useful information including Japan Foundation programs, the most current information on the upcoming events, details on grant applications, useful materials for Japanese-language teachers, reports from past research projects, and links to overseas offices. By signing up for our email newsletters, you can also receive information on a regular basis.

- Japan Foundation Official Website: <http://www.jpf.go.jp>
- Japan Foundation official blog "Open the Earth" (in Japanese): <http://d.hatena.ne.jp/japanfoundation/>

■ Examples of useful information and learning materials

- Artist in Residence program "AIR JAPAN": <http://www.jpf.go.jp/air/>
- Performing Arts Network Japan: <http://performingarts.jp>
- Minna no Kyozaï (teaching materials): <http://minnanokyozaï.jp>
- Nihongo de CARE NAVI: <http://nihongodecarenavi.jp>
- Sushi Test (an online Japanese-language test): <http://momo.jpf.go.jp/sushi/>
- Japanese-Language Proficiency Test: <http://www.jlpt.jp>

Search at the JFIC Library

At the JFIC Library located on the first and second floors of the Japan Foundation Headquarters in Tokyo, librarians with special knowledge will help you find materials on Japan Foundation programs, international cultural exchange, and Japanese culture. You can also use a variety of databases to locate information. The Library also has catalogues from exhibitions hosted by the Japan Foundation and other publications available for sale.

The Library of the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa has a large collection centering on Japanese-language education. Libraries and information corners are also available at the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai, the Japan Foundation Kyoto Office, and a number of the Japan Foundation's offices overseas.

■ Contact:

Phone: 03-5369-6086 / Email: Lib@jpf.go.jp

Number of books in stock: approximately 33,000

* "Activity Files" (summaries of major activities by the Japan Foundation) are available at the JFIC Library.

* A file of newspaper and magazine clipping on the Japan Foundation is available at the JFIC Library.

* Book searches through OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) and multi-library searches of the three major libraries of the Japan Foundation can be conducted via the Japan Foundation Website.

Visit The Japan Foundation Offices

The Japan Foundation offices are open to public. Group tours are available for student and other groups interested in international cultural exchange programs. Please visit our office as a school excursion or a research activity of college or university. Tours can also be arranged at the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa, and the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai.

■ Contact:

○ Japan Foundation Information Center (JFIC):
Phone: +81-3-5369-6075

○ Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa:
Phone: +81-48-834-1180

○ Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai:
Phone: +81-72-490-2600



Top: The Japan Foundation Website

Bottom: Performing Arts Network Japan



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Financial Affairs and Organization

Financial Statements

Budgets and Results | Balance Sheet | Profit and Loss Statement | Statement of Loss Appropriation

Budgets and Results

(April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009)

(thousand yen)

Item	Budget	Result
Revenues		
Government subsidies	12,892,237	12,892,237
Investment revenue	2,251,125	2,098,936
Donation revenue	878,338	763,952
Income from commissioned projects	707,795	1,095,314
Other revenue	179,670	457,138
Total	16,909,165	17,307,579
Expenditures		
Operating expenses	14,065,422	13,344,483
Arts and Cultural Exchange Programs	2,260,699	2,287,395
Japanese-Language Education Programs	3,945,265	3,906,774
Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Programs	2,294,477	2,104,363
Survey, Research, and Information Service Programs	491,696	494,110
Other programs	5,073,285	4,551,838
General and administrative expenses	3,691,701	3,184,022
Salaries and wages	1,839,916	1,798,457
Supplies	1,851,785	1,385,565
Total	17,757,123	16,528,505

Note 1: In the Budgets and Results, salaries and wages for executives and regular employees of the Japan Foundation employed in Japan are all included under general and administrative expenses. In the Profit and Loss Statement, salaries and wages for executives and regular employees employed in Japan are included as expenses in the relevant area of operation, according to the nature of each position.

Note 2: Expenses for supplies contains an amount of 847,958,000 yen for relocation expenses for headquarters. This amount is not included in the revenue budget.

Note 3: Totals may not correspond to the sum of their component figures due to the rounding of amounts of less than one thousand yen.

Balance Sheet (as of March 31, 2009)

(thousand yen)

Assets	I. Current assets	Cash and deposits		6,163,879
		Marketable securities		6,711,449
		Prepaid expenses		50,420
		Accrued income		400,154
		Accounts receivable		608,619
		Other current assets		20,048
		Total current assets		13,954,572
	II. Fixed assets	1. Tangible fixed assets		
		Buildings	12,659,184	
		Accumulated depreciation	△ 2,759,242	9,899,942
		Structures	310,224	
		Accumulated depreciation	△ 132,338	177,886
		Machinery and equipment	9,323	
		Accumulated depreciation	△ 6,533	2,789
		Vehicles and transport equipment	124,051	
		Accumulated depreciation	△ 74,742	49,308
		Tools, equipment, and fixtures	1,055,694	
		Accumulated depreciation	△ 683,039	372,655
		Art objects		463,140
		Land		195,318
		Construction in progress		8,178
		Total tangible fixed assets		11,169,219
		2. Intangible fixed assets		
		Land lease rights		10,598
		Software		36,535
		Telephone subscription rights		441
		Total intangible fixed assets		47,574
		3. Investments and other assets		
		Investment securities		84,759,463
		Long-term time deposits		1,700,000
		Deposits and bonds		787,033
		Total investments and other assets		87,246,497
		Total fixed assets		98,463,290
Total assets				112,417,862
Liabilities	I. Current liabilities	Liabilities from government subsidies		1,022,779
		Donations received		60,124
		Amount in arrears		881,410
		Accrued expenses		1,517
		Consumption tax payable		1,373
		Advances received		617,395
		Deposits payable		19,649
		Lease liabilities		5,419
		Exchange contracts		2,477
		Allowances		
		Allowances for bonuses	14,021	14,021
		Total current liabilities		2,626,169
	II. Fixed liabilities	Counterpart liabilities		
		Government operational expense subsidy counterpart liabilities	725,078	
		Donation counterpart liabilities	5,032	730,110
		Long-term lease liabilities		34,067
		Total fixed liabilities		764,178
Total liabilities				3,390,347
Net assets	I. Capital stock	Government investment		112,970,859
		Total capital stock		112,970,859
	II. Capital surplus	Capital surplus	△ 455,334	
		Accumulated depreciation not included in the profit and loss statement (△)	△ 3,345,941	
		Accumulated impairment losses not included in the profit and loss statement (△)	△ 126	
		Endowments from private sector		900,372
		Total capital surplus		△ 2,901,029
	III. Net loss carried forward	Unappropriated loss for the term	△ 1,039,837	
		(of which: Gross loss for the term	△ 531,866)	
		Total net loss carried forward		△ 1,039,837
	IV. Valuation and translation adjustments	Deferred gains or losses on hedges	△ 2,477	
		Total valuation and translation adjustments		△ 2,477
Total net assets				109,027,515
Total liabilities and net assets				112,417,862

Profit and Loss Statement (April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009)

(thousand yen)

Ordinary expenses	Arts and cultural programs		2,621,386	
	Japanese-language educational programs		4,233,415	
	Japanese studies and intellectual exchange programs		2,313,372	
	Survey, research, and information service programs		622,042	
	Other programs	Overseas programs	3,983,482	
		Cooperation in cultural exchange facilities program	671,017	4,654,499
	General and administrative expenses			1,785,848
	Financial expenses			711
	Miscellaneous income deductions			1,004,442
Total ordinary expenses				17,235,717
Ordinary income	Income from government subsidies			12,083,298
	Income from investments			2,145,868
	Income from commissioned projects	Income from commissioned projects entrusted by the government or local public entities	134,189	
		Income from other commissioned projects	578,282	712,471
	Income from donations	Income from donations	56,952	
		Income from designated donations	663,398	720,350
	Refund of counterpart liabilities	Refund of government operational expense subsidy counterpart liabilities	127,118	
		Refund of donation counterpart liabilities	1,203	128,321
	Financial income	Interest received	4,481	4,481
	Sundry income			909,159
Total ordinary income				16,703,952
Ordinary loss				531,764
Extraordinary losses	Retirement of fixed assets			58,261
Extraordinary profits	Refund of government operational expense subsidy counterpart liabilities			58,159
Net loss for the term				531,866
Gross loss for the term				531,866

Statement of Loss Appropriation

(thousand yen)

I. Unappropriated losses at end of term		1,039,837
	Gross loss for the term	531,866
	Deficit at the beginning of term	507,970
II. Deficit carried over to next term		1,039,837

Financial Cooperation from the Private Sector

The Japan Foundation is able to engage in international cultural exchange programs thanks to generous financial contributions from the private sector, including those from businesses, organizations and individuals.

1. Categories of donation

(1) General donations

These donations are allocated to expenses for the Foundation's international cultural exchange programs.

A. General donations system

These donations are received from corporations and individuals and their timing and amount are at the donor's discretion. Donors and examples of programs implemented are shown in [*1] and [*2] on the following page.

a. Donations for program expenses

These donations are allocated to expenses for the Foundation's programs during the same fiscal year in which the donation was received. According to the donor's wishes, the donation can be allocated to expenses for a particular project during the fiscal year or to programs in general.

b. Donations to operational funds (private endowments)

These donations are deposited in the Foundation's funds, and the accrued interest is allocated in perpetuity for program expenses.

B. Membership System

Fixed donations are received in the form of membership dues and are allocated to a variety of programs implemented during the fiscal year in which the donation was made. Members can enjoy privileges such as receiving the Foundation's publications, and invitations to various events sponsored or co-sponsored by the Foundation, depending on the membership category.

a. Corporate Membership System

This system is for corporations and organizations. The members comprise Regular Members, whose donation is at least 100,000 yen, and Special Members, whose donation is at least 500,000 yen annually. The list of members is shown in [*3] on the following page.

b. JF Supporters Club

Fixed donations are received from individuals and groups in the form of membership dues. Annual membership fees are 3,000 yen for an Associate, 2,000 yen for a Student Associate, 10,000 yen for a Partner, and 50,000 yen for a Group.

(2) Designated donations programs

Under this program, domestic individual and corporate donations to support international cultural exchange programs at home and abroad are received by the Foundation with the understanding that they will be

used to subsidize the organizations that implement the specific cultural exchange projects. By utilizing this system, such donations to support the programs are treated as donations to the Foundation, a designated public benefit organization, and the donors are eligible to receive taxation benefits for their donations.

Eligible programs include personnel exchanges; overseas Japanese studies and Japanese-language education programs; and performances, exhibitions, seminars, etc., related to international cultural exchange. Receipt of designated donations is subject to the decisions made by a deliberative council of external experts. See [*4] on the following page for a list of designated donations programs.

2. Taxation benefits

The Japan Foundation is a "Designated Public Benefit Organization" (or "Tokutei Koh-eki Zoushin Houjin"), in accordance with Article 77 of the Corporate Tax Enforcement Order and Article 217 of the Income Tax Enforcement Order. Therefore, donations to the Foundation are subject to the following taxation benefits.

(1) Corporations

Deductible expenses may be declared in addition to the standard deduction for donations.

Upper limit of financial loss = [(amount of capital) x (period of months / 12 x 0.0025) + (amount of income for fiscal period in question x 0.05)] x 0.5

(2) Individuals

An amount equal to the donation minus 5,000 yen, up to 40% of gross income, is tax deductible. Donations of inherited assets are also eligible for beneficial taxation treatment.

3. Donations received in fiscal 2008

	Number of donations	Amount
General donations	709	74,365,295 yen
Donations for program expenses	19	60,844,295 yen
Private endowments	3	111,000 yen
Corporate membership	54	10,650,000 yen
JF Supporters Club	633	2,760,000 yen
Designated donations	43	689,698,532 yen (Note: 1)

Note 1: From the designated donations received, the Foundation granted subsidies of 663,398,532 yen to 27 programs (see [*4]). The remaining 26,300,000 yen of the designated donations will be provided as subsidies to three programs in fiscal 2009.

Note 2: On an accumulated basis from the establishment of the Foundation up to the end of fiscal 2008, general donations and designated donations received by the Fund amounted to 2,415.69 million yen and 64,844.48 million yen, respectively.

List of donors and programs implemented with donations in fiscal 2008

[*1] Donors for program expenses

Donations for the Japanese-language education programs at the Japan-Hungary Cooperation Forum:	ITOCHU Corporation / Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd.
Donations for The 2008 Yokohama Triennale program:	Cosmo Oil Co., Ltd. / Sakata Seed Corporation / Shiseido Company, Limited / Tokyo Business Service Co., Ltd. / Nippon Yusen Kabusiki Kaisha / Pacific Holdings, Inc. / Mori Building Co., Ltd. / Morimoto Co., Ltd. / Wacoal Corp.
Donations for the 11th International Architecture Exhibition, Venice Biennale program:	Shiseido Company, Limited
Donations for cultural programs in commemoration of the Japan-China Exchange Year of Culture and Sports:	Executive Committee for the Japan-China Exchange Year of Culture and Sports 2007
Donations for future cultural exchange-related programs with India:	Executive Committee for the Japan-India Exchange Year
General donations:	Honganji Foundation / 1,410 monitor of the JR Tokai Monitor Club / One individual

[*2] Program support by private endowments (Examples of "Special benefaction," under which a benefactor who so desires may establish a special program with a name of the benefactor's choosing)

Name of special benefaction program	Donor and content of the program
Uchida Fellowship	Benefactor is the late Mr. Uchida Genko. Young musicians are invited to Japan from the United States, Europe and other regions, and given the chance to work with renowned Japanese musicians and others active in the field of music, including by participating in joint performances or collaborating on joint works. Two fellows were invited in fiscal year 2008, one from each of the United States and Hungary.
Japanese Studies Fellowship Program offered by Takasago Thermal Engineering Co., Ltd.	Benefactor is Takasago Thermal Engineering Co., Ltd. In order to promote Japanese studies in Southeast Asia, this scholarship provides funds to allow young Southeast Asian researchers in the field of Japanese studies to visit Japan for research. Two fellows were invited in fiscal year 2008, one from each of Indonesia and Vietnam.
The Takeshi Kaiko Memorial Asian Writers Lecture Series	Benefactors are the late Mrs. Kaiko Hatsuko and the late Ms. Kaiko Michiko (family of the writer Kaiko Takeshi). To promote literary exchange by introducing Asian authors and works that are little known in Japan, this program invites Asian authors and others involved in the field of literature to lecture in Japan, and provides opportunities for interaction and dialogue throughout the country. In fiscal 2008, Ms. Do Hoang Dieu from Vietnam was invited.
Ken Watanabe Memorial Fund: Contribution of Books	Benefactor is Mr. Watanabe Yukinobu (father of Mr. Watanabe Ken, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs official who died in a traffic accident during training in the United States). Donation of Japanese studies books to the Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences, China. In fiscal 2008, a total of 241 books were donated.

[*3] Corporate members

(as of the end of FY 2008; listed in Japanese alphabetical order)

(1) Special members

Kodansha Ltd. / Shochiku Co., Ltd. / Electric Power Development Co., Ltd. / Mizuho Bank Ltd. / Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd. / Wacoal Corp.

(2) General members

Ikenobo / Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd. / Insho-sha / Ushio Inc. / Urasenke Tradition of Tea / NHK International Inc. / Katolec Corp. / Kinokuniya Company Ltd. / Kyoei Fire & Marine Insurance Co., Ltd. / Kodansha International Ltd. / Kodokan Judo Institute / International Hospitality Conference Service Association / Kokusai Service Agency / Komazawa University / Sakura Motion Picture Co., Ltd. / Shiseido Company, Limited. / Japan Echo Inc. / Publishers Association for Cultural Exchange / Shorinji Kempo Organization / Starlanes Travel Service Corp. / All Japan Kendo Federation / Dai-ichi Mutual Life Insurance Company / Daiichi Seiwai Jimusho Co., Ltd. / Daikin Industries, Ltd. / Daiwa Securities SMBC Co., Ltd. / Dentsu Inc. / The Tokyo Commodity Exchange / Tokyo Studio Co., Ltd. / Tokyo Business Service Co., Ltd. / Nikko Cordial Securities, Inc. / Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan, Inc. / Nippon Origami Association / Japan International Cooperation Center / Nomura Securities Co., Ltd. / Nomura Securities Co., Ltd., Shinjuku Branch / Panasonic Corporation / Bicon Co., Ltd. / Bijutsu Shuppan Service Center Co., Ltd. / Hitachi Ltd. / Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd. / Honda Motor Co., Ltd. / Bonjinsha Inc. / Mizuho Securities Co., Ltd. / Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. / Mitsubishi UFJ Securities Co., Ltd. / Meiji Shoin Holdings / Mori Building Co., Ltd. / Youth for Understanding International Exchange

[*4] Designated donations programs

(Countries in parenthesis represent the locations of the program implemented)

- Development for the Rotary Ambassadorial scholarship and other Rotary educational programs (#1 and (#2) (U.S. and Japan)
- U.S.-Japan Bridging Foundation Scholarship program (U.S.)
- The Fund Raising Project for Helping to Establish the "Ishikawa Memorial Fund for Comparative Japanese Law" (U.S.)
- The University of Alberta Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund (Canada)
- Tsinghua University Japan Study Center (China)
- Japanese Legal Studies Program at University of Michigan Law School (U.S.)
- Nagashima Ohno and Tsunematsu Scholarship Fund, Columbia Law School (U.S.)
- Nagashima Ohno and Tsunematsu Program for Japanese Law and Culture at the University of Chicago Law School (U.S.)
- Nagashima Ohno and Tsunematsu Program for Japanese Law and Culture at Duke Law School (U.S.)
- Japan Return Programme Nihongo Summit 2008 (Japan)
- LSH Asia Scholarship (Japan)
- Project-Fund for Sprachzentrum für Japanisch e.V. (Germany)
- Genji Millennium (Japan)
- Indonesia Fair in Eco-Products 2008 (Japan)
- 2009 Japan-Hungary Project Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Resumption of Diplomatic Relations (Hungary)
- Music From Japan Festival 2009 (U.S.)
- Shitennoji Wasso (Japan)
- 15th Honolulu Festival (U.S.)
- The Conference of Japanese and Chinese Journalists (China and Japan)
- Japan-Korea Exchange Festival Matsuri in Seoul 2008 (Korea)
- The First World Festival of Children's Performing Arts in Toyama (Japan)
- Asian University for Women (Bangladesh)
- KEEP International Training and Exchange Center Project (Japan)
- Construction and exhibition of monument commemorating the centennial of Japan-Brazil immigration (Brazil)
- A Peaceful Friendship of Cherry Blossom Park – Nanjing (China)

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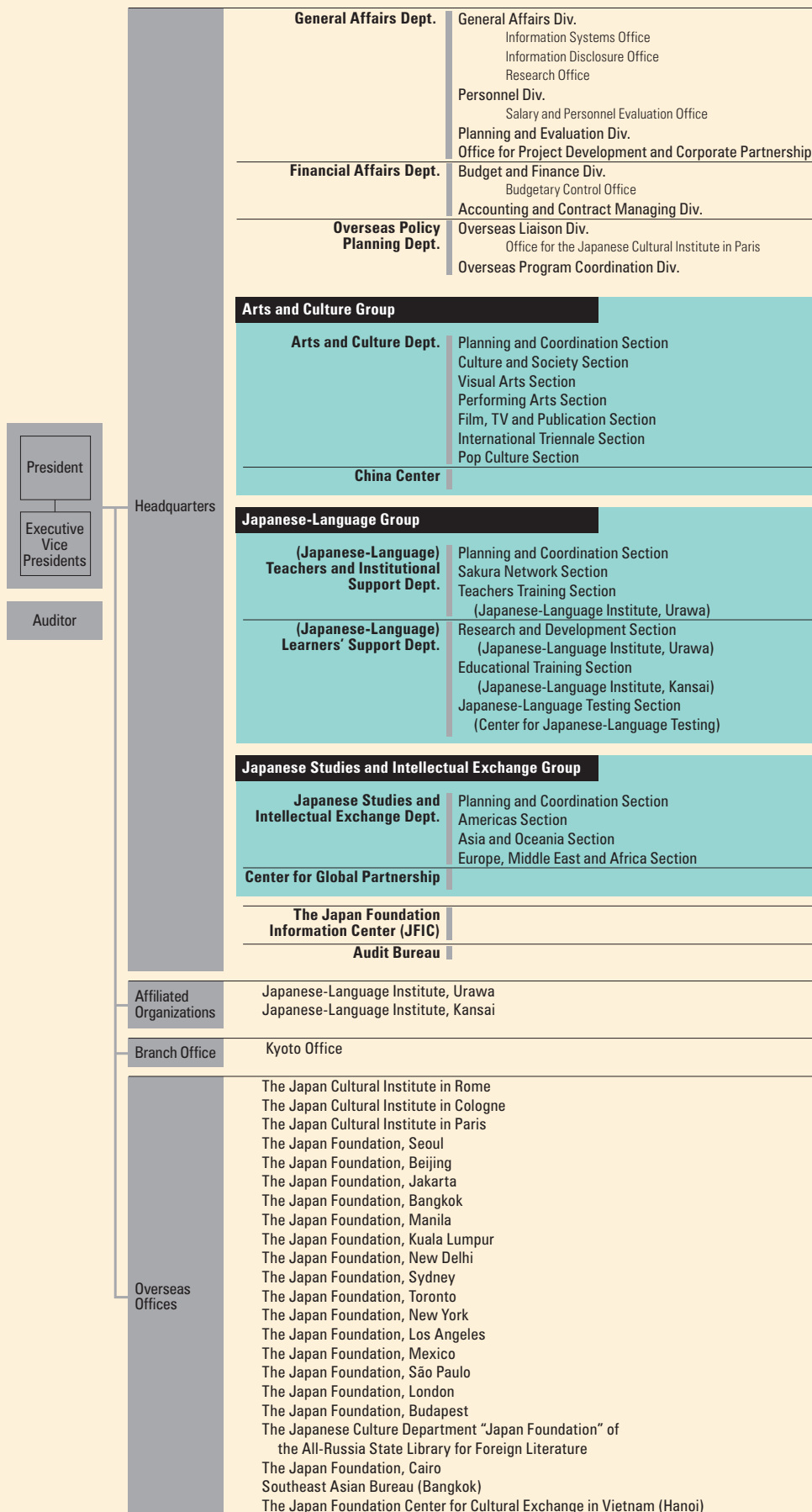
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