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The 53rd Venice Biennale 2009

The Japan Foundation organized the Japan Pavilion in the 53rd International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale 2009, an event often dubbed as the art-version of Olympics. The national pavilion featuring dynamic installations by Yanagi Miwa attracted some 237,000 visitors.

500,000 people

Performing Arts Network Japan

The annual traffic to this website that communicates what is happening in the Japanese performing arts scene topped 500,000. It means some 1,300 people visited the site every day. Artists who appeared in the interview section of the website in fiscal 2009 include Shigeyama Sennojo, Fujimoto Takayuki, Ninagawa Yukio, Ameya Norimizu, Miura Motoi, and Okada Toshiki.

270,000 people

Screening Japanese Films Around the World

By organizing and providing grants for film festivals, we offered opportunities to enjoy Japanese films to more than 270,000 people around the world, including 130,000 visitors to Japanese film festivals that we directly organized in 52 countries. Our film festivals presented both classics (e.g., *Midare Gumo* by Naruse Mikio) and recent works (e.g., *Megane* by Ojigami Naoko).

50,000 people

Membership of *Minna no Kyozaï* website reached 50,000

More than 50,000 Japanese-language teachers have registered as members of *Minna no Kyozaï*, a website offering useful teaching materials and ideas. Since its launch in 2002, the site has been serving as an indispensable information source for Japanese-language teachers around the world, including some 45,000 teachers (as of 2006) outside of Japan.

Once ↓ Twice

Test Can be Taken Twice a Year From Fiscal 2009

The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), designed to evaluate and certify the Japanese proficiency of non-native speakers, had been offered annually since its establishment in 1984. Responding to strong requests at home and abroad, the JLPT is now held twice a year, in July and December. As a result, the number of examinees during the fiscal year reached a record high of around 770,000.



First Bunraku Performance in Russia

Participating in the Chekhov International Theatre Festival 2009, the first Bunraku puppet performance was introduced to Russian audiences who had been long awaited since it is well known in Russia through movies and translated plays. During the festival, *Sonezaki Shinju* (The Love Suicides at Sonezaki) was performed eight times.



Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary

The institute Urawa, marked its 20th anniversary in 2009, celebrates this milestone with a speech by Suzan Schmidt of the Alliance of Associations of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ). Those who took training courses at the Institute and have become ambassadors to Japan also joined the commemorative ceremony.

4,500 people

In Fiscal 2009, 218 Fellow Scholars Came to Japan

We have invited scholars and researchers from around the world engaged in Japanese studies. Through the Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship Program, 218 academics from 30 countries visited Japan in fiscal 2009 to advance their studies and develop networks. To date, more than 4,500 scholars and researchers have visited Japan through this program.

Fostering Peace Through Cultural Initiatives

International Symposium on Cultural Exchange

The Japan Foundation hosted an international symposium to rethink the meaning of cultural exchange. The event was held in association with the Goethe-Institut and the Mainichi Newspapers. Introducing cultural activities in war-torn and disaster-affected areas, international cultural activities are re-examined its roles of fostering peace.