

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 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 21 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 78 billion yen, the Foundation's activities are financed by annual government subsidies, investment revenue, and donations from the private sector. As of March 31, 2011, the Japan Foundation has 230 staff members.

History

1972	The Japan Foundation established.
1989	Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa established.
1991	Center for Global Partnership established.
1997	Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai established.
2003	The Japan Foundation relaunched as an independent administrative institution.
2006	China Center established.

The Japan Foundation was established with the objective of conforming to the following legislation passed in 2002.

Article 3 of the "Law of the Japan Foundation Independent Administrative Institution":

The purposes of the Japan Foundation Independent Administrative Institution (Dokuritsu Gyosei Hojin Kokusai Koryu Kikin: hereinafter called the "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.

Three Main Activities

Art and Cultural Exchange

Creating opportunities to encounter the values embodied in Japanese art and Japanese life

Japanese arts—fine art, music, theater, literature, and films—and everyday culture such as food and fashion inspire interest in Japan. They give insights into how Japanese people think and act, and communicate feelings and emotions without needing to understand Japanese. The Japan Foundation creates opportunities for encounters with Japanese art and culture, running programs for international contact between practitioners.

Japanese-Language Education Overseas

Increasing the number of people who speak Japanese increases the number of people who understand Japan

Students of Japanese gain understanding and appreciation of Japan in addition to knowledge of the language. The Japan Foundation encourages teaching of the Japanese language around the world, and ensures the quality of the education that students receive. Programs include organizing the JLPT, developing teaching materials, supporting new Japanese courses, and providing local and Japan-based training programs for Japanese-language teachers.

Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange

Combining a deeper understanding of Japan with an interest in learning about the world is key to resolving issues that we all share.

To encourage Japanese studies, the Japan Foundation supports institutions and academics around the world and assists networking. Top academics are introduced to Japan, giving the Japanese people access to world level knowledge and insights into global intellectual trends. This gives the international scholars a deeper understanding of Japan, fosters the development of shared perceptions, and facilitates discussion of shared issues.