

The Japan Foundation Awards

Since 1973, the Japan Foundation has been presenting awards each year to individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of mutual international understanding and friendship. Since Japan experienced the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011, the fiscal 2011 award winners were invited to participate in a symposium "The Reconstruction of Japanese Milieu" at the award ceremony.

Fiscal 2011 Award Recipients

Arts and Culture

Photo: Takashi Arai



TAMBUKO Percussion Ensemble

Mexico

TAMBUKO Percussion Ensemble performs high quality contemporary Japanese music and musical compositions by Japanese composers in Mexico and abroad, using many Japanese instruments including Oodaiko or Shimedaiko. TAMBUKO is also actively engaged in collaboration with famous Japanese musicians playing Koto, Shakuhachi, marimba, or violin, and has served a large role in encouraging the understanding and promoting of Japanese culture.

Commemorative concert
October 7, 2011, at TOPPAN HALL
In cooperation with TOPPAN HALL

Japanese Language



Department of Japanese and Japanese Literature, Faculty of Arts, Cairo University

Egypt

Cairo University was the first place to offer Japanese studies in the Middle East and Africa, and the department has been playing a central role in fostering scholars of Japanese language and culture, as well as promoting Japanese-language education. Many graduates have published or translated numerous books on Japan, ranging from literature to politics. The department has been a major contributor in the smooth and effective progress of understanding Japanese culture in Arabic-speaking nations.

Commemorative lecture by Professor Karam Khalil
"The History of Japanese-Language Education in Egypt and Achievement of Cairo University"
October 13, 2011, at the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa

Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange

Photo: Kenichi Aikawa



Augustin Berque

Retired Professor, School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences

France

With his rich knowledge of Japanese culture and milieu, Professor Augustin Berque is a leading scholar on Japan, having developed his own interpretation of Fudo. Through his groundbreaking study on Fudo, inspired by Tetsuro Watsuji's Fudo (A climate: a philosophical study), his contributions to the academic disciplines of geography, philosophy, anthropology, and Japanese studies have been immense.

Commemorative lecture
"Teachings of the Japanese Milieu—from the Rice Fields of Hokkaido to the Theories of Evolution"
October 12, 2011, at the Japan Foundation JFIC Hall "Sakura"

The Japan Foundation Prizes for Global Citizenship

The Japan Foundation Prizes for Global Citizenship have been presented each year since 1985 to community-based organizations that set an example in taking the initiative in international cultural exchange to build rich and energetic communities.

Fiscal 2011 also awarded President's Special Prizes to groups supporting recovery efforts of the Great East Japan Earthquake through international cultural exchange. (see p.7 for related details.)

Fiscal 2011 Award Recipients

NPO Kamonohashi Project Shibuya City, Tokyo



The Kamonohashi Project is involved in the education and technical training for children, capacity building/training of local police officers to stop child trafficking, and support for community businesses to encourage self-sustainability in Cambodia. They have also been highly acclaimed for their social entrepreneur model of delivering IT services to fund their activities.

NPO Brazil Tomo no Kai Minokamo City, Gifu



The Brazil Tomo no Kai started as a voluntary group of Brazilian residents to solve problems in their daily lives in Japan. Besides consultation and information, they also offer opportunities for capacity building training in the area, as well as advice to job-seekers and entrepreneurs. Entrusted with the operation of the "Self-support Center for Foreign Residents" by Minokamo City.

NPO BIRD Theatre Company TOTTORI Tottori City, Tottori



The BIRD Theatre Company TOTTORI creates and performs contemporary plays including productions with international collaboration. Also offers workshops and lectures to demonstrate the expertise and potential of theater productions in local communities and theater, and serves the role of being the local art center, providing diverse forms of artistic expression besides theatrical performances.