



Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange

Providing support for Japanese studies abroad and opportunities to learn about societies and cultures of other countries leads to deeper mutual understanding between Japan and the rest of the world and creates a shared commitment to common issues.

The Japan Foundation is an active proponent for greater understanding of Japan and broader professional networks worldwide through international exchange activities including support for scholars of Japanese studies abroad and visits to Japan by leading overseas academics.

Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange

Promoting Japanese Studies Overseas

Japanese studies overseas is important for deepening the understanding of Japan and maintaining good relations between Japan and other countries. The Japan Foundation supports organizations that lead Japanese studies in each country. It provides fellowships and other opportunities that connect scholars and encourage networking among them.

Promotion of Intellectual Exchange

The Japan Foundation organizes workshops and international conferences where intellectual leaders can address common issues across national boundaries. It provides scholars and specialists in various fields with opportunities to visit Japan and supports various projects to promote multi-layered and multi-faceted international mutual understanding.

Strengthening Networks

In order to build close networks among scholars, the Japan Foundation supports international conferences and workshops in various fields of Japanese studies. It also attempts to expand the networks by providing partial support to a wide variety of groups, including academic associations of the Japanese studies, alumni of Japanese studies, as well as international conferences.

Fellowships

The Japan Foundation supports individuals who are doing outstanding work in Japanese studies and intellectual exchange. The Japanese Studies Fellowship provides supports to scholars, doctoral candidates, and other individuals to conduct research in Japan. The Abe Fellowship supports scholars and journalists to strengthen the Japan-U.S. partnership on a global scale.

Support for Organizations

The Japan Foundation assists universities and Japan research centers overseas to strengthen their institutional capacity. It supports the expansion of teaching staffs and libraries and promotes visiting professorship depending on the needs of these organizations. Through the comprehensive support, the Japan Foundation helps organizations around the world to build up their research activities on Japan.

Center for Global Partnership (CGP)

CGP aims to strengthen Japan-U.S. collaboration and global partnership by promoting dialogue and networking to cultivate future leaders able to work together to solve global issues. To this end, CGP supports Japan-U.S. joint projects, provides fellowships, dispatches or invites specialists and researchers, and conducts other activities.



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1. Shakuhachi performance by a panelist during a session of the Japan-Europe "Kizuna" Project Photo: Kenichi Akawa / 2. Young Russian researchers visiting a swordsmith shop dating back to the Edo period in Ota, Tokyo / 3. Japan-Germany Symposium "The Catastrophes in Japan and the Role of Conventional and New Media - A Comparative Look at How Japan and Germany Reported on the Earthquake" (Japanese-German Center Berlin) / 4. Titi Freak drawing graffiti on temporary houses in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Photo: Kenichi Akawa / 5. Participants of the Asia Leadership Fellow Program meeting former Okinawa governor Masahide Ota / 6. 10th anniversary of the Future Leaders Forum: China-Japan-Korea / 7. Master's course students from the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies visiting Japan for seminars / 8. Japan-India Dialogue: Public Symposium "Asian Renaissance: Learning from Shibusawa, Tata, Okakura and Tagore" / 9. Participants of the "International Symposium on Intercultural Cities in Asia and Europe" visiting the intercultural area of Shin-Okubo Photo: Kenichi Akawa

Developing Diversity in Japanese Studies with the Latest Knowledge

■ The Second East Asia Forum for Japanese Studies in Miyagi

The Second East Asia Forum for Japanese Studies, organized by the Japan Foundation, was held in the town of Matsushima, Miyagi Prefecture in December 2011. The first forum was held a year earlier in December 2010 on Jeju Island in Korea. 26 researchers from Japan, China, Korea and Taiwan gathered to discuss the current situation and issues facing Japanese studies in the region and for networking across national and regional borders in Japanese language.

Activities of the forum included the public symposium "How East Asia Viewed 3/11 – Sending a Message of Recovery to the Tohoku Region," held in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture to encourage the citizens of earthquake devastated areas in their effort for recovery. The participants also visited the nearby city of Higashi Matsushima, which was severely damaged by the tsunami.

The researchers expressed thoughts such as, "It's time to work together with researchers and institutions in neighbor countries when conducting Japanese studies," or "I'm in favor of sending a message of recovery to the Tohoku region thinking what we can do as neighbors." The forum was an excellent opportunity to reconfirm the importance of promoting networking in East Asia.

■ Intensive Seminar on Taisho/Prewar (Showa) at Centre Européen d'Etudes Japonaise d'Alsace (CEEJA)

Ten young researchers on Japan in Europe who speak proficient Japanese welcomed Professor Toshikazu Inoue of Gakushuin University as mentor for two-day seminar titled "Japanese Study Seminar – Taisho/Prewar (Showa)" at CEEJA in France.

The latest researches including "Visual Propaganda of Manchukuo in Japan in the 1930s, based on the data of

the 'Manchuria Graph' magazine," "Art Nouveau Reception during Taisho-Period Romanticism," and "Embracing 'Asia': The Taishô era as a turning point of Asianism discourse" were presented and actively discussed.

Common among the participating researchers was how they all looked differently at the development of Japanese ideology and culture from their Japanese counterparts or overseas researchers working in Japan, and applied their perspectives to further their studies. The seminars were intellectually stimulating and proved that supporting Japanese studies through international cultural exchange not only increases the number of specialists in the field, but also enhances the studies itself and fosters diversity in the way people view Japan.

■ Supporting Japanese Studies in the United States

The history of Japanese studies in the United States is the most advanced in terms of talent and organizations outside Japan. Early on the Japan Foundation set up a special advisory council on Japanese studies in the U.S. for deciding policies and selecting who to support.

We support educational institutions through a three-year assistance program for hiring teachers, holding research meetings, and assisting students conduct research in Japan to encourage institutions to continue the studies using their own funds even after our assistance programs have ended. Our surveys in North America showed that owing to these activities the number of researchers on Japanese studies was steadily increasing.

Interest in Japan in the United States was not diminished by the Great East Japan Earthquake, but because of economic reasons there are signs that funding for regional studies as a whole is shrinking, making it all the more necessary to support Japanese studies in the U.S.



Above: "Taisho/Prewar (Showa)" seminar at CEEJA

Left: The Second East Asia Japanese Studies Symposium in Matsushima, Miyagi

Comprehensive Support for Core Institutes, Networks and Researchers of Japanese Studies

■ Major Academic Conferences in China and Korea

In September 2011, Korea University hosted the Japan Edo-Period Literary Society Fall Convention assisted by Japan Foundation's Support for Japanese Studies Organizations program. Founded in 1951, the association is a leading society for early-modern Japanese literature studies in Japan. The contents and significance of its first meeting overseas were extensively reported by Korean and Japanese media. Japanese studies at Korea University has already reached maturity as an academic field, but such events will surely work to advance the studies in Korea.

And in China, the international symposium titled "Japan Studies as an Area Study – From the Interdisciplinary Frame of Reference" was held in October 2011 at Sichuan International Studies University. Japanologists from various parts of China and Japan actively exchanged research findings and views on current issues like the present status and ways to carry out Japanese studies as area studies in China. The sprouting of a new Japanology was also discussed under key words "area studies" and "interdisciplinary frame of reference."

■ Expanding Networks in Europe

The Japan Foundation supports Japanese studies networks with the purpose of forming a group of overseas researchers with a deep understanding of Japan. For many years, barriers between languages, nations and universities have forced the isolation of most researchers in Europe. But with the establishment of the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS) in 1973, exchanges among Japan scholars became active, and today Japanese studies is an established academic field in Europe. We have and will continue to support EAJS to promote networking among Japanese studies researchers.

In 2011, the 13th International Conference of EAJS was held at Tallinn University in Estonia, and more than 800 researchers gathered to report on their latest findings. As the

first conference since the devastating earthquake in Japan, we organized a special session titled "Short- and Long-term Implications of the Triple Disasters on the Study of Japan." Japanese studies in East Europe is not as active as in the West, and we consider holding the plenary meeting of EAJS in Estonia as a major step forward in developing networks.

■ Fellowships to Support Outstanding Research

The Japan Foundation believes that overseas researchers of Japanese studies contribute to the spread of correct information and deeper understanding of Japan in their respective countries based on academic knowledge. To promote Japanese studies around the world, we offer fellowships to overseas researchers who come to Japan to conduct research and investigations.

The extensive damage inflicted by the devastating earthquake in 2011 attracted global attention, but at the same time, the nation was severely criticized for the disastrous nuclear power plant accident. Professor Dmitry Viktorovich Streltsov of Moscow State Institute of International Relations, also a former fellow, and others have supported Japan as scholars of Japanese studies by disseminating information on the disaster based on impartial facts and thus preventing the spread of false information and misconceptions of Japan.

Another good example is Esra-Gokce Sahin, a 2011 fellow from Turkey, who is a doctorate student at Harvard University and studies the deep rooted culture of Warai (Japanese humor), both theoretically and in practice. She trained under a Rakugo (Japanese comedy) master who gave her a stage name. She performed on stage with her teacher and fellow pupils, and not only spread the culture academically but also strengthened her ties with the Japanese people with it.

The Japan Foundation contributes to developing Japanese studies around the world by supporting outstanding research topics both in the humanities and social science fields.



Above: Students and staff from Beijing Center for Japanese Studies on a study tour to Japan
Right: A gathering of Japanese studies fellows at I-House (Tokyo)



Promoting Multilevel, Multifaceted Mutual Understanding Around the World to Make Intellectual Contributions for Global Development and Stability

■ The 10th Anniversary of the Future Leaders Forum

The Future Leaders Forum: China-Japan-Korea, a program to promote dialogue between young leaders in the three East Asian countries, has been jointly held by the Japan Foundation, All-China Youth Federation and the Korea Foundation since fiscal 2002. A total of 46 young people from Japan, 42 from China and 45 from Korea gathered for the eight forums held by fiscal 2010.

Young people expected to be future leaders are selected from six fields: politics, government, business, academia, mass media and non-profit organizations. They spend 10 days together sharing room and board, travelling around the three countries, going on study tours, debating and exchanging views. By the end of their stay, the participants will have developed a strong, long-lasting bond transcending national borders and individual status.

A special forum commemorating the 10th anniversary of the program was held on March 28, 2012, and 29 past participants were reunited. They divided into three groups of politics, economy and civil society, and held discussions. The fruits of their discussions were compiled in a proposal called "Vision 2030 for Northeast Asia," and handed to the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Koichiro Gemba, on the following day.

■ Invitation of Young Intellectuals from Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia: "Arab Spring" and the Great East Japan Earthquake

For 10 days from February 19, 2012, 16 young professionals from Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia were invited to Japan to participate in a group training program on "Leadership in Nation and Community Building." These prospective future leaders are active researchers, journalists, or staff members of

government, non-governmental and other various organizations who have the ability to attract people and disseminate ideas.

The "Arab Spring," which erupted toward the end of 2010, and the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 2011, unexpectedly forced both Japan and countries and regions in the Middle East to face the need for social rehabilitation. The discussions looked at specific points such as restoring communities, young people working in agriculture and employment for the disabled, and sought answers on the overall issue of what kind of leadership is necessary in the process of restoration. The future leaders attended lectures, participated in workshops, visited various regions in Japan, and actively shared their experiences and views.

■ Graffiti of Hope on Temporary Houses

A project for Japanese-Brazilian artist Titi Freak to paint colorful graffiti on the walls of the temporary dwellings of the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake (Tomorrow Business Town) in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture was held twice, in December 2011 and April 2012.

Before the project, the hurriedly constructed temporary houses looked mechanical and impersonal, and the residents, all coming from different places and not yet well acquainted, just starting to build a community. But the graffiti on the walls added color, and drawing a different motif on each house gave it an identity. The whole process of having the artwork done, discussing the subject matter with the artist and chit-chatting with the new neighbors as the artist worked, gave them an opportunity to connect with each other. Getting to know one another created a sense of community and brought back smiles to their faces. The large murals have become the residents' pride and continue to give them hope for the future.



Left: Press conference for the Future Leaders Forum: China-Japan-Korea

Center: Future leaders from the Middle East sharing their views with Takuji Hiroishi, who is working to build the basis for a new civil society by creating "platforms" in the Yanesen (Yanaka, Nezu, Sendagi) area.

Right: Titi Freak drawing colorful graffiti on the walls of the temporary dwellings in Ishinomaki Photo: Kenichi Akawa

Japan and the United States Working Together with People Around the World to Solve Key Global Issues

■ Japanese American Leadership Symposium

The amazing resilience of citizens and communities was displayed in the recovery efforts immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake. How can we apply this resilience to the mid- and long-term revitalization process in Japan? A symposium to explore the answer, "Empowering Civil Society for the Future of Japan," was held on March 5, 2012, at the Sendai International Center in the earthquake damaged city of Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture.

The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has held the annual Japanese American Leadership Delegation Program (JALD) since 2000, and the Japan Foundation has organized symposiums on various themes as part of the program. This year the meeting was held in Sendai at the strong request of many JALD participants who worked tirelessly around the U.S. to assist the restoration efforts immediately after the disaster.

Non-profit organizations and social entrepreneurs working for restoration in Sendai were invited as Japanese panelists to discuss the role of civil society in rebuilding communities, how Japan and the U.S. can collaborate in the process, and other various topics. The topics were explored by comparing the experiences of the Japanese panelists to those of the Japanese Americans. The symposium offered an excellent opportunity to facilitate mutual exchange and understanding between Japanese American and Japanese participants.

■ Invitation Program for U.S. Experts on Asian Affairs

It is said that the United States' interest in Japan has dwindled as rapidly developing Asian nations such as China and India increase their weight in the global society. To counter this situation, we have begun a new program to invite Asian study experts from the U.S. to Japan. The program was planned as part of the initiative "Strengthening the exchange between Japan and the U.S. for Further deepening the Japan-U.S. Alliance,"

announced at the Japan-U.S. summit held in November 2010. In December 2011, five top American researchers visited Japan, and during their one-week stay, they visited central government ministries, universities, think tanks, private corporations, non-government organizations and many other entities. The participants commented that the visit was very meaningful in that it offered an opportunity to exchange candid opinions with people in various fields and learn about the current situation in Japan, which they would not have known without coming to Japan.

The Japan Foundation will continue to organize such visits to promote understanding and cooperation and contribute to building a network of researchers connecting Japan, the United States, and other countries in Asia.

■ Common Agenda Round Table between Japan and the U.S. Project

The Common Agenda Round Table (CART project) offers an opportunity for journalists to gather and exchange views on issues shared by Japan and the United States, consider how these issues will affect Asia, and probe into the situation from global and regional perspectives. The second meeting of the program was jointly organized by the CART secretariat and Shanghai Daily Publishing House, and held on December 4 and 5, 2011, in Shanghai.

Journalists and correspondents in Asia from major newspapers in Japan, the U.S. and China were joined by those from India and Southeast Asia. They discussed the role and challenges of the media after the Great East Japan Earthquake, diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region after the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit and the East Asia Summit, and the relationship between conventional and online media.

We hope this program offered journalists a chance to share issues and further extend networking among them.



Above: Common Agenda Round Table held in Shanghai
Left: JALD symposium held in Sendai: "Empowering Civil Society for the Future of Japan"