
Summary of Arts and Cultural Exchange Programs

1—International Exhibitions

The Japan Foundation represented Japan at the 54th Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition (commissioner of the Japan pavilion: Yuka Uematsu; artist: Tabaimo).

2—Exhibitions Abroad

Original exhibitions 12 (21 cities in 15 countries), Traveling exhibitions 114 (114 cities in 67 countries)

Grants for exhibitions abroad 60 (29 countries)

Grants for visual arts events abroad at the grassroots level 4 (4 countries)

○ We organized exhibitions in cooperation with museums abroad, including: "Manga Realities: Exploring the Art of Japanese Comics Today" (Philippines, Vietnam); "Hiroshi Sugito: paintings and sketches" (Singapore); "The Group 1965: We are Boys!" (Ukraine, Germany); "Atsuko Tanaka. The Art of Connecting" (Spain, U.K.) (see p.12); "Hiraizumi-Temples and Gardens Representing the Buddhist Pure Land" (France, Belgium); "Hokusai-Retrospective: The 150th Anniversary of Friendship between Japan and Germany" (Germany) (see p.12); and Japan Pavilion "The Spirit of Budo: The History of Japan's Martial Arts" at the 26th Janadriyah National Festival for Heritage and Culture (Janadriyah Festival 2011) (Saudi Arabia) (see p.13).

○ Japan Foundation traveling exhibitions [24 themes]

Japan Foundation traveling exhibitions were organized worldwide in cooperation with host museums, showcasing a wide range of Japanese culture, from traditional crafts to Japanese dolls, mascot characters, product designs, photographs, and contemporary art. As March 2012 marked a year from the Great East Japan Earthquake, three new exhibitions were added to the repertoire: "Beautiful Handicrafts of Tohoku, Japan," highlighting the beauty of traditional Japanese crafts of the region; "TOHOKU – Through the Eyes of Japanese Photographers," introducing the profound charm of the region through the eyes of photographers with ties there; and "How Did Architects Respond Immediately after 3/11 – The Great East Japan Earthquake," depicting the activities of the architects during the 12 months since the earthquake.

3—Information Exchange in Visual Arts

Projects to facilitate interaction: 8 (23 countries)

○ Japan-Korea Curator Meeting: Eight curators, experts in contemporary art met to discuss about arts with their global and professional points of view, and the possibilities of art exchange between the two countries.

○ Curator exchange: Groups of curators were invited to Japan from the United States and Russia to visit art museums, galleries, and artist studios, and exchange views with Japanese counterparts.

Invitation of young creators: 16 people (11 countries)

Under the JENESYS (Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths) Programme, artists, designers, and other creators were invited to Japan to produce artistic works, meet local people, and develop networks.

4—Overseas Performances

Projects: 23 (82 cities in 46 countries)

Grants (for Japanese groups and individuals): 106

A variety of the following overseas performances were organized. Grants were also provided for Japanese performing artists to perform overseas through the Grant Program for Overseas Performances. ○ Performance at the Japan Pavilion in Janadriyah Festival 2011 (Saudi Arabia); "Min'yo – Japanese Traditional Folk Songs – Conveying Heart and Rhythms in Daily Life in Japan" tour in South America (Chile, Argentina, Uruguay) (see p.13); "'Sho Asano & Ensemble' Tour in Baltic States" (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania); "Leonard Eto 'Blendrums' East Africa Tour" (Tanzania, Malawi, Ethiopia, Djibouti); "Kuromori Kagura Performances in Russia"; "World Premiere of Onomatopoeic Play in Palestine"; "TAIKO LEGEND – Heart Beat from Japan EITETSU HAYASHI" (Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain); "Tohoku Folk Performance Groups, Ondekoza Taiko & Musicians World Tour."

Performing Arts Japan (PAJ): 25 (North America: 12; Europe: 13)

The PAJ program, offering grants to American and European arts and cultural groups that introduce outstanding Japanese performing arts to local audiences, supported performances and coproduction projects.

5—Information Exchange in Performing Arts

Projects: 9

The Japan Foundation worked continuously to facilitate information exchange among performing arts groups, presenters, festival organizers, and theaters. Key initiatives included co-hosting the Performing Arts Meeting in Yokohama 2012, and operating the Japanese-English website providing information on performing arts in Japan (<http://www.performingarts.jp/>).

6—Translation and Publication on Japan

Grants: 57 (27 countries)

The grant program supported the translation and publication of Japanese works on humanities, social sciences, and arts, and publication of books introducing Japanese culture written in foreign languages.

○ *Sōin gyokusai seyo* (Onward Towards Our Noble Death) (Canada); *Wagahai wa neko de aru* (I Am a Cat) (Vietnam); *Kokoro* (Slovenia); *Haru no yuki* (Spring Snow) (Bulgaria); and *Akatsuki no tera* (The Temple of Dawn) (Romania).

7—Book Fair Support

Projects: 14 (14 cities in 14 countries)

With the Publishers Association for Cultural Exchange, Japan, the Japan Foundation participated in various book fairs.

○ The 30th Riyadh International Book Fair; the 63rd Frankfurt International Book Fair

8—Promotion of TV Broadcasting Abroad

Projects: 26 (21 countries)

TV programs were provided to overseas television stations including:

Costa Rica commercial broadcaster SPE LTDA (all 156 episodes of *SUZURAN – Return of Happiness*); Lithuanian national broadcaster (LRT) (*World Heritage Sites in Japan* and others).

9— Production of Documentaries

Grants: 19 (13 countries)

Grants were offered for the production of documentary films and television programs about Japan, for example, the documentary film *Under Snow* produced in Germany depicting life in the snowy regions of Unuma City.

10— Film Screening Abroad

Projects: 89 (57 countries)

Grants: 76 (29 countries)

In cooperation with Japanese embassies/consulates and local cultural organizations, Japanese film screening events were organized such as silent films with "Benshi" live narration and music (Italy, France, Germany; see p.14) and Masahiro Shinoda retrospective (Mexico, Argentina, Spain). Furthermore, grants were provided for screenings at international film festivals.

11— Information Exchange in Film, TV and Publication

○ Production of *LIGHT UP NIPPON* documentary for overseas screenings

We produced a documentary film about an initiative by young Japanese to encourage people in Tohoku region for recovering from the Great East Japan Earthquake. In many countries, related-events such as symposiums and talks were also organized.

○ *Japanese Book News*

We issued the quarterly newsletters of No. 68-72 to provide information for overseas publishers and translators (see p.14).

○ Database for Japanese films

We provided basic information regarding Japanese films via internet in cooperation with UNI JAPAN.

12— International MANGA Award and the Anime Ambassador Project

The Japan Foundation invited the four gold and silver prize winners of the International MANGA Award which honors artists who contribute to promoting manga overseas. We also supported overseas screening of *Doraemon* as "the Anime Ambassador," subtitled in local languages (6 cities in 6 countries).

13— Cultural Presentation

Projects: 38 abroad (98 cities in 64 countries) 2 invited to Japan (14 people from 2 countries)

Grants: 82 abroad (102 cities in 44 countries)

The Japan Foundation sent specialists of various fields of Japanese culture, such as literature, cuisine, robots, anime, Ukiyo-e (woodblock printing), and architecture, around the world to hold lectures,

demonstrations, and workshops for audiences abroad. Furthermore, curators from Russia and performing art specialists from Brazil were also invited to Japan.

○ Risa Wataya, author (see p.15); Kumiko Shinohara, playwright; Ayaka Yamamoto, expert of Okinawan cuisine (see p.5); Hiroshi Ishiguro, android expert; Yoshiaki Iwami, manga author; Koji Yamamura, animation author; and Norio Akasaka, folklorist (see p.11).

14— Cultural Cooperation

Projects: 10 abroad (15 cities in 11 countries) 2 invited to Japan (12 people from 4 countries) 2 events (2 cities in 2 countries)

Grants: 14 abroad (14 cities in 13 countries) 1 invited to Japan (1 country)

Experts in various fields were sent abroad or invited to Japan to support cultural activities in each country, taking advantage of Japan's knowledge and expertise.

○ "Survey of Japanese Collections at Azerbaijan National Art Museum" (see p.15); and "Invitation Program for Experts in Restoring Japanese Paintings" (Mongolia, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina).

15— Cultural Exchange at the Grassroots Level

Projects: 52 people in the junior/high school teacher exchange (12 countries)

Grants: 61 grassroots level cultural exchange projects

Teachers involved in the education of social studies and international understanding were invited to Japan to learn about Japanese education, culture, and society through site visits, and meet with Japanese counterparts to exchange views. Grants were offered to projects designed to deepen mutual understanding among citizens or the younger generation.

East Asia Future Leaders Program

As part of the JENESYS Programme, future leaders, mainly from ASEAN countries, were invited to Japan. They held lively discussions on important common issues in East Asia and learned how Japan was dealing with them on the following themes.

① Food: Agriculture in the 21st century (24 people from 13 countries)

② Environment: Environment and community revitalization (25 people from 15 countries)

③ Education: Fostering "Resilience" to overcome hardships (25 people from 15 countries)

16— China Center

Fiscal 2011 marked the sixth Long-Term Program for Chinese High School Students, welcoming 32 students to Japan. 11 Centers for Face-to-Face Exchanges, including the newly opened ones in Dalian and Hangzhou, introduced Japanese pop culture and organized events for mutual understanding of people in China and Japan. Furthermore, through the *Heart to Heart* website, exchange among the young generation was promoted.