

Japan Living Hand-in-Hand with the World

Initiatives for Regions and Countries with Special Focus

The Japan Foundation draws up its regional and country-specific policy according to the situation by region and country as well as the international situation, and organizes programs based on this policy. We also took part in a number of diplomatically significant, large-scale anniversary commemorative events.

This section looks at some of the Japan Foundation's major projects in regions and countries with special focus.

United States

Photo Left: Exhibition "Tokyo 1955-1970: A New Avant-Garde"
The exhibition co-organized by the Museum of Modern Art, New York (MoMA) attracted a great deal of attention from the foreign media and drew an audience of more than 400,000 (see p. 18).

Photos Bottom Left: Iwami Kagura Performance Tour
As part of a project to celebrate the Japan-U.S. cherry blossom centennial, the Iwami Kagura Shinwa-kai from Masuda City, Shimane Prefecture, performed in five Southern cities in the U.S. including Atlanta and Miami, and received a warm reception. (Photo courtesy of Consulate-General of Japan in Miami)

Photo Bottom: Japanese Language Education Assistant Program (J-LEAP)
Young Japanese-language teachers were dispatched to elementary and secondary educational institutions in the U.S. Besides serving as teaching assistants, they carried out Japanese culture-related activities for a period of two years.

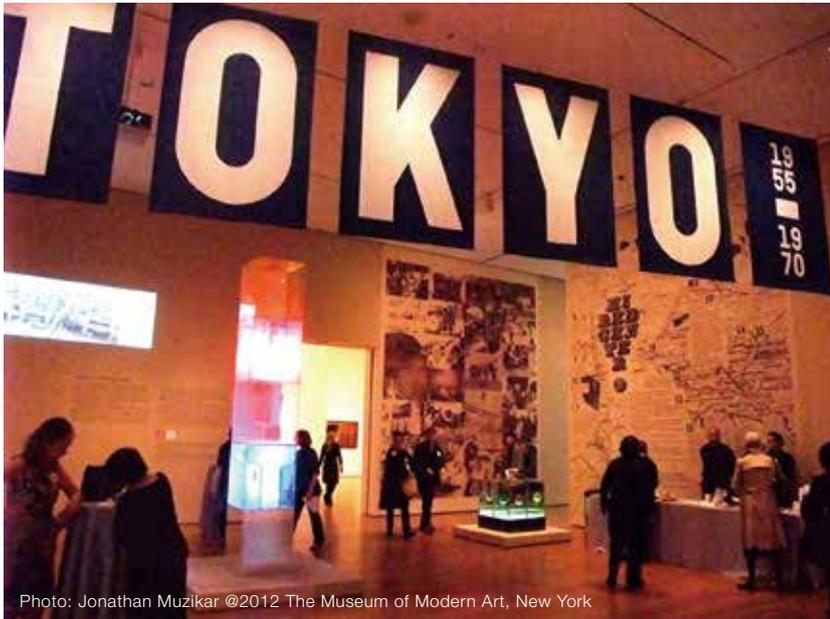


Photo: Jonathan Muzikar @2012 The Museum of Modern Art, New York



China

Publication of Japanese-Language Education Material

A special edition of *Erin's Challenge! I Can Speak Japanese*. (2007, The Japan Foundation) was edited and published so that Japanese becomes an attractive and familiar second-language course in secondary education in China (see p. 43).



Face-to-Face Exchanges Summer Program

University students from China and Japan gathered at the Yanbian Center for Face-to-Face Exchanges for a week-long exchange program. In the 40th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries, they discussed Japan-China exchange in the 40 years to come (see p. 21).



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A Combination of Kunqu Opera and Noh Theater *The Spirits Play*

Theater directors and actors from Japan and China held joint performances, symposiums, and workshops in both countries plus Singapore. (see p. 19)

Korea

Photo Right: Exhibition “Re:Quest—Japanese Contemporary Art since the 1970s”

The exhibition, presented at the Museum of Art, Seoul National University, looked at contemporary Japanese art from a variety of angles. An installation by Yayoi Kusama adorned the main entrance (see p. 43).

Photo Bottom Left: Community Business Japan-Korea Forum

Through an introduction of model recycling-oriented agricultural communities from Japan and Korea, the participants discussed reducing greenhouse gas emissions and expanding the use of renewable energy.

Photo Bottom Right: Seoul International Book Fair

The diversity of Japan’s publishing culture was introduced through publications in a wide range of fields.



Southeast Asia

Photo Left: Cultural and Sports Exchange Mission to Myanmar

Professionals in their respective fields were dispatched to Myanmar under the Japanese government’s mission for cultural and sports exchange, headed by Takashi Shiraishi, president of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS). Myanmar President Thein Sein tried on the gift of a ‘Yukata’ gown immediately after receiving it from fashion designer Junko Koshino, one of the mission members.

Photos Bottom: Associated Programs of the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation

Sho Asano and Ensemble opened the celebrations with a concert tour in Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos. The troupe performed with guests including a local drum group and popular band, and held workshops at schools, where the participants introduced their countries’ traditional instruments to each other.



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