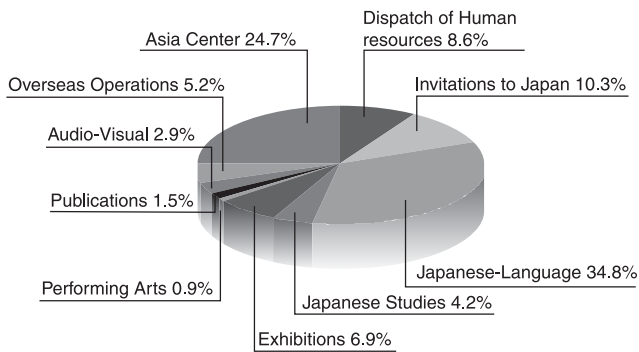


## South Asia

## Abstract



Total amount of operations: 287 million yen

The amount of operation expenses in South Asia was 287 million yen out of which the amount spent for programs in India was the largest at 175 million yen. The major operations in this region are Japanese-Language, human resource exchange and Asia Center programs.

In Japanese-Language education, the Foundation held seminars, donated teaching materials and supported speech contests. Experts who had been residing in India and Sri Lanka on long-term dispatch projects played central roles in these activities. The advisors at the Foundation's New Delhi office laid priority on forming a teachers' network, including those in the neighboring South Asian countries.

In arts exchange, the Foundation initiated the "South Asia Performing Arts Project", a joint production by directors in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal. The Foundation has long been committed to the development of contemporary Asian performing arts, and has supported joint productions with the objective of promoting exchange among performing arts groups in Asia and creating an Asian-generated culture. The Foundation also organized touring exhibitions of "Japanese Prints 1950 to 1990" and "Kokeshi Dolls" in South Asian countries and participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> Asian Art Biennale in Bangladesh. In an effort to introduce Asia in Japan, the Foundation invited Jagath Weerasinghe from Sri Lanka as a panelist at the fine

arts seminar "Avant Garde in Asia".

In the field of intellectual exchange, the Foundation held events such as the "Asia Leadership Fellow Program", the "Japan-Indochina Philosophy Seminar", and "Japan-Indochina Authors' Caravan 2003".

## ■ Report by overseas offices

### India

The Japan Foundation, New Delhi

#### 1. General

In the political scene, state legislative elections were held in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Delhi and the BJP won in the three states except Delhi. Winning the state legislative elections and backed by the country's steady economic growth, the Vajpayee administration announced their plan to conduct the general election for the lower house before expiration of the term (October 2004), and President Abdul Kalam dissolved the lower house in February 2004.

In the diplomatic scene, relations with China improved slightly, and in particular economic relations are expanding. Prime Minister Vajpayee visited China in June and proclaimed the "statement on India-China relations and principles of comprehensive cooperation" and held a special representatives' meeting on the border issue in October 2003 and January 2004.

Relations with Pakistan showed signs of improvement. After a friendly statement by Prime Minister Vajpayee in April, the countries exchanged ambassadors and resumed bus, train and airplane traffic between the two countries. In January 2004, the summit conference between India and Pakistan was held after an interval of two and a half years.

#### 2. Cultural Exchange with Japan

Honda's "Asimo" robot was presented at the official residence of the Japanese ambassador in September 2003, drawing a large number of people from the science and technology as well as cultural fields.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Performing Arts Festival in Delhi was held in November, sponsored by the four cities of Delhi, Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo. Ko Murobushi, Mika Kurosawa and Takao

Kawaguchi performed contemporary dance pieces and conducted workshops.

The Asian Buddhist Conference and the World Bamboo Conference were held in February and March 2004, respectively, and both events had attendance from Japan.

In the field of Japanese-Language education, in addition to the University of Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University, regional universities, such as Banaras Hindu University, Vishva Bharti University and Bangalore University have also started to offer Japanese-Language courses. As the IT business flourishes in India and economic relations with Japan have deepened in recent years, the demand for Japanese-Language education has intensified. Under these circumstances, the Indian government started a subsidy system to support students taking Japanese-Language courses.

### 3. Activities of the Japan Foundation, New Delhi

#### <Activity policies>

- Promotion of intellectual exchange and civilian exchange
- Support for Japanese-Language education with a rapidly increasing number of students
- Formation of an image of Japan well balanced between the traditional and contemporary
- Promotion of the image through media exchange, film showings, etc.
- Expansion of the target population and regions

#### <Examples of FY2003>

- **Introduction of Japanese culture at schools (April 19, 2003, Shrimati Ram Rati Gupta Women's Polytechnic, Saharanpur)**

Saharanpur is a regional city located about 200 km north of Delhi. The Foundation held Japanese cultural experience courses on origami, tea ceremony, flower arrangement, Japanese dance and Japanese calligraphy for the students and instructors at Shrimati Ram Rati Gupta Women's Polytechnic. The Foundation also held a film festival and showed the movies *Kikujiro* and *Rashomon*, to which about 400 students and instructors attended.

Currently, the Foundation's projects are mainly carried out in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore. It is essential to expand these projects to other local cities of India, considering the vast land and huge population of the country.

- **Contemporary dance performance (February 24, 2004, Shri Ram Centre, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata)**

Four dancers in the Setsuko Yamada and Biwa group performed contemporary dance and held a workshop with the dance group Bhumika based in Delhi. The performance was introduced on national TV and attendance was about 350.

For the citizens of Delhi and the dancers, this performance was the third opportunity to see Japanese contemporary dance, following the Tokyo Contemporary Dance Performance in 2002 (sponsored by the Japan Foundation) and at the Asian Performing Arts Festival in November 2003 (sponsored by the prefecture of Tokyo).

- **Japan Foundation Fellow Conference (March 19, 2004, India International Centre, Delhi)**

Researchers, artists and Japanese-Language educators who had visited Japan through the Foundation's programs were invited to attend a conference commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Foundation. In the conference, panelists reported the status of Japanese-Language, Japanese studies, intellectual exchange and fine arts in India today. Reports were followed by enthusiastic discussions among approximately 80 participants on the relations with Japan in each field and the future roles of the Japan Foundation.

This conference, lasting the entire day, was also a reunion of the fellows of the Foundation. It is expected to be held every few years and take root as a forum to provide recommendations to the Foundation.



Japan Foundation Fellow Conference