



••• Information Services and Domestic Networking for International Exchange



Through print and electronic publications, the Japan Foundation discloses a variety of information on projects organized and supported by the Foundation and international cultural exchange, for people interested in these fields.

The Japan Foundation website, available in Japanese and English, provides up-to-date information on major events organized by the Foundation. It also serves as a gateway to its network of cultural institutes and offices overseas, each of which has its own website to introduce local events and projects in the local language.

Moreover, the Foundation issues an e-mail newsletter in English to alert subscribers to upcoming events organized in their region.

●●● JFIC Library

The Japan Foundation Library, which is located in the Japan Foundation Headquarters in Akasaka, Tokyo, was renovated and reopened as the JFIC Library on April 1, 2006. Approximately 35,000 titles of books on Japan (written in English) and on international exchange and about 400 titles of periodicals are available.

Visitors can enjoy videos of performances conducted under Foundation programs and audio CDs of old Japanese narratives and major speeches by prominent figures. In addition to the core library services of loan and reference, the JFIC Library now exhibits project



report files, posters of events hosted by the Foundation.

At the newly opened JFIC Shop, the Foundation's magazine *Wochi Kochi* and catalogues of exhibitions are available for a fee.

●●● *Wochi Kochi*—Japan's only periodical dedicated to international exchange

The Japan Foundation publishes a bi-monthly magazine, *Wochi Kochi*. The name is an archaic Japanese term that means "here and there" or "present and future."

Each issue carries feature articles and interviews that focus on a specific topic, as well as reporting on related Foundation activities. The featured topics in 2005 were: Facing America; The Unknown Arab World; Shall We Talk in Japanese?; Art Changes the World; Exchange Between Japan and Europe: From the Ground Up; and People Who Have Walked the Road of Exchange Between Japan

and China. The magazine is published by Yamakawa Publishing Company.



▲ *Wochi Kochi*

●●● The Japan Foundation Volunteer Program

The Japan Foundation conducts a volunteer program with the purpose of mediating between rising international interest in Japanese culture and the increasing number of Japanese who wish to contribute to intercultural exchange.

Under the program, volunteers are sent abroad as overseas assistant Japanese-language teachers, planning and operation assistants for cultural exchange projects by overseas associations, and senior visiting professorships in Japanese studies for teaching positions at over-

seas universities and graduate schools. Volunteers in 2005 numbered 21.



▲ Volunteer staff at the Association for the Promotion of Japanese-Language Education, Egypt.

●●● The Japan Foundation Kyoto Office

Opened as a branch office at the time of the Foundation's establishment, the Kyoto Office supports recipients of long-term Japanese studies fellowships living in the Kansai region and sponsors a variety of independent projects while networking with related organizations.

Networking between international exchange organizations is advancing with the rising interest in this

area of the Kansai region. The Kyoto Office is also deepening partnerships with external organizations and provides information on international exchange at its library, which houses 6,659 books and audiovisual materials.

In 2005, 18 Fellows Seminars were held in the Kansai region in addition to "An Evening of Noh and Kyogen" (held at the Kyoto Kanze Kaikan), a regular event since 1973. The office also worked with the Japanese Culinary Academy to cosponsor an open workshop by young French chefs who studied Japanese cooking in Japan.



●●● The Japan Foundation Prizes for Global Citizenship

The Japan Foundation awards the Japan Foundation Prizes for Global Citizenship to organizations that conduct international cultural exchange programs in their local communities. Originally established in 1985 as the Japan Foundation Prizes for Community-Based Cultural Exchange, the award was renamed in 2005, its twentieth anniversary.

The recipients in 2005 were Chernobyl eno Kakehashi, a nonprofit corporation in Hokkaido that operates a home-stay program in Japan for children victimized by the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident; Asaga

Masaji of Ibaraki Prefecture, for his artist-in-residence program that invites stone sculptors from such countries as Bulgaria and Zimbabwe; and Genki Seinen Kai of Kochi Prefecture, a volunteer musical performance group organized by participants of the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program that also supports Kochi residents who wish to study foreign languages overseas.



●●● EU-Japan Creative City Exchange 2005

As part of the 2005 EU-Japan Year of People-to-People Exchanges, cultural exchange institutions from Japan and six European nations—Britain, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, and Italy—collaborated in a series of projects ranging from surveys to exchange activities and symposiums. Seven local governments including Yokohama and nine art-related nonprofit organizations also participated.

The "creative city" concept focuses on the role of creativity, arts, and culture in revitalizing cities that have been in decline due to changing

economic or social structures and particularly spotlights the contributions of local citizens whose creative talents and abilities generate new momentum across an entire community.

The Foundation compiled and published a summary of the project as a book *Âto Senryaku Toshi* (Kajima Institute Publishing: ISBN 4-306-08507-4). (in Japanese)



▲ Research in Gateshead, England.