The Japan Foundation 2008 Annual Report

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About the Japan Foundation

The Japan Foundation was established in October 1972 as a government-affiliated special corporation with the objective of promoting international cultural exchange through the implementation of comprehensive programs. On October 1, 2003, the Foundation was relaunched as an independent administrative institution under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

With its global network consisting of the Tokyo headquarters, a Kyoto office, two domestic Japanese-language institutes (the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa; and the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai) and 22 overseas offices in 20 countries, the Foundation operates a number of programs, often in partnership with other organizations, focusing mainly on three areas: Arts and Cultural Exchange, Japanese-Language Education Overseas, and Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange.

Based on a government endowment of 113 billion yen, the Foundation's activities are financed by annual government subsidies, investment revenue, and donations from the private sector. As of March 31, 2009, the Japan Foundation has 230 staff members.

Our Mission

The mission of the Japan Foundation is: to contribute to the improvement of a good international environment, and to the maintenance and development of the harmonious foreign relationships with Japan, by the efficient and comprehensive implementation of activities for international cultural exchange, which will deepen other nations' understanding of Japan, promote better mutual understanding among nations, and contribute to the culture and other fields in the world.

("The Law of the Japan Foundation Independent Administrative Institution, Article 3")