

FY 2008 Activity Summary by Country / Region

Cultural exchange programs run by the Japan Foundation are designed to meet local situations and needs, while giving due consideration to diplomatic policies of Japan and relations with the relevant countries. In fiscal 2008, we conducted a number of activities with a special focus on China, Korea, the U.S., and Brazil (commemorating the Japan-Brazil Exchange Year), and other diplomatically important countries and projects.

China

In 2008, the Japan-China Youth Friendship Exchange Year, commemorating the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between Japan and the People's Republic of China, a number of cultural exchange events and programs were organized in the two countries both in the government and private sectors. As promoting exchange between young people is one of our long-standing commitments, we also celebrated the year with projects including the Long-term Invitation Program for Chinese High School Students (p.27), and concerts for young audiences (p.8). We also supported China's recovery efforts following the devastating earthquake in Sichuan Province in May 2008 by facilitating the passing on of Japan's experience in similar situations (p.23), to support disaster recovery through cultural exchange.

Korea

In 2006, we established the Five-Year Plan for Japan-Korea Cultural Exchange (2006 to 2010), to strengthen our cultural exchange programs between the two countries. In line with this plan, we organized a series of intellectual dialogues for young leaders and specialists (p.25) along with a number of other programs targeted youth (p.33).

Asia

Funded by the Japanese government, the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) Programme is a project which approximately 6,000 young people are invited from ASEAN and other Asia Pacific countries to come to Japan in five years since its inception, with a view to establishing a solid basis for Asian solidarity by expanding youth exchange. As part of this program, we sent and invited Japanese-language specialists and learners (p.20 to 21), and organized exchange programs to nurture future leaders in various fields.

United States

Our programs in the U.S. occupy an important position in our activities. Specific examples include: intellectual and grassroots exchange programs by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, such as "Japan-U.S. Leaders Network Program" to cultivate among the American leaders of the next generation a good understanding and strong interest in Japan, (p.26); support for Japanese teacher training to improve Japanese education in the U.S.; and programs to raise understanding and to promote the spread of Japanese-language education (p.36).

Brazil

The year 2008 was the Japan-Brazil Exchange Year, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first Japanese immigrants to Brazil. The governments of the two countries agreed to conduct a wide variety of exchange programs to forge stronger ties between Japan and Brazil. Accordingly, we organized a large-scale contemporary art exhibition (p.8), stage performances, and programs on Japanese popular culture and cuisine (p.37), aiming to introduce diverse elements of Japanese culture and promote dynamic interaction between the two nations.



In addition to its overseas offices, the Japan Foundation works with a number of international cultural exchange organizations, such as the Goethe-Institut (Germany), the Japanese-German Center Berlin (Germany), Casa Asia (Spain), the Korea Foundation, and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, exchanging information on the latest cultural developments, as well as participating in staff exchange programs, and conducting projects jointly.