

The Japan Foundation Awards

The Japan Foundation has presented the Japan Foundation Awards each year since 1973 to individuals and organizations for significant contributions to the enhancement of mutual understanding, the promotion and friendship between Japan and other countries in the field of arts and culture, Japanese language, Japanese studies, and intellectual exchange.

Award Recipients for Fiscal 2009



Arts and Culture

Boris Akunin

[Real name:
Grigory Chkhartishvili]

Russia

Writer



Japanese Language

Alliance of Associations of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ)

United States

Executive Director:
Susan Schmidt



Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange

James Arthur Stockwin

U.K.

Former director of the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies at the University of Oxford

Boris Akunin, one of Russia's best-selling novelists, has been introducing Japanese literature and culture to Russian readers through his translations, scholarly works, and a diverse range of creative writing that includes a series of mystery novels. In addition, as a leading cultural figure in Russia, he has been making contributions to cultural exchange between Japan and Russia.

AATJ, a nationwide association of Japanese-language educational organizations in the United States, has been making significant contributions to the promotion and development of Japanese-language education in elementary, secondary, and higher education across the country, through its coordination of member organizations' activities, teachers' training programs, and information provision services.

James Stockwin, a leading scholar in Japanese studies in the United Kingdom, has been making significant contributions to the development of Japanese Studies in the country through his achievements in modern Japanese political studies, and through the promotion of intellectual exchange and understanding between Japan and the UK as the founding director of the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies at the University of Oxford.

Commemorative lecture: "Japan and I – Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder" at Hongo Campus of the University of Tokyo on October 9, 2009. Jointly held with the Dept. of Contemporary Literary Studies and the Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures, the University of Tokyo

Commemorative lecture: "Japanese-language Education in the U.S. and Activities of AATJ" at the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute Urawa on October 9, 2009.

Commemorative lecture: "Japanese Politics in a British Mirror" at the International House of Japan on October 7, 2009. Jointly held with the International House of Japan.

The Japan Foundation Prizes for Global Citizenship

With its Prizes for Global Citizenship, the Japan Foundation honors organizations which conduct outstanding international cultural exchange initiatives, maintain strong local ties, and serve as exemplary models. This award program was started in 1985 as the Prizes for the Promotion of Community-Based Cultural Exchange, and renamed in 2005. To date, 76 prizes were awarded, including a special award from the President of the Japan Foundation.

Prize Recipients for Fiscal 2009

NPO Jinenjo Club



Performance in Belgium in 2009
Photo: muriel thies

Jinenjo Club forms a community in which staff and people with intellectual disabilities live together and work together on ecological farming. They are also engaged in performing arts activities, and regularly invite international performing artists with disabilities to Japan.

Hamamatsu NPO Network Center



Creating a large mural in 2003

Since 1998, the Center has been working to stimulate a multicultural community in Hamamatsu City, Shizuoka, which has one of Japan's largest number of international residents, representing nearly 4 percent of its total citizens. As an intermediary connecting people beyond nationality and cultural difference, the Center is engaged in various activities mainly in education, healthcare, and community arts.

NPO Green Valley Inc.



A work by Karin, artist participating KAIR 2008

Since its launch in 2004, Green Valley Inc. has been engaged in activities in Kamiyama-cho, Tokushima to revitalize the depopulated community. Through creative activities, including the Kamiyama Artist in Residence (KAIR) programs, which invite artists from overseas, they have been working to find ways for depopulated regions to not only survive but thrive.