

**Japanese Studies and
Intellectual Exchange**

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To encourage Japanese studies, the Japan Foundation supports institutions and academics around the world and assists networking. Top academics are introduced to Japan, giving the Japanese people access to world level knowledge and insights into global intellectual trends. This gives the international scholars a deeper understanding of Japan, fosters the development of shared perceptions, and facilitates discussion of shared issues.

Promoting Japanese Studies Abroad

The Japan Foundation supports the studies of overseas researchers with interests in Japanese society, culture, art, history, and other areas. Since most of the Japanese studies researchers work under the auspices of a university or a research institute, it is important to ensure that research institutes can provide reliable support and construct an environment suitable for sustained research. In this context, the Japan Foundation supports institutes that play a core role in Japanese studies in the country or region, and provides fellowships or a similar support when researchers visit Japan to further their studies. The Japan Foundation also proactively provides opportunities for researchers to interact with other researchers.

Promoting Intellectual Exchange

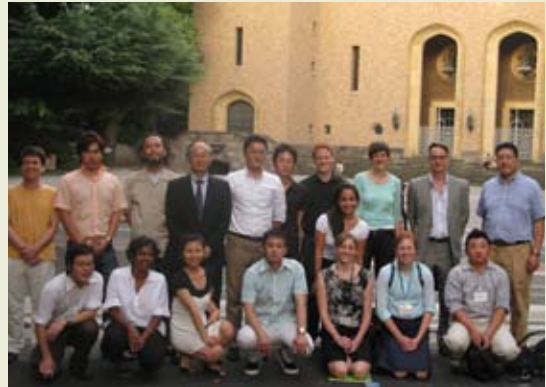
To achieve deeper understanding of global issues, and to make progress towards the resolution of such issues, it is desirable that intellectual leaders in different fields are able to become involved in ways that cross national borders. For that reason, the Japan Foundation organizes workshops, international conferences, and similar opportunities for international dialogue and promotion of research. Also, in order to stimulate intellectual interest in Japan, the Japan Foundation gives experts and specialists in many different fields the opportunity to visit Japan. It also awards grants to support intellectual exchange programs planned and implemented by various key figures to address issues above.

The Center for Global Partnership

The Center for Global Partnership arranges US-Japan collaborative projects that work with people around the world to address global issues and issues shared throughout the Asia-Pacific region, and that enable dialogue and interchange in every area and on every level. In addition to directly organizing international conferences, seminars, workshops, surveys, etc., it awards grants to groups involved in tackling the same issues through dialogue that promotes global order, or through joint efforts to overcome the effects of globalization on regional society. Through the award of fellowships and provision of coordinators, it attempts to nurture new generations of people capable of leading research and finding solutions to international issues.

1 Institutional Support

The Japan Foundation provides support to institutions such as universities and Japanese studies centers. The support is provided under medium and long-term plans to strengthen bases for Japanese studies and train human resources. Depending on the specific needs of the institution, it may include support for the purpose of expanding teaching staff, dispatching guest professors, or making more books available. This all-encompassing, sustained support program aims to energize the activities of Japanese research institutes around the world.



2 Networking

In order to construct close networks among researchers, the Japan Foundation plans international conferences, workshops, and other venues that encourage networking. In the field of Japanese studies, the Japan Foundation gives support to international conferences to promote links between specialists across academic field boundaries. Networking in a variety of forms is promoted through grants that provide partial assistance for networking activities to enhance international communication between researchers.



3 Fellowships

Grants are awarded to preeminent scholars in the fields of Japanese studies and intellectual exchange. In the field of Japanese studies, grants are available to overseas researchers, doctoral candidates, and short-term fellowship. In the field of intellectual exchange, they are given to provide overseas experts and specialists with the opportunity to visit Japan. The Abe Fellowship program is also designed to support research and exchange by researchers and journalists for the purpose of strengthening global partnerships between Japan and the United States.



Suggestions for Preparing Japanese Studies for Globalization

The world's interest seems to be shifting from Japan to China, India, and Asia. In this context, in order to get a picture of the state and circumstances of Japanese studies overseas and to review current issues, it is necessary to build networks among researchers beyond national and regional borders. By organizing the Global Japanese Studies Scholars Forum to debate how to promote the globalization of Japanese studies, the Japan Foundation is working to evaluate the status of Japanese studies worldwide, clarifying its prospects and identifying issues that need to be addressed.

In an attempt to discover the status of Japanese studies, the Japan foundation held a forum at Hakone on October 13 and 14, 2009, inviting 16 researchers from 10 countries that represent the core of Japanese studies. The forum was followed by a public symposium at the Japan foundation Headquarters on October 15. The symposium took up four reports and issues, debating the "Current Situation of Japanese Studies in Each Country and Region," "Regional Studies and Japanese Studies," "Asian Studies and Japanese Studies," and "Japanese Language and Japanese Studies," and elicited views such as the following from the speakers.

Professor Xu Yiping (Beijing Center for Japanese Studies)

"Politics and economics are said to be like the wheels of a two-wheeler vehicle. A two-wheeler has to be either like a rickshaw, incapable of rapid progress, or like a bike, unstable and easily falling over. It is not until you add the third wheel of cultural understanding to make a three-wheeler that the vehicle can be both stable and fast. International exchange is like that. Three-wheeler exchange is sustainable, and the addition of cultural understanding produces international exchange that can be steered, resulting in deeper understanding of politics and economics, too."

Harald Fuess (President of European Association for Japanese Studies)

"Once every three years, the European Association for Japanese Studies holds an international conference attended by 600 researchers. I wonder if it would be possible to hold a world congress of Japanese studies researchers in Japan every four years like the Olympics. It is important to support individual research, which forms the basis for joint research. In particular, support for young researchers represents an investment in training for the future."

Patricia G. Steinhoff (University of Hawaii, U.S.A.)

In the United States, Japanese studies has undergone an internal transformation over the past 10 years, at the same time as the big changes to American society as a result of globalization. For instance, the post-war generation of Japanese studies researchers is retiring, and a new generation of researchers is taking over. The young researchers are very capable users of Japanese, so today an increasing number of researchers read documents in the original language and conduct their research directly."

Comments from participants included "it was stimulating to be able to debate with Japanese studies researchers working in the fields and regions that I normally have no contact with," and "I hope that the issues we have clarified this time around can be addressed and link through to the next opportunity." After the event, one of the participants made a proposal that resulted in the people who met at this forum gathering again for a conference in Beijing. That is one example of how successful the forum was at strengthening the network.

[Global Japanese Studies Scholars Forum 2009, Hakone-machi: Kanagawa Prefecture and Tokyo, October 13 to 15, 2009]



Public symposium at the Japan Foundation Headquarters

Networking with Young Intellectual Leaders of Southeast Asia

Geographically and historically, the countries of Southeast Asia have a close relationship with Japan, and they are currently developing at a remarkable rate. It is important to build close relationship with the countries of this region, as well as enhancing mutual understanding on many different points, not just in political and economic areas. Based on this, the program invited a new generation of young Muslim researchers to Japan from Southeast Asia to promote their understanding of Japan and provide networking opportunities. The program took place over a ten-day period in November 2009.

The participants in this program were the following seven young researchers from three countries.

■ Indonesia

Five lecturers and staff from Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University (UIN) Jakarta:

Euis Nurlaelawati (Islamic family law)

Eva Nugraha (Qur'anic history, organization management)

Bambang Suryadi (education, counseling psychology)

Sukron Kamil (Arabic literature, Islam and socio-politics)

Ikhsan Ibrahim (religion/international relations)

■ The Philippines

Hanie A. Bud, Mindanao State University (international relations, organization management, Arabian and Islamic studies)

■ Malaysia

Yusri Mohamad, International Islamic University (Islamic law, Malaysian constitution, Islam in Malaysia)

The program was based around the theme of the Meiji Restoration, which was the point of departure for Japan's

modernization. It included discussion of politics, economics, technology, religion, and culture, a tea ceremony, visits to shrines and temples, and fact-finding tours to places such as the Genbaku Dome and Peace Memorial Museum in Hiroshima, and the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution and the Kobe Mosque in Kobe to gain a deeper understanding of Japan.

Participants commented that having the modernization of Japan as a lecture theme was very thought-provoking in the context of considering the modernization of their own countries, which are not part of the Western world. They also said that experiencing the tea ceremony was a useful chance to learn about the everyday culture of Japanese people. Many also noted that visiting Hiroshima provided the opportunity to think again about the importance of peace.

A follow-up program was held in March 2010 in Jakarta for the participants, with a guest lecturer from Japan, Professor Kobayashi Yasuko of the Faculty of Foreign Studies, Nanzan University. This included a panel session on the theme "Modernization and Islam" at Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta. Professor Kobayashi, who researches Islam in Indonesia, gave the keynote speech, which was followed by a research report from each of the seven participants in the Young Muslim Intellectuals program. The reports were then followed by a panel discussion. Many of the local researchers, graduate students, and students who attended praised the session for its reports and discussion based on the participants' first-hand experiences in Japan. [Invitation of Young Muslim Intellectuals from Southeast Asia, Tokyo, Kyoto, Hyogo, and Hiroshima prefectures, November 4 to 13, 2009]



Above: At tea ceremony venue
Left: Prayers at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park

Networking Between Researchers Opens Up New Paths for Research

The Japanese Studies Seminar on Meiji was held on September 11 and 12, 2009 at the Centre Européen d'Etudes Japonaises d'Alsace (CEEJA), which is located in the Alsace region of France. CEEJA is surrounded on three sides by vineyards, and has wonderful scenery with a view of the Alsace Mountains. Participants spent the whole time together, resulting in very lively discussions.

Designed around a broad theme, this seminar for Japanese studies brings young researchers in one place to present their work, to discuss and to share their opinions, along with specialists invited from Japan. In doing so, this seminar aims to create an interdisciplinary network of researchers in Europe in addition to contributing to the advancement of each scholar's own studies. Following on from the 'Edo' theme of the previous two years, this year's seminar took the theme of 'Meiji.' It was chaired by Professor Mikuriya Takashi of the University of Tokyo, who is a scholar of Japanese political history from Meiji to present and the author of books including *Meiji kokka no kansei: 1890-1905* (A History of Modern Japan: 1890-1905). Nine researchers from different parts of Europe, including both European researchers and researchers from Japan now based at European research institutes, each presented their research on themes related to the Meiji period, followed by the discussion. The participating researchers and their research topics were as follows.

Takase Nobuaki (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK)

"Mutsu Munemitsu's Study of Modern Nation States-The Process of Incorporating European Constitutional Systems into Meiji Japan"

Martin Norderborg (University of Gothenburg, Sweden)

"Resisting Westernization in 19th Century Japan-An American Primer Becomes the First Japanese Primary School Reader"



CEEJA Seminar

Yamanashi Atsushi (School of Advanced Studies in Social Science, France)

"The turning point of the Catholic Church in Japan in the early 20th century: relations between Japanese Catholics and French missionaries"

Anita Lestyan (University of Budapest, Hungary)

"The separation of kami and Buddha during the Meiji Restoration"

Ota Tomomi (Research Center on the Civilizations of East Asia, University of Strasbourg, France)

"Representations of family in the writings of Kafu: fictitious Japanese family and ideal Western family"

Frederic Ebrard (University of Haute-Alsace, Mulhouse/CEEJA, France)

"The novels serialized in the first daily newspapers"

Silvana De Maio (University of Naples "L'Orientale", Italy)

"A New Perspective on Italo-Japanese Relation in Early Meiji Japan Emerging from the Archive Records of the Historical Department of the Italian Navy"

Akutsu Mariko (Lyon University 3, France)

"European influence on the production of Imari porcelain in the second half of the 19th century"

Olga Makarova (Russian University for the Humanities, Moscow, Russia)

"Conception of 'Japanese Art' in Meiji Japan"

Professor Mikuriya, who chaired the seminar, concluded as follows:

"These nine presentations addressed a wide range of themes and each of them was far more productive than I had expected. The researchers whose mother language was not Japanese must have found it quite challenging to make their presentations in Japanese. Their research had unique points of views because they were studying in Europe, not in Japan, and this applies to the Japanese scholars, too. I understand that each individual scholar is working in a rather isolated situation. So I hope this seminar will function both as a springboard to enhance their research, and as an opportunity to build a broader network among them."

The Japan Foundation is continuing its initiatives to promote networking between researchers. A full report of this seminar will be published on the website.

[Japan-Europe Intellectual Exchanges in Alsace "Japanese Studies Seminar on Meiji," CEEJA: France, September 11 to 12, 2009]

Raising Understanding and Interest in Japan Among Future Leaders of the American News Media

The Center for Global Partnership conducts programs that promote stronger links between Japan and the United States. In August 2009, it ran a program for Invitation of American graduate students studying journalism. This was the subject of a fiscal 2009 grant to Emerson College (Boston, U.S.A.), and involved inviting to Japan a group of graduate students studying journalism with the potential to become leading journalists. Over ten days, the six participants visited Tokyo, Hyogo, and Kyoto. In Tokyo activities included a session facilitating exchange and dialogue with Japanese graduate students, and opportunities to talk with media, research, and financial specialists. In Hyogo, they met with survivors of the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and visited Himeji Castle. In Kyoto, they toured shrines, and temples. Through this program, participants were able to gain first-hand experience of Japanese society, and familiarize themselves with some of the cultural and historical background behind Japan's diplomatic and social policies.

While in Japan, the budding journalists met with people from many different fields in the different cultural context that Japan provides. Through this experience, in addition to gaining a better understanding of the Japanese approach, they had the opportunity to think about the role of journalists

and gain inspirations for their future. One of the participants, Sandra Garcia, commented "even though it was only our first meeting, the survivors of the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake put so much effort into telling us about their experiences and about family members they had lost. Hearing them talk reminded me of why I wanted to become a journalist." Other comments by participants included "I would like to leverage the opportunity provided by this program into a longer-term involvement with Japan in some form or other," and "back in America, I intend to maintain the new links with the people I met while in Japan," and "before the trip I didn't know much about Japan, but this program has made the country much more familiar," demonstrating the success of the program in raising the participants' interest in Japan.

Japanese media people and speakers who participated also expressed their approval of this type of program, including one who said "Giving juniors with the potential to become top journalists the opportunity to gain an understanding of Japan is very significant for enhancing the balance of coverage (of Japanese politics, economics, society and culture) in American media in the future.

[Invitation Programme for US Graduate Students of Journalism, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Hyogo, and Kyoto prefectures, August 16 to 25, 2009]



Above: Tour of NHK International Broadcasting Bureau
Upper right: Orientation before departure (in New York City, U.S.A.)
Lower right: Visit to Ministry of Foreign Affairs