

Summary of Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Programs

1—Support for Japanese Studies Organizations

We supported a number of programs for leading Japanese studies institutions worldwide to improve their research capabilities and develop high-caliber academic talent. Since fiscal 2007, we have provided more comprehensive, cross-functional support tailored to the needs of recipients. This includes supporting visiting professors, providing grants for research and conferences, funding increases in teaching staff, and supporting libraries.

① Support Recipients in the Americas [15 institutions]

United States: University of Colorado; University of Virginia; University of Hawaii; the Great Lakes Colleges Association; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, among others.
Central and South America: El Colegio de México; University of São Paulo

② Support Recipients in the Asia Pacific [28 institutions]

East Asia: Seoul National University; Korea University; Nankai University; Fudan University, among others.
Southeast Asia: Universitas Indonesia; Chulalongkorn University; Tammasat University; University of the Philippines; University of Malaya; Hanoi VNU, among others.
South Asia: Jawaharlal Nehru University; University of Delhi
Australia: Australian National University

③ Support Recipients in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa [27 institutions]

Europe: University of Venice; School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London; University of Bonn; Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques; Université Catholique de Louvain; Institute of Oriental Studies, Far Eastern National University; University of Zagreb; Vytautas Magnus University, among others.
Middle East: Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University; University of Baghdad; Faculty of World Studies, University of Tehran, among others.

④ Beijing Center for Japanese Studies

We supported a program run by the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies at the Beijing Foreign Studies University, sending a teaching staff of 15 (including Japanese professors), inviting 22 graduate students to Japan, and providing grants for research and publishing projects. We also supported Peking University by sending 11 Japanese professors to its Center for Japanese Studies and by inviting 23 graduate students and staff to Japan.

2—Japanese Studies Fellowships

Long-term fellowships: 68 scholars/researchers (28 countries) and 74 Ph.D. candidates (26 countries)

Short-term fellowships: 49 researchers (19 countries)

The Japan Foundation has been inviting scholars and researchers engaged in Japanese studies to Japan since its establishment. Through this fellowship program, more than 4,500 academics have visited Japan to advance their studies on Japan and to develop networks with Japanese specialists. In fiscal 2010, we provided long-term fellowships to 68 scholars and researchers from 28 countries and 74 Ph.D. candidates from 26 countries as well as short-term fellowships to 49 researchers from 19 countries to support their research projects in Japan.

We also organized Fellow Seminars at our headquarters and Kyoto office for these fellows to present their academic achievements to the public.

3—Strengthening Japanese Studies Networks

We implemented the following support projects to promote the development of cooperative and collaborative international and interdisciplinary networks for Japanese studies.

① Support for Japanese Studies Associations and Surveys on Japanese Studies Researchers and Organizations

We supported international academic societies by, among others, organizing sessions on Japanese studies at the East Asia Forum for Japanese Studies and the Association for Asian Studies. We also conducted surveys on Japanese studies researchers and organizations in the United States, Australia, China, and Korea.

4—Intellectual Exchange Conferences and Programs

International conferences/intellectual forums: 25 events

Grants: 84

We organized international conferences and intellectual forums to address global and regional issues and provided funding for external events.

① Invitation of Group of Chinese Researchers and Intellectuals

This program aims to develop a forward-looking intellectual network connecting China and Japan. A delegate of four Chinese public academics with limited association with Japan visited Japan to meet and exchange views with Japanese researchers, visit organizations, and travel to regional cities.

② Japan-Korea Symposium on Social Entrepreneurs

In Seoul, we organized a public symposium and meetings on social entrepreneurship. The events provided a meaningful opportunity for Japanese and Korean social entrepreneurs who had started their own organizations and researchers engaged in the study of social enterprises to meet and exchange views.

③ International Symposium on Museology

The Japan Foundation and the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures co-hosted the symposium “New Museology: Drawing synergies between cultural heritage and contemporary cultures” in Tokyo in September 2010, where we reported on the British Museum’s exhibition “The Power of Dogu: Ceramic figures from ancient Japan” that effectively used manga to show cultural heritage, and on the Aomori Museum of Art’s effort to revitalize the local communities by making use of cultural heritage. The participants held discussions on innovative ways of display at museums, the fusion of cultural heritage and contemporary cultures, social responsibilities of museums, and a new direction of museology.

④ Seminar on Universal Fashion

We organized the open seminar “Japan’s Quest for Harmonious Society: Making Fashion Universal” in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and Moscow, Russia, in October 2010, where we gave presentations on how designs were utilized in Japan to respond to the needs of those vulnerable in society, such as the disabled and elderly, and how the characteristics of Japanese culture and craftsmanship were reflected in creating designs. The seminar really impressed the participants.

⑤ The 2nd Japan-Argentina Exchange Symposium (March 29, 2011)

In January 2010, the 1st Japan-Argentina Exchange Symposium was held in Tokyo; in fiscal 2010, working with the foreign affairs ministries of Japan and Argentina and the Embassy of Japan in Argentina, a 2nd symposium aimed at examining and discussing the relations of the two countries from academic and cultural points of view was held in Buenos Aires. With the subjects this time including people’s views on nature, and trends in contemporary art and its public perception in the two countries, the symposium offered concrete ideas about the future development of cultural exchanges between the two countries.

⑥ Invitation of Young Muslim Intellectuals from Southeast Asia (November 2010)

Eight young university lecturers specializing in Islamic studies,

NGO activists, or representatives of society in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore were invited to Japan to promote their understanding of Japan. Lectures were given by Japanese researchers on “social modernization,” using Japan as an example, as well as on “harmony in Islam.” They also exchanged views about these issues. In March 2011, we held a seminar as a follow-up program at the State Islamic University in Jakarta, Indonesia, for researchers and students to share what the program participants had experienced in Japan.

5—Intellectual Exchange Fellowships

Fellowships: 21

We supported young researchers in the humanities and social sciences from East Europe, the Middle East, and Africa who are striving to respond to the common global issues faced by contemporary societies by providing them with opportunities to conduct research in Japan and to build networks with Japanese specialists for future intellectual exchange.

6—Intellectual Leaders’ Exchange

Under the Asia Leadership Fellow Program, seven intellectuals invited from various countries in Asia, including Japan, spent two months together in Tokyo. The participants engaged in intensive discussions on global challenges with opinion leaders in many different fields and developed networks with individuals and organizations in Japan and among themselves. Through a wide variety of programs, they were also able to obtain a better understanding of Japanese society and culture.

7—Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program

We sponsored the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program, a program organized by the SEASREP Foundation with the aim of promoting Southeast Asian studies in the region. In the program, scholars from Southeast Asian countries and Japan conduct joint research on today’s Chinese immigrants in Southeast Asia.

8—Center for Global Partnership (CGP)

Programs organized and co-organized by CGP: 15

① Abe Fellowship

A total of 12 researchers became fellows in fiscal 2010. The purpose of this fellowship program is to encourage research on pressing global issues that need international, government-level response, and to develop and foster a collaborative relationship and network of Japanese and American experts in this field. We also granted four journalists under the Abe Fellowship for Journalists, which was created in fiscal 2008 with the aim of supporting media reporting that contributes to promoting mutual understanding between Japan and the United States.

② Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI)

Four Japanese coordinators were sent to the United States under the JOI program, which aims to develop a deeper understanding of

Japan and promote a grassroots level of cultural exchange in U.S. cities where there are relatively few opportunities to participate in Japan-related activities or to interact with Japanese individuals and organizations.

③ “U.S.-Japan Network for the Future” Program (throughout 2010)

This is a new program initiated in fiscal 2009 by CGP and The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation. Targeting promising American Japan specialists (scholars and policy professionals) in their early and mid-career stages, the two-year program including a Japan study trip is aimed at providing them with a variety of opportunities to gain a better understanding of a wide range of issues concerning Japan-U.S. relations and to build a strong network of Japan specialists. In fiscal 2010, the participants stayed in Washington, D.C. and Montana to receive intensive training.

④ Other Programs

We have conducted many other programs that include the Japan Travel Program for U.S. Future Leaders, the US-Japan Journalism Postgraduate Fellowship, and an NPO Fellow seminar.

Grant Programs

① Grant Programs

Under the CGP’s grants program, 16 grants were provided to joint projects by Japanese and U.S. organizations in three areas: traditional and non-traditional approaches to security and diplomacy, global and regional economic issues, and the role of civil society. In the United States, 41 small scale grants were offered consisting of 12 grants for intellectual exchange, 4 grants for grassroots exchange, and 25 educational outreach grants. In addition, 50 grants were provided under the participatory grants program.

② Initiatives to Strengthen Japan-U.S. Exchanges

During his visit to the United States in November 2007, then prime minister Fukuda Yasuo announced initiatives to strengthen Japan-U.S. exchanges in the three major areas of intellectual exchange, grassroots exchange, and Japanese language education. As part of these initiatives, the CGP provides grants to five leading think tanks in the U.S. (Center for Strategic and International Studies, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, Brookings Institution, Council on Foreign Relations, and RAND Corporation), supports Japan-America Societies based in the United States, and operates an invitation program to promote exchange with Japanese-Americans living in the U.S.

9—CULCON

The US-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON), whose U.S. secretariat is the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, convened for CULCON XXIV in Washington, D.C. in June 2010. In a joint statement, the CULCON panelists agreed to focus on investment in the future through education in the broadest sense of the term as their first priority.

Left: Report on “Japan-Europe Cooperation on Social Firms”
Middle: Report on the “International Conference on Empowering Women”
Right: JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Programme Report

