



## Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange

Programs in this field aim to encourage a greater understanding of Japan through supporting and promoting Japanese studies overseas. The Japan Foundation works to enhance Japan's presence in the international scene by creating opportunities for cross-cultural dialogue on critical global issues and shared concerns. It also administers programs designed to develop future leaders who will play important roles in international dialogue and cultural exchange.





# Overview of Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Programs

## Promoting Japanese Studies across the Globe

The Japan Foundation provides financial support to key Japanese-studies institutions overseas that promote better understanding of Japan and develop positive relations with Japan. It also gives fellowships for research activities in Japan. The Japan Foundation also provides networking opportunities for scholars in the field of Japanese studies.

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## Promoting Intellectual Exchange

The Japan Foundation strives to make Japan's message better understood internationally and to nurture people for international exchanges. It promotes international understanding on diverse levels and aims for global development and stability through its intellectual contributions.

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## Support for Japanese Studies Institutions

The Japan Foundation supports Japanese studies institutions around the world in their efforts to reinforce their institutional capacity and develop specialists on Japan. The comprehensive and sustained assistance programs will contribute to a steady growth of research on Japan over the long term.

## Expansion of Intellectual Dialogue and International Outreach Efforts

To facilitate dialogue on topics of international concern and critical global issues, the Japan Foundation holds international conferences and symposiums and sends researchers and experts abroad. This helps networking among members of the intellectual community. Also, Grants are provided to support conferences and cultural exchange programs organized inside and outside Japan.

## Support for Japanese Studies Scholars

The Japan Foundation offers research fellowships to Japanese studies scholars abroad. The fellowship program, which selects candidates through an open application process, has supported numerous scholars who have since achieved great success in the field.

## Human Resource Development

The Japan Foundation offers support programs designed to train professionals who will play a leading role in facilitating international dialogue as well as regional and youth exchanges. For scholars and journalists from countries that have limited connections with Japan, such as Middle Eastern and African countries, a fellowship program is available to support research activities in Japan.

## Intellectual Exchange with the United States

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## Developing Japanese Studies Networks

With the goal of advancing scholarship of Japanese studies through a strengthened network of specialists and researchers, the Japan Foundation hosts international conferences, joint workshops and other platforms that facilitate dialogue across organizational and cultural boundaries. It also supports the activities of Japanese studies associations and networks abroad.

## Intellectual Dialogue and Joint Research

The Center for Global Partnership (CGP) promotes Japan-U.S. intellectual exchanges that take the form of discussions, collaborative research and networking aimed at addressing both global and regional issues. CGP hosts a broad range of conferences and events to support and drive these collaborative efforts.

## Human Resource Development

CGP implements and supports projects that nurture next-generation leaders committed to developing and sustaining the Japan-U.S. partnership. It also conducts and supports activities and grassroots exchange programs to better understand Japan in areas where Japan-exchange events are very limited. The Abe Fellowship program provides grants for scholars and journalists to conduct research on significant global issues.



1. CGP APSIA Japan Travel Program for U.S. Future Leaders 2. Kizuna (Bond) Project: Short-term Visit to Japan by U.S. High School Students—Students embracing a disaster victim in Fukushima (see p. 36) 3. Japan and U.S. Chairs of the 25th Joint Meeting of the U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON) 4. "Asia-Europe Intercultural City Summit 2012 Hamamatsu" (see p. 34) 5. Japanese Study Seminar at CEEJA in Alsace: "Taisho/Prewar(Showa)"





## Promoting Japanese Studies across the Globe

### ■ Support for Japanese Studies Institutions

Universities and other academic institutions that sponsor Japanese studies programs play a significant role not only in research but also in education and the training of future researchers. In fiscal 2012, the Japan Foundation provided support to a total of 82 core universities and institutions around the world with Japanese studies programs. The support program, designed to be responsive to the needs of individual institutions, provided resources for research, international conferences, book purchases, and staff expansion. The Japan Foundation also funded study tours to Japan or training in Japan for teachers and students, dispatched Japanese affiliate professors to overseas institutions, and supported research projects.

In China, the Japan Foundation operates the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies, which was established in 1985 based on an agreement with the Chinese government. Catering to graduate students of Japanese studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University and students in doctoral courses in the social science divisions of Peking University, the center offers contemporary Japanese studies courses with the aim of training and developing future Japan experts who will be instrumental in promoting Japan-China relations.

### ■ Japanese Studies Fellowships

In fiscal 2012, the Japan Foundation supported approximately 290 scholars and academics (including fiscal-2011 recipients with on-going projects) to conduct research in Japan in humanities and social sciences.

The research topics are diverse, ranging from politics, economy and other aspects of contemporary Japanese society to liberal arts disciplines such as linguistics, ancient history, and medieval literature. Once back home these international scholars help disseminate accurate information and understanding about Japan based on knowledge grounded in solid academic research. The fellowship program is a valuable resource for developing the next generation of Japanese studies scholars and experts on Japan.

### ■ Japanese Studies Seminar Tour in Vietnam

The Japan Foundation hosted a seminar consisting of a public lecture and a round-table discussion by two Japanese international relations specialists on "Japan's

New International Relations: Japan-China-U.S. Relations and South East Asia" in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. In his lecture entitled "Soft Power and Japan's International Cultural Engagements," Yasushi Watanabe, professor at Keio University, introduced Japan's experiences and challenges in public diplomacy, drawing on developments in this field in various other countries. Yoshihide Soeya, another professor at Keio University, delivered a speech on "The Rise of China and Japan's Responses: Implications for Regional Security." He argued that since Japan and Vietnam are both concerned about China's assertiveness, they should work together as equal partners to analyze and contemplate a joint strategy to such challenges. The seminars in the two cities together drew as many as 850 people.



### ■ A Statement by a Russian Japanese Studies Scholar in a News Article

"In the 1990s, when the Russian economy was in ruins and salaries went unpaid, the Japan Foundation distinguished itself with exceptional work. Asian countries that did not support the study of their own country—and most of them did not—ended up losing experts on their country. That Japanese studies survived owes much to the Japan Foundation's support, to which we bow down deeply, Russian style, in a show of appreciation." (A statement by Professor Alexander Mesheryakov, Russian State University for the Humanities. Source: Interview article "Foreign Countries Cannot Solve Russia's Problems" posted March 22, 2013, on the online newspaper Gazeta.ru.)



Japanese studies seminar tour: The journalist Nobuhiko Shima delivered a lecture, "On Finding the Determination to Face the Third National Crisis," in Uzbekistan.



# Promoting Intellectual Exchange

## ■ Heading Towards an Intercultural Society

An initiative was launched in fiscal 2009 to link the Intercultural Cities Program (ICC), a joint project of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, and Japanese communities and scholars involved in promoting interculturalism. The initiative, which has engaged a growing number of cities and municipalities, has evolved with the implementation of programs that have sent Japanese local government officials to Europe and invited European leaders and officials to a symposium in Japan. With the addition of Korean cities with similar interests and concerns, the vision of the intercultural city has expanded into an international network.

An increasing number of cities are actively taking part in the initiative, creating the momentum that led to "Asia-Europe Intercultural City Summit 2012 Hamamatsu." Cosponsored by the Japan Foundation and Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture, the symposium was attended by mayors and scholars from Korea, Denmark, the Netherlands and Ireland and the mayors of Shinjuku (Tokyo), Ota (Tokyo), and Higashi-Osaka. The symposium concluded with the adoption of the Hamamatsu Declaration pledging to "regard cultural diversity as a source of the city's dynamism... bring together people of different cultural backgrounds to foster innovation and creativity, and... explore a new urban vision in the age of globalization..." (photo on p. 32).

## ■ Reporting on Recent Developments of Post-Disaster Reconstruction and Sharing Disaster Preparedness Capabilities

Shinichi Sakaguchi, Councilor of the Japan Reconstruction Agency lectured on the recent developments of post-disaster reconstruction and answered questions from the audience at the "Memorial Event for the Earthquake and Tsunami Catastrophe from March 11, 2011: The Long Journey to Reconstruction" in Berlin, Germany on March 11, 2013. He also responded extensively to media interviews, contributing to wide coverage of Japan's reconstruction efforts in German newspapers and radio.

In Thailand, the Japan Foundation organized an integrated event consisting of an exhibition, seminars and workshops to introduce the JISHIN ITSUMO project developed by a Kansai region NPO in collaboration with designers. Based on lessons learned from the Great Hanshin Earthquake, the project provides creative strategies for disaster preparedness and awareness building (photo on p. 13, article on p. 43).



JISHIN ITSUMO project: Workshop in Thailand

## ■ The Japan Foundation 40th Anniversary Symposium

On November 9, 2012, the Japan Foundation and the Asahi Shimbun Company cosponsored a symposium titled "Transcending Borders: New Trends in International Cultural Exchange" in commemoration of the Japan Foundation's 40th anniversary (photo on p. 10).

The symposium traced the 40-year history, during which the societies of Japan and the world and the Japan Foundation have all experienced significant change, and explored the role and position of future international cultural exchange.

The program opened with writer Nanami Shiono's keynote address, followed by panel discussions featuring a diverse lineup of panelists including playwright Oriza Hirata, Professor Yasushi Watanabe of Keio University, Harvard University professor Andrew Gordon, Jan Melissen, Director of Research at Netherlands Institute of International Relations, Jung Sook Park, broadcaster and actress, architect Sou Fujimoto, novelist Prabda Yoon, and Sayaka Murata, president of an NPO.

Held at Yurakucho Asahi Hall in Tokyo, the symposium attracted 500 people who listened to the vigorous discussions among the most prominent names in their respective fields.



The Japan Foundation 40th Anniversary Symposium



Intellectual exchange program: A large audience turned up for the lecture and round-table discussion at the University of Tokyo as well as talk shows at Tokyo and Kyoto bookstores featuring Mikhail Shishkin, a famous Russian contemporary writer.



# Intellectual Exchange with the United States

## Center for Global Partnership

The Center for Global Partnership (CGP) was established in April 1991 to promote collaboration between the people of Japan, the United States, and beyond in order to address issues of global concern. Its missions are:

- To promote collaboration between Japan and the United States with the goal of fulfilling shared global responsibilities and improving the world's welfare.
- To enhance dialogue and interchange between Japanese and U.S. citizens on a wide range of issues, thereby improving bilateral relations.

CGP implements or supports projects that address global issues in which both Japan and the United States have the responsibility to play an important role, and programs that aim to build a coalition or partnership with a mandate to solve these issues. The center serves to strengthen the foundation of the U.S.-Japan partnership by nurturing the next generation of leaders who will support stable bilateral relations across various fields and by bringing them together in an international network.

### ■ Support for Leading U.S. Think Tanks

Many think tanks in the United States actively engage in research, advocacy and other activities across a broad range of policy fields. Providing analysis and advice on current events and public policy issues of domestic and international concern, these policy think tanks are an integral part of the government policy-making process.

CGP offers a grant program for American policy think tanks to promote Japan-related research and policy recommendations. The current recipients of CGP funding are influential public policy think tanks: the Brookings Institution, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the East-West Center. A Japan studies post was newly created at both the Brookings Institution and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in fiscal 2012. Given the capacities of think tanks to influence and inform public opinion and public policy, an increase in research on Japan is expected to go a long way towards deepening the understanding and interest in Japan in the United States.

### ■ Programs Related to the Great East Japan Earthquake

In fiscal 2012, CGP sponsored two programs and provided grants for 11 others aimed at further promoting interest in Japan that was inspired in the United States after the Great East Japan Earthquake. The programs, implemented as part of CGP's international contribution efforts, are also designed to share the experience and lessons learned from the earthquake and tsunami in order to assist disaster-preparedness and recovery planning.

CGP launched a five-year grant program in memory of two American JET participants who lost their lives during

the Great East Japan Earthquake: Taylor Anderson, who had worked in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture, and Montgomery Dickson, in Rikuzentakata City, Iwate Prefecture. The grants were extended to the students' schools, Randolph-Macon College in Virginia and the University of Alaska in Anchorage, to be used to promote deeper understanding of Japan and Japan-US relations.

The CGP grant program funded a disaster-related exchange project, with a group of entrepreneurs and reconstruction officials from Kamaishi City, Iwate Prefecture visiting New Orleans, the city devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, to share relevant information and exchange opinions on the disaster recovery process and disaster preparedness. CGP also supports Japan-U.S. joint research on collaborative search and rescue operations and an initiative to facilitate international dialogue among emergency and disaster preparedness planners and officials.



Panel discussion held as part of "The U.S.-Japan Support Project for Recreating the Tohoku Region through Promotion of Entrepreneurs' Exchange" organized by the Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation



CGP APSIA Japan Travel Program for U.S. Future Leaders: Visit to the disaster-affected areas

### ■ Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI)

The Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) offers a grassroots opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of Japan by sending Japanese individuals to U.S. destinations for a two-year term as program coordinators of community outreach activities about Japan. The program, jointly administered since fiscal 2002 by CGP and the Laurasian Institution, a non-profit organization based in the United States, dispatched three new JOI coordinators in the eleventh program cycle in 2012. Three participants in the ninth program cycle completed their tenure and returned home, while six in the tenth program cycle are currently serving as coordinators at their respective host organizations in the United States.

The coordinators are placed at universities, Japan-America Societies, and other organizations with community outreach programs located in the U.S. South and Midwest, regions where knowledge and awareness about Japan are sparse. They visit educational institutions from elementary schools to universities, libraries, local community centers and other sites to widely introduce Japan and its culture from various aspects such as everyday life, traditional arts and the language. These grassroots ambassadors are making a positive impact in the communities they serve: Yume Hidaka in the ninth program cycle, for example, planned and organized an exhibition of pictures made by children affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and a sushi workshop that won the Best Educational Program of the Year Award for 2012 by the University of Iowa, her host organization.



JOI coordinator serving communities in the Southern and Midwestern regions of the United States

### ■ The Japanese American Leadership Symposium

On March 10, 2013, two years after the Great East Japan Earthquake, CGP, the U.S.-Japan Council, and Fukushima University's Fukushima Future Center for Regional Revitalization (FURE) jointly held a public symposium in Fukushima city called "Towards Common Ground—Connecting Diverse Voices for the Future" (photo on p. 13). The symposium panelists included distinguished Japanese Americans invited to Japan under the Japanese American Leadership Delegation Program sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Another panelist was Mitsuo Yamakawa, professor at Fukushima University. They discussed the reconstruction efforts in Fukushima Prefecture and explored possible areas of cooperation between Japan and the United States.

Two years have elapsed since the 2011 disaster, but many Fukushima residents have no choice but to remain in temporary housing, away from the comfort of their own homes. With this in mind, the session turned into a lively exchange between the audience and the panelists about how the residents' diverse opinions can be taken into consideration to revive their communities in Fukushima. The session also drew on the multi-generation experience of Japanese Americans who managed to maintain community bonds even during their World War II internment.



The Japanese American Leadership Symposium participants

### ■ Kizuna (Bond) Project

The Kizuna (Bond) Project is a government-run youth-exchange project with Asia-Oceania and North America that aims to promote a better understanding of Japan's recovery after the Great East Japan Earthquake and to dispel any false or misleading information connected to the disaster. CGP was commissioned by Fulbright Japan, a fund recipient, to implement the following programs (photos on p. 13, p. 32).

#### ● Short-term Visit to Japan by U.S. High School Students

Between June and August 2012 and during March 2013, a total of 1,194 U.S. high school students visited Japan on a 14-day study tour.

Each group toured Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima and Ibaraki prefectures, where the visiting students met with local fishermen, farmers, and high school students. They learned about the social impact of misleading rumors stemming from contamination fears, observed disaster-stricken businesses in the process of rebuilding, and took part in volunteer activities such as beach cleanup and planting flower beds. Having gained a better awareness about the disaster and its aftermaths, the students are serving as a voice in their own schools and communities in the United States for promoting a better understanding about the impact of the disaster and the recovery process and keeping alive the memory of the events of March 2011.



Student presentation on the final day of the study tour

#### ● Short-term Visit to the U.S. by High School Students

Japanese high school students from areas impacted by the disaster were sent to the United States on a 15-day tour. In October and November 2012 and in January and March 2013, a total of 996 students toured Washington D.C., New York and many other cities across the United States to bring information about the recovery efforts and to engage in various exchange activities. The students met and shared their stories with large numbers of Americans who varied from U.S. congressmen and state government officials to high school students and church and community members. Acknowledging that little was known in the United States about the state of the disaster-affected areas, the tour participants expressed satisfaction that they were able to impart accurate information to promote better understanding.

#### ● Long-term Visit to the U.S. by College Students

Under the six-month visit program starting in March 2013, 55 undergraduate and graduate students from areas impacted by the disaster travelled to the United States. Designed to generate awareness of Japan's recovery and to develop the next generation of internationally-minded leaders who will be instrumental in reconstruction as well as in sustaining the Japan-U.S. partnership, the program included English language and business practice training, business internships, and study tours throughout the United States. Under a separate program, seven college students were sent to the United States for one month.