



Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange

The Japan Foundation supports and promotes Japanese studies abroad so people overseas can better understand Japan. We also provide opportunities for people from Japan and other countries to discuss important global issues and topics of mutual concern. This helps Japan to better express its views and foster the next generation to carry on future dialogue and exchanges.





Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Programs

Promoting Japanese Studies Overseas

The Japan Foundation aims to promote better understanding of Japan overseas and develop good relations with other countries. We support key Japanese studies institutions, experts and networking opportunities among them.

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Promoting Intellectual Exchange

We advance international understanding in diverse segments and fields and make intellectual contributions for global development and stability.

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Supporting Japanese Studies Institutions

Supporting Japanese Studies Scholars

Developing Japanese Studies Networks



Expanding Intellectual Dialogue and International Outreach

Human Resources Development

Intellectual and Grassroots Exchanges with the United States

Japan-U.S. ties are being strengthened by a partnership to tackle global issues, train people, and build networks.

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Youth Exchanges with the United States

To facilitate deeper mutual understanding, we support networking among exchange activity leaders, and the nurturing of global-oriented young people.

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Supporting Japanese Studies Institutions

We support key Japanese studies institutions overseas such as universities and research centers. It is to reinforce their base and to develop specialists. The support can come in diverse forms suiting the institution's needs. It can be subsidies for research and international conferences, staff expansion, library materials, training in Japan, and publications. We can also send visiting professors. Such comprehensive and continuing support is helping to develop and expand Japanese studies overseas for the long term.

■ Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok, Thailand)

We sent a modern literature specialist from Japan as a visiting professor to Chulalongkorn University. The professor gave lectures to graduate students majoring in Japanese language and Japanese literature. The lectures introduced two of Jun'ichiro Tanizaki's famous novels. They read the novels and examined Japan's modernity and modern literature. They studied the perspective of consumer culture in the novel's urban setting in a modern culture. The visiting professor also discussed urban cultural differences between Tokyo and Kansai which were the settings of the novels. Besides the literature class, a special lecture called "Haruki Murakami and the 1980s - America of the Youth" was also given.

Also, three graduate students spent about two weeks in Japan to obtain books (difficult to find in Thailand) necessary to write their master's thesis. They even received thesis guidance from Japanese university instructors. The three students also attended a study meeting at Osaka University where they gave research presentations.



Visiting professor at Chulalongkorn University.

■ Ain Shams University (Cairo, Egypt)

Ain Shams University's Faculty of Languages is among Egypt's finest in the humanities field. The Japanese-language department was established in 2000, and their students maintain a high level of Japanese ability.

The Japan Foundation gave financial support to the department to employ a Japanese instructor. The instructor provides thesis and research guidance to undergraduate and graduate students and gives lectures about Japanese culture and society. This results in higher quality Japanese-language education.



Japanese-language class at Ain Shams University

■ Beijing Center for Japanese Studies and Peking University Research Center for Contemporary Japan (China)

The Beijing Center for Japanese Studies was established in 1985 upon an agreement by the Japan Foundation and the Ministry of Education of the Government of the People's Republic of China to train people in Japanese language, Japanese studies and China-Japan exchange activities. Currently, the center is jointly operated by the Beijing Foreign Studies University and the Japan Foundation.

In fiscal 2013, nine Japanese scholars were sent to the center for a short term to lecture and give guidance to Japanese studies graduate students. Also, ten graduate students in the master's degree program were invited to spend about four months in Japan for research. Seven Ph.D candidates were also invited to spend one year in Japan. The center produced 36 students graduating with master's



Graduation day at the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies.

degrees and three doctorates.

The Peking University Research Center for Contemporary Japan aims to produce Chinese specialists having a good knowledge of modern Japan and specialized knowledge. It is jointly operated by Peking University and the Japan Foundation.

In fiscal 2013, specialized Japanese studies lectures were given to a total of 40 doctoral candidates in the social sciences. Ten scholars from Japan were sent to the center to lecture for a short term. From the center, 19 students were invited to a 15-day training program in Japan.

Supporting Japanese-Studies Scholars

The Japan Foundation offers research fellowships to the Japanese studies scholars abroad to conduct research in Japan. In the fields of humanities and social sciences, we have short-term and long-term fellowships, as well as one for doctoral candidates to complete their dissertations. Many Japanese studies scholars from around the world are doing research in Japan on a Japan Foundation fellowship.

During fiscal 2013, scholars on fellowships reportedly gave 227 presentations at study meetings and other gatherings in Japan. For example, Italian fellow Giulio Pugliese's debate with a well-known scholar was published in the June 2013 issue of Chuo Koron magazine (*What ought to be Japan's pivot? The U.S. or China?* Ronald P. Dore × Giulio Pugliese, Judge: Ezra Vogel).

Hungarian fellow Júlia Néma gave a talk as part of the Japan Foundation's overseas traveling exhibition called "Beautiful Handicrafts of Tohoku". She talked about her experiences as a fellow who was researching pottery in Japan. Many of the visitors who attended her two lectures and her exhibition tour really appreciated her detailed explanation on the exhibition because they understood it better. This is just an example of good synergy between a fellow's specialty and a related event.

In January 2014, about 75 fellows from various countries doing research in diverse fields gathered in Tokyo. They actively exchanged information and networked with each other.

Facilitating Japanese Studies Networking

We support international networking among Japanese studies scholars across organizational and cultural boundaries. We also support domestic and regional

associations and networks around the world. By strengthening networks among Japanese studies scholars, we aim to advance scholarship of Japanese studies abroad.



European Association of Japanese Studies (EAJS) conference in Kyoto.

■ Central Asia Japanese Studies Seminars

We held a lecture tour in Central Asia for young scholars, Japanese-language learners, and university students interested in international relations. Covering Japan's current condition and direction, the lecture titled "Japan After the 2011 Disaster – its Role in Asia" was given by Akio Kawato, former Japanese ambassador to Uzbekistan in the beginning of the 21st century (2002-2004). He is an expert on Central Asia and has continued to survey Central Asia and published his findings. He also has a wealth of experience as a diplomat assigned to the United States of America, Western Europe, and the USSR, Russia. His lecture touched upon a few aspects of the Great East Japan Earthquake and gave a detailed account of Japan's politics, economy, and society today.

The lecture was held in the capital cities of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Kazakhstan. The audience showed a strong intellectual curiosity, and they had lively Q&A sessions with Mr. Kawato after each lecture. Rather than just promoting positive aspects of Japan, a wide range of current issues the country is struggling with were also covered. This gained the empathy of the Central Asian audience. We hope that the young people who attended the lecture and got acquainted with the latest insights on Japan will someday serve as a bridge between Central Asia and Japan.



Annual meeting of fellows.



Central Asia Japanese Studies Seminar in Kyrgyz Republic.

Expanding Intellectual Dialogue and International Outreach

Through intellectual dialogue and international exchanges to discuss issues of mutual concern and international importance, the Japan Foundation is boosting Japan's international outreach and intellectual contribution and fostering mutual understanding.

We host international conferences and symposiums and send and invite experts and researchers. We also provide grants for conferences and other exchange programs in and outside Japan.

■ Symposium "Asia in Harmony: New Horizons for Cultural Exchange"

For the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, the Japanese government announced the *Five Principles of Japan's ASEAN Diplomacy* to place importance on ASEAN-related policies.

The Japan Foundation therefore held a public symposium in Tokyo in October 2013 featuring well-known cultural people from Japan and Southeast Asia. Co-organized with the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* newspaper, the symposium was in response to the Japan-Asia cultural exchange guidelines proposed to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe by cultural-exchange opinion leaders. The symposium addressed those proposals and aimed to help establish a framework to realize them.

The symposium opened with a greeting from Prime Minister Abe. A panel discussion was then held with Masayuki Yamauchi, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo, as the Moderator. The panelists included Tadao Sato (film critic), Mansai Nomura (Kyogen actor), Ong Keng Sen (theater artist from Singapore), and Christine Hakim (actress and film producer from Indonesia). They freely talked about new cultural cooperation between Japan and Asia. The *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* published a major article about the symposium, bringing wide attention to the significance of having exchanges with Asia.



Symposium "Asia in Harmony: New Horizons for Cultural Exchange"
Photo: Atsuko Takagi

■ Lahpai Seng Raw's First Visit to Japan

Lahpai Seng Raw is the founder of Myanmar's largest civil society group, the Metta Development Foundation. She visited Japan for the first time at our invitation. In 2013, she won the Ramon Magsaysay Award, considered to be Asia's Nobel Prize. She was recognized for her many years of efforts to have the military government and anti-government forces cooperate and for her work to restore communities ravaged by war and natural disasters.

At a Japan Foundation-organized lecture called "A Persistent Search for Inclusive Peace", Ms. Seng Raw, who belongs to an ethnic minority, talked about her past activities and the hopes and issues of Myanmar's governmental and social changes.

Comments from the audience included, "It was a great opportunity to hear about Myanmar's current condition from someone in an ethnic minority" and "I was impressed by her honest views with no political bias."

Through Japanese newspapers and other media, Ms. Seng Raw addressed the Japanese people and stressed the importance of neutrality and transparency in supporting the education of war-impooverished ethnic minorities and resolving related conflicts. She also tirelessly met and networked with people from government ministries and foundations and deepened mutual understanding.



Lecture "A Persistent Search for Inclusive Peace"

Human Resources Development

We support various exchange programs to foster professionals and youth to lead international dialogue between Japan and other countries as well as regional and youth exchanges.

We also offer fellowships to scholars and journalists in the Middle East and Africa where they have limited connections with Japan. The fellowships enable them to conduct research in Japan.

■ Aidemi: Shanghai & Fukushima High School Student International Exchange Program

The Japan Foundation supported the exchange program by the Bridge for Fukushima which sent 13 high school students from Fukushima Prefecture to Shanghai to meet with Chinese high school students.

It was an invaluable opportunity for the Fukushima high school students to broaden their views by visiting China and meeting local people. One Chinese student who met the Fukushima students commented, "I was surprised to hear that 100,000 people in Fukushima still cannot return to their homes. I feel sorry for them. I'm very interested in recovery efforts for Fukushima. After I graduate from college, I want to do something to help Fukushima."

Students in Fukushima played a major role in planning the project. Completed successfully, it is to be followed by regular exchange activities.



Students participated in Aidemi

Intellectual and Grassroots Exchanges with the United States

Center for Global Partnership Programs

The Center for Global Partnership (CGP) was established in 1991 in Tokyo and New York for Japan and the United States to share ideas and cooperate with the world on important global issues of mutual concern.

CGP has the following two missions:

- To promote collaboration between Japan and the U.S. with the goal of fulfilling shared global responsibilities and contributing to improvements in 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.

Japan and the U.S. both have major roles in international politics and the economy. CGP implements and supports programs that seek cooperation and partnerships for solving global issues. It also supports activities strengthening the foundation of Japan-U.S. relations especially those nurturing the younger generation in various fields and for networking.

■ Inviting Asia Specialists from the United States

After the Japan-U.S. summit meeting in 2010, the Action Plan for Deepening the U.S.-Japan Alliance was announced. One of the plans was the Asia Specialist Invitation Program implemented by CGP from 2011. This program was for researchers specializing in Asia (except Japan) at American universities and think tanks.

The program was held for the third time in fiscal 2013 when six Asia specialists from the U.S. came to Japan. The six received briefings in Tokyo from government agencies and public institutions about the Japanese government's policies for Asia and the Asia situation for Japan. This was followed by a meeting with Japanese journalists to exchange opinions, a talk session with Japanese graduate students specializing in Asia, and a visit to a Japanese NPO assisting refugees. They thereby increased their understanding of Japanese politics, policies, and social conditions.

This program gives Asia specialists from the U.S. a chance to include Japan in their field of interest and examination of the issues. They can also meet and network with Japanese government people and other researchers.

■ Japan Travel Program for U.S. Future Leaders

This program invites to Japan outstanding graduate students majoring in international relations at American universities. Jointly organized by the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA), the

program seeks to nurture Japan specialists important for deepening and developing Japan-U.S. relations in the future. In fiscal 2013, 15 students selected from APSIA member schools in the U.S. came to Japan.

In Tokyo, the students attended lectures by specialists on the history of Japan-U.S. relations, national security, and energy policies. Then they visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U.S. Embassy Tokyo, National Defense Academy of Japan, and Yokosuka Naval Base. They also met and talked with young members and managers of an NPO and local graduate students.

On another day, they broke up into four groups for individual research: International development, Energy and environment, National security, and Political economy. Each group visited specialists in the respective field and did research.

In Tohoku, they saw how Iwanuma, Iwate Prefecture was recovering. They also visited Sendai Airport and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Camp Sendai where they heard a lecture on the Great East Japan Earthquake damage and Operation Tomodachi.

In Hiroshima, the students visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, the Atomic Bomb Dome, and Peace Memorial Park. They also heard stories from an atomic bombing survivor.

On their last day in Japan, they held a wrap-up session. This most meaningful program enabled the students to use their expertise and gain first-hand experience to deepen their understanding of Japan.



Students visiting Miyajima, Hiroshima Prefecture.



Wrap-up session.



Talking with Waseda University graduate students.

Japanese-American Leadership Delegation Program

The Japanese-American Leadership Delegation Program (JALD) was started in 2000 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote mutual understanding and exchange between Japanese Americans and Japan.

Since 2003, CGP, together with the U.S.-Japan Council, has held symposiums in Japan with visiting Japanese Americans serving as panelists.

The public seminar held in fiscal 2013 in Fukuoka had the themes of "Regional economic development" and "Leadership." It was supported by the U.S. Consulate in Fukuoka and the Japan- America Society of Fukuoka.

The panelists were Carrie Okinaga, Senior Vice President, General Counsel at First Hawaiian Bank; Keiko Orrall, State Representative, House of Representatives, State of Massachusetts; and Brad Miyake, Acting City Manager of the City of Bellevue, Washington.

Ms. Okinaga talked about her roots in Fukuoka and Hawaii's economy. Ms. Orrall discussed Japanese Americans in politics, her election activities, and political career. And Mr. Miyake gave examples of how a city can be revitalized and introduced some of Bellevue's attractions.

The seminar concluded with a lively Q&A session with the audience who were from and outside Fukuoka Prefecture.

JOI Program

The Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) Program aims to promote interest in Japan and a better understanding of Japan on a grassroots level in the Southern and Midwestern U.S. where they have relatively little exposure to Japan.

The program started in 2002, co-sponsored by the Laurasian Institution, an NPO in the U.S. For the 12th program cycle in fiscal 2013, five new coordinators were sent and three coordinators on the 11th program cycle are in their second year.

The Japanese coordinators are hosted by universities, Japan-America societies, and other organizations conducting local exchange activities. They visit local schools, libraries, community centers, etc., and introduce Japan's everyday life, traditional arts, language, and culture.

Haruko Yuda, on the 11th program cycle, received the Jane J. Baskerville Community Award, the highest recognition for foreign language education in Chesterfield County, Virginia. They praised her rich knowledge of Japanese culture and her enthusiasm for introducing Japan even to the peripheral areas of her base.

Tenth cycle alumnus Takatoshi Tsuruta applied for JOI after his nearly 40-year career in financial industry. He reached out to about 67,000 people in two years by the Japan festivals of his own planning and the school visits. His contribution would be a model for seniors after retirement.



Calligraphy workshop.



Flower arrangement workshop.

Youth Exchange Programs with the United States

KAKEHASHI Project –The Bridge for Tomorrow–

The KAKEHASHI Project is a youth exchange program promoted by the Japanese government (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). It aims to heighten potential interest in Japan and enhance international understanding of the "Japan brand" that includes Japanese-style values, Japan's strengths and attractiveness known as "Cool Japan." The Japan Foundation organizes the programs commissioned by the Japan-U.S. Educational Commission (Fulbright Japan).

During two years from fiscal 2013, a total of 4,600 young people (junior high school to age 35) will experience short-stay exchanges in each other's country. Some 2,300 of them will be invited to Japan, and 2,300 will be sent to the U.S. It is to deepen mutual understanding between Japan and the U.S., enable networking for future exchanges, and help young people develop wider perspectives to encourage active roles at the global level in the future.

In fiscal 2013, 1,009 young Americans were invited to Japan and 1,023 young Japanese were sent to the U.S.

Junior High School, High School, and University Students Invitation Program

From all over the U.S., 686 junior high and high school students from 30 schools and 225 students from nine universities were invited to a 10-day stay in Japan. Most of them were studying Japanese and they came in groups according to school.

The participants visited facilities and specialists to learn about traditional Japanese culture including Nihon buyo dance, traditional fine arts, "Cool Japan" like anime and fashion, and state-of-the-art science and technologies.

On their visits to the local cities, the students had homestays and met Japanese students in school. They experienced the everyday life of Japanese students in same generation and increased their understanding of the Japanese people and society. The students learned Japan's diverse local cultures and expanded their networking with the local communities in 39 prefectures they visited.

Welcomed wherever they went, the students were impressed by the Japanese-style omotenashi hospitality culture, solidarity in the local communities, efficiency and cleanliness of the towns.

The participants discovered a variety of attractiveness of Japan that can only be understood by coming in person. Their comments included "I want to study Japanese language and culture more", "I want to share my experience with my family and friends." We found their growing interest in Japan and Japanese language. Their experiences would help the two countries in deepening ties.



At an English Rakugo performance in Kansai.

Young Researchers Invitation Program

Ninety eight young researchers from 10 think tanks based in Washington, D.C. were invited to an eight- or ten-day stay in Japan. They strived to better understand the current state of Japan's policies and to network with the intellectual community. They were firstly briefed on security, economy, and social issues of Japan. Then they split up to visit government ministries, think tanks, universities, companies, NPOs, etc., according to their field of interest. They thereby increased their understanding of Japan's policies.

Their comments included, "As someone involved in formulating U.S. policy, I want to apply what I've learned here about Japan's role and importance in international society," "I had limited understanding of Japan before coming here, but after talking with many people, my knowledge about Japan has increased a lot," and "I think many more exchange visits like this are necessary to understand aspects of a country not reported by the media."

Their visit to Japan increased their interest in Japan and we hope it will be useful in their research activities.

Junior High School, High School, and University Students Dispatch Program

Total 627 students from 25 high schools based on the recommendation of the prefectural boards of education, 99 junior high and high school students selected from four organizations, and 236 students from ten universities visited to the U.S. for 10 days. At the same time, the student creators exchange by sending 61 art-major college students from three schools were implemented. The students went in groups according to school.

Before the trip, the students practiced making English presentations about Japanese culture, nature, industries, and other attractiveness of Japan. Besides touring major cities like Washington, D.C., New York, and Los Angeles, they also visited local cities for homestays and/or school exchanges. The students made their presentations about Japan to a wide range of Americans including U.S. Congress members, government officials, students of the same generation, and community members. They introduced the diversity of Japanese culture, everyday life of Japanese students, and modern culture like "Cool Japan".

Students' comments included, "As we talked with each other on a personal level, I felt that we were building kakehashi bridges between our two countries" and "As we Japanese become more active abroad, I realized how important it is to explain the best things about Japan."



Student Creators Exchange at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design.