

Bridging Japan and the World through Culture

Gathering of European scholars in the field of Japanese studies in 1973.



1973

- The Japan Foundation Awards established.
- The Japan Foundation Fellowship Program starts.

Frankfurt Book Fair Year of Japan in 1990.



Southeast Asia Festival in 1992.



1984

- Japanese-Language Proficiency Test starts.

1990

- The Japan Foundation ASEAN Culture Center opens. (Reorganized as the Asia Center in 1995, until 2004.)

1970

1980

1985

1990

1995

2000

2005

2010

2015

1972

The Japan Foundation established.

Sports instruction in Africa around 1980.



1989

- Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa opens.
- Okinawan dance in Southeast Asia in 1986.



1991

- The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership opens.
- Abe Fellowship Program starts.



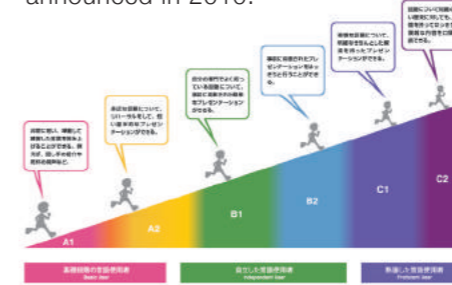
The Great Japan Exhibition: Art of the Edo Period in London in 1981.

2003

The Japan Foundation restarts as an independent administrative institution.



JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education announced in 2010.



2006

- The Japan Foundation China Center opens.



Overcoming disaster in 2012.



1997

- The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai opens.
- Japan Cultural Institute in Paris opens.



2014

- Asia Center opens.



© Kenichi Aikawa

About the Japan Foundation

The Japan Foundation was established in October 1972 as a special legal entity supervised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan with the objective of promoting international cultural exchange through a comprehensive range of programs in all regions of the world. In October 2003, it was reorganized as an independent administrative institution. With a global network consisting of the Tokyo headquarters, the Kyoto Office, two Japanese-language institutes (The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa, and The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai), and 22 overseas offices in 21 countries, the Japan Foundation operates programs in partnership with other organizations in and outside Japan, with a focus on three major fields: arts and cultural exchange, Japanese-language education in overseas, and Japanese studies and intellectual exchange. In 2014, the new Asia Center opened.

Financed largely by a government endowment of 77.8 billion yen, the Japan Foundation also uses the investment revenue from this endowment, government subsidies, and donations from the private sector for operating expenses. As of August 2015, the Japan Foundation has 242 employees including directors.

The Japan Foundation was established in compliance with the following legislation set in 2002. The Independent Administrative Institution Japan Foundation Law, Article 3.

The purposes of the Japan Foundation Independent Administrative Institution are to contribute to the improvement of a good international environment, and to the maintenance and development of the harmonious foreign relationships with Japan, by the efficient and comprehensive implementation of activities for international cultural exchange, which will deepen other nations' understanding of Japan, promote better mutual understanding among nations, and contribute to the culture and other fields in the world.