

# Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange



Asia Leadership Fellow Program (ALFP) participants on a field trip to Nagasaki



The Future Leaders Forum: China-Japan-Korea participants learn about Nishijin fabrics in Kyoto



School visitation by Haruko Yuda on the JOI Program (11th program cycle)



Hiromi Naka on the JOI Program (12th program cycle) conducts an origami workshop

# Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange

The Japan Foundation supports and promotes Japanese studies abroad so people overseas can deepen their understanding about 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 dialogues 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.

>>>P.29



### Promoting Intellectual Exchange

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

>>>P.31



#### Supporting Japanese Studies Institutions

#### Expanding Intellectual Dialogue and International Outreach

#### Supporting Japanese Studies Scholars

#### Human Resources Development

#### Developing Japanese Studies Networks

### 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.

>>>P.32

### Youth Exchange Programs with the United States

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

>>>P.34



# Promoting Japanese Studies Overseas

## 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 in Japanese Studies. The support can come in diverse forms suiting the institution's requests. It can be subsidized for research and international conferences, staff expansion, library materials, training in Japan, and publications. We also send visiting professors. Such comprehensive and continuing support is helping to develop and expand Japanese studies overseas over a long period of time.

### ■ Grants for Intensive Research in Japan (Russia)

Thanks to the donation given by Japan Tobacco Inc., we have initiated a three-year program to financially support the students of Japanese Studies at Saint Petersburg State University and Far Eastern Federal University in Russia. These two universities are Russia's leading educational research institutions for Japanese-language education and Japanese studies.

To deepen understanding of Japan among the younger generation, this intensive support program will enable undergraduate and graduate students to study at a Japanese university for one semester or one year. In fiscal 2014, support was provided to three graduate students from Saint Petersburg State University to study in Japan. From fiscal 2015, the support program will be expanded to enable a total of about 20 students from both universities to study in Japan.



Orientation of Russian graduate students invited to Japan

### ■ Institutional support of the infrastructure for the future (U.S.)

After the severe budget crisis in the state of California and multiple turnover of leading faculty members, the Japan Foundation has been providing the University of California, Los Angeles with financial support for four years since fiscal 2012.

In fiscal 2014, financial assistance was given to hold research conferences with nearby research institutions and to hold public symposiums. *Global Japan Forum: Diasporas That challenge A Uniform National Identity: Japanese in Modern Times* was a meaningful one where scholars presented their latest findings about Japan for the American public.

Through a grant from the Japan Foundation, the university hired Associate Professor Michael Emmerich in fiscal 2013 as a faculty member. He was the key to establishing the *Tadashi Yanai Initiative* to partner UCLA and Waseda University through the private donation of entrepreneur Tadashi Yanai. This initiative aims to train people and promote exchanges in the humanities field in Japan and in the United States. By leading the initiative's steering committee to implement diverse programs, we can expect Professor Emmerich to help expand Japanese studies in Japan and in the United States.

### ■ 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. Seven Japanese scholars were sent to the center for a short term to lecture and give guidance to Japanese studies graduate students at the center. Also, 16 graduate students in the master's degree program were invited to spend about four months in Japan for research. Four Ph.D candidates were also invited to spend one year in Japan. In fiscal 2014, the center produced 37 students graduating with master's degrees and ten doctorates.

The Peking University Research Center for Contemporary Japan is jointly operated by Peking University and the Japan Foundation. It aims to produce Chinese specialists having a good knowledge of modern Japan and specialized knowledge. In fiscal 2014, lectures of Japanese studies were given to 20 Peking University doctoral candidates in the social sciences. Eleven scholars from Japan were sent to the center to lecture for a short term. In June, 20 students from the center were invited to a 15-day study program in Japan.



Reception for master's degree and Ph.D candidates from the Beijing Center for Japanese Studies



Public symposium at UCLA

## 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.

### ■ Back in Japan as Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia

In November 2014, Andrijana Cvetkovik became the Republic of Macedonia Ambassador to Japan. She previously came to Japan in fiscal 2011 on a Japan Foundation Fellowship to study cinematic expression. She remarked, "My experience in Japan as a research fellow had a major influence on my studies and career." We can now expect her to apply her deep insights into Japan to her diplomacy.



Andrijana Cvetkovik, Republic of Macedonia Ambassador to Japan

### ■ Man Booker International Prize Awarded

In May 2015, renown Hungarian author László Krasznahorkai won the Man Booker International Prize, an international literary award in the United Kingdom. He had previously come to Japan twice under the Japan Foundation Fellowship Program. His studies in Japan culminated in the 2006 publication of a book about Japanese temples and gardens titled, *Északról hegy, Délről tó, Nyugatról utak, Keletről folyó* (translated into a Japanese book titled, *Kita wa Yama, Minami wa Mizuumi, Nishi wa Michi, Higashi wa Kawa*). By winning this prize, his works have received renewed international interest. In turn, it may help people around the world understand Japanese culture.

### ■ Lessons learned from natural disasters in Japan and Indonesia

At the International Conference on *the Text of Natural Disaster: Cultural Perspective* in Jakarta in 2014, disaster journalist Ahmad Arif offered advice to the symposium

organizer using Japan as an example. The symposium discussed the cultural and religious factors at play in times of natural disasters. Attended by 400 people, the symposium was co-organized by The Japan Foundation, Jakarta, and Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta. Arif put his experience in Japan as a fiscal 2013 Japan Foundation research fellow to very good use, especially his knowledge of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

### ■ Former fellows appointed as university heads

Dr. Jasur Salikhov, former Japan Foundation research fellow in 2011 from Uzbekistan, has been appointed as Rector of the Management Development Institute of Singapore in Tashkent. Also, Jae-ho Yeom, former 1986 Japan Foundation research fellow, was appointed as President of Korea University in March 2015.

We can hope that these former research fellows in such important university positions will further deepen mutual understanding between their native countries and Japan.

## Facilitating Japanese Studies Networking

We support international networking among Japanese studies scholars across institutional and cultural boundaries. We also support domestic and regional associations and meetings around the world. By strengthening networks among Japanese studies scholars, we aim to advance scholarship of Japanese studies abroad.

### ■ Japanese Studies Seminar in West Africa

In March 2015, ten government ministers and researchers from seven West African countries gathered in Côte d'Ivoire for the Japan Seminar in West Africa. Attending from Japan were Hosei University Professor Shin Abiko and Meijo University Associate Professor Shozo Kamo. Other attendees came from Burkina Faso, Benin, Niger, Togo, Senegal, and Mauritania.

With Japanese studies taking root in African countries, the theme of *Emergence* attracted the most interest in the seminar along with how it related to Japan's modernization. A network of major universities pursuing Japanese studies was established in French-speaking West African countries.



Japanese studies seminar in West Africa

# Promoting Intellectual Exchange

## 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.

### ■ Intellectuals invited to Japan

To deepen understanding of Japan among public intellectuals and leaders active in various countries, groups of public intellectuals and cultural figures are invited to Japan to hold exchanges with talented Japanese people. The invited individuals and groups get to observe and experience Japanese culture and society and meet and exchange opinions with people from various fields.

For about ten years, we have been inviting young leaders such as NGOs and journalists from the Middle East and North Africa. In June 2014, four people from the United Arab Emirates and four from Qatar were invited to Japan for nine days. Together with four young Japanese entrepreneurs, they visited companies, universities, and areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. They discussed the importance of creating a locus whereby individuals could articulate a sense of belonging.

From China, influential individuals and groups of young and mid-career researchers and intellectuals from various fields such as education, law, criticism, and psychology have been invited to Japan. Social media has been growing in China and many of those invitees wrote about their observations in Japan on micro-blogs, etc. One person even attracted a million views.

### ■ Historian invited from India

Together with The International House of Japan, we invited the prominent historian Ramachandra Guha from India for a lecture meeting in Japan. He talked about the political philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore, the first Asian to win a Nobel Prize. His extensive knowledge of the subject and broadminded speaking style enamored the audience. He later went to receive the Fukuoka Prize (fiscal 2015) which is awarded to individuals and organizations that contribute to the preservation and creation of Asian culture.



Invited groups from the Middle East and North Africa have in-depth discussions

## Human Resources Development

We support various exchange programs to foster professionals and youths 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 researches in Japan.

### ■ KIZUNA Project

For three years from 2012 to 2014, the Japan Foundation gave financial assistance to the KIZUNA Project run by the NPO Peace Field Japan since 2004. The NPO provides opportunities for dialogue and interaction among youths in war-torn areas of Israel and Palestine.

The KIZUNA Project brings Israeli, Palestinian, and Japanese youths together to live in Japan's satoyama (rural woodlands near a populated area). The project aims to foster bonding between the youths from war-torn areas and for them befriend Japanese youths of the same age.

During the three years when the Japan Foundation gave financial assistance to the project, a total of 36 youths participated. In 2014, despite the fierce fighting on the Gaza Strip, the Israeli and Palestinian participants in Japan were reported to have maintained a relationship of mutual respect. The KIZUNA Project is a good example of how fruitful an ongoing project can be.



Photo: Peace Field Japan

KIZUNA Project participants happy to see the buckwheat seeds they sowed sprouting



Ramachandra Guha speaking at The International House of Japan

# Intellectual and Grassroots Exchanges with the United States

## Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange

### 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 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.

### ■ Abe Fellowship Program

The Abe Fellowship Program was founded by the Japan Foundation and Social Science Research Council (SSRC) in 1991 to encourage international multidisciplinary research on topics of pressing global concern. The program fosters the development of a new generation of researchers who are interested in policy-relevant topics of long-range importance and willing to become key members of a bilateral and global research network built around such topics. In 2008, the Abe Fellowship for Journalists was established to encourage in-depth coverage on topics of pressing concern to the United States and Japan through individual short-term policy-related projects.

The Abe Fellowship also encourages fellows to participate in the program's community activities to help maintain interdisciplinary networking not just during their fellowship, but also over the course of their careers. The program's staff organizes colloquiums and other events to enable former fellows to network.

In July 2014, a Brown Bag Lunch seminar was held with 2012 Abe Fellow Allison Alexy, Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia. She talked about contested family norms in Japan's divorce court system and the problems facing today's families in Japan.

In March 2015, an Abe Fellowship Colloquium was held for Yokohama National University Professor Craig Parsons, also

a 2012 fellow, who gave a talk titled, *The Impact of Disasters on Trade: A Detailed Look at Katrina (US) and 3-11 (Japan)*. Through these seminars and colloquiums, Abe Fellows are able to network and present their research findings to promote better understanding of Japan.

In fiscal 2014, 12 applicants for the Abe Fellowship Program and four for the Abe Fellowship for Journalists Program were accepted as fellowships starting in fiscal 2015.

### ■ U.S.-Japan Partnership Program

The U.S.-Japan Partnership Program is implemented by the Research Institute for Peace and Security (RIPS), and supported by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership.

The program selects promising young researchers from universities and research institutions all over Japan for two-year scholarships with the goal of encouraging research in policy-relevant topics that center on U.S.-Japan relations. The scholarship recipients also participate in public events. Through these efforts, the program aims to: support future leaders in academia and policy, spark interest in and shed light on U.S.-Japan relations, and promote intellectual exchange between the U.S. and Japan in diverse fields such as national security, diplomacy, and economics.

In December 2014, the Kansai Security Seminar was held on Japan-Korea relations. Participants discussed President Geun-hye Park's foreign policy and Japan-Korea relations in the context of the 50th anniversary of normalized Japan-Korea relations and the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. At the Okinawa Security Seminar in March 2015, there was a keynote talk and panel presentations around the theme of "Peace in East Asia and Okinawa's Role". Topics discussed included the current security situation in East Asia, as well as the political and diplomatic issues in Okinawa related to that. There was also an opportunity for participants to exchange opinions with Okinawan residents about the future of Okinawa.



Abe Fellowship Colloquium with Professor Craig Parsons



RIPS (Okinawa Seminar) © Research Institute for Peace and Security

## ■ Japan Travel Program for U.S. Future Leaders

This program is jointly organized by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA). It brings promising graduate students in American universities to Japan for a ten-day study tour to deepen their understanding of Japan. In the program's sixth year (fiscal year 2014), 15 graduate students came to Japan.

In Tokyo the students attended lectures by specialists on U.S.-Japan security issues, international relations in East Asia, and energy policy. They also visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U.S. Embassy in Japan, and Yokosuka Naval Base. In addition, the group met and talked with fellows of the Research Institute for Peace and Security (RIPS), as well as instructors and students from the National Defense Academy of Japan.

During this trip, program participants visited Onagawa for the first time, a city in Miyagi Prefecture that was devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake. After hearing a talk by Yosuke Komatsu, the head of Asuenokibou (an NPO that supports disaster reconstruction projects), the students visited some of the affected areas, including a makeshift shopping center. The strong will to rebuild local industries and businesses could be felt by all the participants.

In Hiroshima, the students listened to stories from a Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor), and both the students and speaker seemed to agree that the U.S. and Japan should move past their different stances on the atomic bomb toward dialogue for building peace.

Student remarks on their program experience included: "This program was a phenomenal way to get a look into the multi-faceted U.S.-Japan relationship and the importance of being an active partner with Japan" and "I feel that the program condenses almost a semester of graduate level coursework in 10 action-packed days."



Welcome reception for APSIA participants visiting Japan



Visiting Onagawa that was heavily damaged by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami

## ■ JOI Program

The Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) Program dispatches Japanese coordinators on two-year assignments to communities within the Midwest and South in the U.S. The coordinators aim to promote interest and an understanding about contemporary and traditional Japan on a grassroots level to areas where there is relatively little exposure to Japan.

The program, which began in 2002, was organized by the Laurasian Institution, a non-profit organization in the U.S. For the 13th program cycle in fiscal 2014, five new coordinators were sent to the U.S., while three coordinators on the 11th program cycle have completed their term and have returned to Japan. Currently, five coordinators on the 12th program are in their second year of the program.

The JOI coordinators are hosted by universities, Japan-America Societies, and other organizations that conduct local exchange activities. They conduct outreach activities within their local communities such as visiting local schools (elementary to college level), libraries, community centers, and introduce everyday life of Japan as well as traditional arts, language, and culture.

One example of the JOI program is Erika Norikami, who was a coordinator on the 11th program cycle. For a Boy Scouts event, she prepared an information booth about Japan where over 1,000 children stopped by and experienced Japanese culture such as shodo calligraphy and practiced how to use chopsticks. During her two-year stint, she held many diverse activities that included school visitations and hosting Japan-related workshops for educators. She thereby was able to sow the seeds of Japanese culture in about 17,000 people. Her efforts exemplify the work the JOI coordinators are undertaking every day in their local communities in order to promote and enhance a greater level of understanding of Japan.



Sorani-bushi dancers at the Asian Festival with Yuki Shozaki (12th JOI program cycle)



Trying calligraphy at the International Festival with Yoriko Hasui (11th JOI program cycle)

# 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 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs). It aims to heighten the potential interest in Japan and increase 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) which are aimed at the U.S. During the two years from fiscal 2013, a total of 4,574 (2,251 invited to Japan, 2,323 sent to U.S.) Japanese and American youths (middle school to age 35) experienced short-stay exchanges in each other's country. It was to deepen the 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 the program's planning and implementation, emphasis was placed on spotlighting Japan's provincial areas. The program was designed to spread the American invitees to as many provincial areas as possible. Also, many of the young Japanese adults sent to the U.S. were recruited from Japan's provincial areas so that they could promote their lesser-known areas.

In fiscal 2014, 1,242 young Americans were invited to Japan and 1,300 young Japanese were sent to the U.S.

### ■ Japan Invitation Program

The basic program invited students across the U.S. studying the Japanese-language for a ten-day visit to Japan. The 220 middle and high school students and 275 college students arrived in groups according to each school.

During their stay, they visited institutions and specialists to increase their understanding of traditional culture such as Japanese buyo dances and traditional fine arts, *Cool Japan* pop culture like anime and fashion, and science and technology. Also, during their stay in a provincial area (five days and four nights), they had homestays and visited local schools and experienced the daily life of Japanese students their age. Their understanding of Japanese people and society thereby deepened. The students had comments like, "I now want to further study the Japanese-language and the Japanese culture" and "I want to recommend visiting Japan to my family and friends."

For thematic invitation programs, 153 young researchers from 16 think tanks based in Washington, D.C. were invited to Japan. Their main objectives were to increase their understanding of Japan's current policies and to establish a network with the intellectual community. Also, 19 young American creators

working in the fields of design, fashion, art, and anime were invited to Japan to increase their understanding of Cool Japan and to promote it. In addition, 93 Japanese-American college students were invited to foster next-generation networking in Japan. One young working adult commented, "I was really impressed by how close Japan and the U.S. are." In these ways, next-generation networking advanced in diverse fields in Japan.

### ■ U.S. Visitation Program

The basic program sent a total of 547 junior high and high school students selected by prefectural boards of education and from the general public. Also, 275 university students were selected from the general public. The students visited the U.S. for 10 days and went in groups according to their school or organization. In addition, the Student Creators Exchange Program sent 50 art-major college students in two groups.

Before the trip, under the guidance of their teachers, the students practiced making English presentations on Japanese culture, nature, industries, and other good things about Japan.

Besides touring major cities like Washington, D.C., New York, and Los Angeles, they also visited smaller cities all over the U.S. 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 age, church congregations, and other local people. By introducing the diversity of Japanese culture, everyday life of Japanese students, and modern culture like *Cool Japan*, they deepened people's understanding of Japan.

Students' comments included, "It would make me happy to serve as a bridge between Japan and America even in a small way through this program" and "It was a very valuable experience to visit all those universities and talk about Japanese culture."

Thematic visitation programs were also held. Fifteen young Japanese leaders doing unique projects to revitalize their provincial areas visited the U.S. to promote their areas. They helped people in the U.S. better understand the culture, attractions, and revitalization efforts of Japan's provincial areas.

Also, 31 young researchers in five groups from major think tanks in Japan and 20 young professional creators visited the U.S. To increase the understanding of Okinawa in America, 250 high school students from Okinawa were sent to the U.S. Many of the participants remarked that the visits spawned long-term connections. The visitation program promoted the good things about Japan and further expanded next-generation networking in diverse fields.



A high school group giving a presentation in the U.S.



Invited Japanese-American youth group try taiko drumming at Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai