

CIVILNET

Developing Civil Society in Japan and Asia Pacific



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Through its CivilNet Programs, JCIE continues its long tradition of leadership in promoting the development of a vibrant civil society in Japan, Asia Pacific, and around the world. With more than three decades of experience in the field, JCIE finds itself in a unique position to create collaborative networks of civil society organizations worldwide and enhance cooperation among them in addressing common challenges.

One top priority of the CivilNet Program is the promotion of a broader and deeper understanding of civil society in Japan and around the world, particularly through research and dialogue projects designed to contribute to an enhanced role for civil society organizations in the governance of society. For example, JCIE recently launched a groundbreaking study of the role of philanthropy in strengthening postwar U.S.-Japan relations. Other projects during FY2001 and FY2002 included seminars with civil society leaders, the translation of an educational video series on grantmaking, and JCIE's involvement in a study mission to the United States for grantmakers. In addition to these efforts, JCIE provides information on recent developments in Japanese civil society through its publications program, most notably through its *Civil Society Monitor* newsletter.

Another important thrust of CivilNet initiatives involves the active facilitation of philanthropic programs in Japan and Asia Pacific on behalf of domestic and overseas foundations and corporations. JCIE has been on the cutting edge of activities in this area since the 1970s, for example, helping establish Japan's first charitable trust based on general fundraising, the Asian Community Trust (ACT). Two decades later, in 1997, JCIE created one of the country's first donor advised funds in cooperation with Levi Strauss & Co., in order to distribute small-scale grants in a flexible manner to Japanese NGOs in a variety of priority areas.

In recognition of the increasingly active role of local communities and citizen's organizations in international networks, a third category of CivilNet activities involves the promotion of grassroots exchanges and projects that examine internationalization at the local level, particularly the role of community-based initiatives and organizations. Through its cooperation with local governments, its Grassroots Network, and other similar activities, JCIE strives to foster cooperation between civil society leaders and local governments and to provide local civil society leaders in Japan with opportunities to engage in dialogues with their counterparts in other countries.

Promoting Civil Society and Philanthropy

The Role of Philanthropy in Postwar U.S.-Japan Relations

After World War II, philanthropy played a critical, but often overlooked, role in driving the dramatic change in perceptions and values that enabled two bitter foes, Japan and the United States, to become the closest of allies. JCIE is conducting a major study that examines the long-term impact of foundations and individual philanthropists, mainly in the United States but also including some in Japan, on the bilateral relationship. This project is designed to fill gaps in the knowledge of U.S.-Japan relations and shed light on the historic role of philanthropy and civil society in international relations.

Building on extensive archival research and interviews, the JCIE research team is examining the motivations of foundation personnel, the relationship between philanthropic activity and government policy, and the impact of philanthropic support in areas such as U.S.-Japan intellectual exchange projects, institution-building in Japan, Japanese studies in the United States, and American studies in Japan. This study group includes a team of in-house researchers and outside experts such as Akira Iriye (professor, Harvard University), Makoto Iokibe (professor, Kobe University), and Masato Kimura (director of studies, Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation).

The project has included a series of workshops in the United States and Japan that explore various facets of philanthropic involvement in the bilateral relationship during the critical period of 1945–75. On the weekend of October 12–13, 2002, JCIE held a workshop outside New York City at the Pocantico

Conference Center of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. The 23 participants, a number of whom were active in U.S.-Japan philanthropy during the period of the study, shared their views regarding the motivations of grantmakers, the influence of the cold war and anticommunist sentiment on Japan-related grantmaking, the relationship between the government and foundations, and the impact of American philanthropy on Japan's intellectual community and the U.S.-Japan relationship.

A second workshop was held on November 19, 2002, at the International House in Tokyo, Japan. Forty participants gathered at the day-long meeting to discuss the experiences of Japanese grantees in their dealings with American foundations as well as the role of U.S. philanthropy in helping rebuild intellectual ties between Japan and the United States. Then, on March 8–9, 2003, a small group of experts gathered for a third workshop in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to focus on the role of U.S. philanthropy in promoting Japanese studies in the United States and American studies in Japan. Project research is scheduled to continue throughout 2003, and a final report is slated for publication in 2004.

GrantCraft—Japanese Video Project

In 2001, the Ford Foundation initiated a project entitled GrantCraft that collected the experiences of foundation program officers and other experts in a series of brief guides and videos. Recognizing the value of these materials as an educational resource for foundation program officers as well as for general audiences interested in civil society, JCIE

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cooperated with the Ford Foundation to create a Japanese-language version of the GrantCraft video series, selecting three episodes from the series that would be of particular value for Japanese audiences and using them to create an hour-long Japanese-language videotape. At present, there is much discussion in Japan on fundraising and ways to increase financial support to NPOs, but little yet on the qualitative aspects of funding. The introduction of the GrantCraft series in Japan is seen as one way to help trigger debate on a series of issues related to effective grantmaking.

As an initial step in the dissemination of the GrantCraft video, it was presented at the 2003 annual meeting of the Japan NPO Research Association (JANPORA) in Nara on March 14–16. Following this launch, the video is being showcased in other professional seminars and workshops around Japan.

International Survey Project— The Civil Society Sector and NGO Activities in Asia and Europe

There is a growing awareness worldwide that NGOs are becoming indispensable actors in the governance of societies around the world, and that they play a vital role both at the domestic and international level. The Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs (Keizai Koho Center) and JCIE, recognizing the need for healthy partnerships between the business and civil society sectors, especially in countries where Japanese corporations operate, launched a survey of NGOs designed to contribute to the building of sound cross-sectoral partnerships. Five member countries

of ASEAN—Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand—and two European countries—the United Kingdom and Germany—were selected as target countries because they play host to extensive networks of Japanese business operations. Research in Asia is focusing on NGOs in the fields of the environment and education, and in Europe on NGOs in the fields of the environment and corporate social responsibility.

Survey on the Status of Exchange Programs between the U.S. and Japan

JCIE was commissioned in 2002 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to conduct a survey on various exchange programs between the United States and Japan as part of the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Commodore Matthew C. Perry's arrival in Japan. Areas covered by this survey included sister-city relations, grassroots exchange, student and youth exchange, exchange between universities and graduate schools, intellectual exchange, and parliamentary exchange. A survey report was compiled in Japanese and submitted to the Foreign Ministry.

Seminar Series with Civil Society Leaders

JCIE periodically holds seminars and meetings with civil society leaders from around the world in order to improve mutual understanding of developments in civil society in Japan and abroad and to promote the exchange of views on best practices. On July 2–4, 2002, Buzz Schmidt, chairman and CEO of GuideStar, visited JCIE to conduct a series of

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seminars on issues of disclosure and transparency in the nonprofit sector. GuideStar generates a free national online database of over 850,000 U.S. nonprofit organizations, listing detailed information on each organization as well as providing access to their Form 990 financial reports. A number of discussions were held with leading figures of Japanese foundations and nonprofit organizations, as well as businessmen involved in corporate philanthropy, and Diet members and others engaged in national-level administrative reform efforts. The seminar series provided an opportunity for debate on the establishment of a system of disclosure for Japanese civil society organizations, which is critically needed to enhance their transparency and governance. Other examples of seminars include a series of meetings and seminars on November 25–26, 2002, which involved Rob Buchanan, director of international programs for the U.S.-based Council on Foundations.

Study Mission on American Philanthropy

On April 6–14, 2002, JCIE helped organize a study mission to the United States that was sponsored by the Japan Association of Charitable Organizations (JACO), an organization established in 1972 to promote philanthropic activities in Japan. The delegation, comprised of 16 executives from various Japanese grantmaking organizations, was formed to study effective means of promoting internal governance, accountability, and transparency in Japanese foundations, particularly those classified as “public interest corporations.”

The participants visited ten organizations in Washington, D.C.; Williamsburg, Virginia; and New York City to learn about their operations, recent developments in the U.S. nonprofit sector concerning governance issues, internal governance, and organizational effectiveness, and the social and legal frameworks affecting the governance of private philanthropy in the United States. These organizations included foundations such as the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the New York Community Trust; watchdog and evaluation institutions such as the BBB Wise Giving Alliance and OMB Watch; research centers and organizations disseminating information on the nonprofit sector such as GuideStar and the National Center for Charitable Statistics; and organizations engaged in consulting or advocacy in regard to nonprofit governance issues such as BoardSource, the Council on Foundations, and the Peter F. Drucker Foundation.

Cooperation with the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium (APPC)

The Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium, an informal association of like-minded institutions, was created in 1994 with the primary objective of increasing the flow and effectiveness of philanthropic giving within and to the region. JCIE serves as the focal point in Japan for coordinating APPC activities in Japan. The primary APPC activities in which JCIE was involved in FY2001 and 2002 included the following:

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Strengthening Philanthropy in the Asia Pacific: An Agenda for Action

On July 16–17, 2001, the APPC convened an international conference on “Strengthening Philanthropy in the Asia Pacific: An Agenda for Action” in Bali, Indonesia. JCIE served as the logistical coordinator for the conference, which was attended by approximately 100 leaders from the Asia Pacific region representing the philanthropic, nonprofit, academic, and corporate sectors. Participants gathered to discuss issues such as the assessment of civil society development in the region, innovations in regional philanthropy, and the development of corporate-philanthropy partnerships. The conference determined priorities for the continued activities of APPC and outlined the necessary steps to be taken on both the national and regional levels.

Governance, Organizational Effectiveness, and the Nonprofit Sector

The APPC is undertaking a study on “Governance, Organizational Effectiveness, and the Nonprofit Sector” in response to recent questions regarding the legitimacy of civil society organizations and the widely perceived need to develop mechanisms to improve their internal governance, transparency, and accountability. Twelve background papers from Australia, Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Thailand are being developed. Tadashi Yamamoto, chair of this study project, will contribute an overview paper, and JCIE staff are writing the paper for Japan that assesses the current state of internal governance of nonprofit organizations and the

changing regulatory framework under current legal and administrative reforms. Preliminary drafts were submitted at a writers’ workshop in Manila on January 9–10, 2003, and will be finalized for publication in time for a September 2003 conference, to be held again in Manila.

Bangladesh Freedom Foundation Board of Trustees Tokyo Observation Visit

The Bangladesh Freedom Foundation (BFF) engages in various initiatives that help create an environment conducive to reviving and strengthening philanthropy in Bangladesh, with specific emphasis on creating a supportive institutional and policy environment. Through its association with the APPC, observation visits were organized for a BFF delegation to three cities in Asia—Manila, Tokyo, and Bangkok—from May 6 to 16, 2001, to compare similar organizations in these countries, particularly in regard to the strategic planning of foundations and foundation-like organizations. The Tokyo program included a seminar at JCIE on the emergence of civil society and future challenges facing the sector, as well as visits to the Japan NPO Center, Palette Volunteer Support Group, Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organizations), and the Japanese NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC). In addition, a roundtable seminar was organized for the participants by JCIE with Japanese foundations and NGO representatives.

Facilitating Philanthropic Programs of Overseas Foundations and Corporations

Levi Strauss Foundation Advised Fund of JCIE

Levi Strauss & Co. has long been recognized for its extremely active corporate philanthropy program, which provides support for various causes not only in the United States but also in countries worldwide where it has offices and factories. In 1997, Levi Strauss & Co. joined forces with JCIE to create one of the first donor advised funds in Japan. Under this arrangement, Levi Strauss Foundation provides a grant to JCIE, which in turn redistributes the funds to NGOs in Japan according to guidelines set by the Levi Strauss Foundation. The fund is unique in the Japanese context because it provides institution-building support for new organizations in their initial stages, allows more flexibility than usual by providing the funds at the start of the project, and enables these groups to respond to emerging issues not yet well recognized in the community.

In keeping with the donor's priorities, grants in FY2001 were offered in three areas: HIV/AIDS prevention, social justice, and youth empowerment. In FY2001, 129 applications were received and 21 organizations divided the \$169,400 fund as described below. In FY2002, the 50th anniversary of the Levi Strauss Foundation, new grant guidelines were set forth, with grants to be offered in three categories: preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, increasing economic development opportunities, and ensuring access to education. Grants made in FY2001 are listed below. (A change in the annual schedule in FY2002 shifted the call for applications to October 2002, with the selection process scheduled to take place in July 2003.)

FY 2001 Grants

HIV/AIDS Prevention

Prevention programs for youth

K Lounge (Tokyo)

¥1,000,000

To support a K Lounge outreach project enabling a peer group of people with HIV/AIDS to speak to school nurses, doctors, students, and others about their experiences.

Kawaguchi Children's Network (Saitama)

¥370,000

To organize an "AIDS Child Summit" for young people involved in AIDS awareness and prevention programs.

SHARE (Services for the Health in Asian & African Regions, Tokyo)

¥1,000,000

To develop an effective AIDS prevention program targeted at Japanese junior and senior high school students.

Urban Health Projects (Osaka)

¥700,000

To develop an effective HIV/AIDS prevention/awareness program targeted at Osaka teenagers.

Others

CHARM (Center for Health and Rights of Migrants, Osaka)

¥1,800,000

To operate a center offering information and counseling on HIV/AIDS and on health care for migrants and foreign residents.

JANAC (Japan Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, Kanagawa)

¥500,000

To create a handbook for nurses to enable them to provide appropriate advice and information to people with HIV/AIDS.

MASH Tokyo (Men and Sexual Health, Tokyo)

¥930,000

To implement an HIV/STD prevention and awareness program for young men in Tokyo.

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Social Justice

APARI (Asia-Pacific Addiction Research Institute, Tokyo)

¥1,000,000

To implement a drug-free training program for criminal defendants on bail to support their recovery and re-acceptance into society.

Center for Education and Support for Women, Japan (Tokyo)

¥1,000,000

To provide training for nurses coming in contact with sexual assault victims in order to promote more appropriate treatment of the cases.

Center for Prisoners' Rights Japan (Kanagawa)

¥550,000

To prevent the violation of prisoners' human rights by providing legal counseling through correspondence.

Child Assault Prevention Center Japan (Hyogo)

¥1,000,000

To hold workshops and form guidelines on the prevention of violence and protection of children's rights at institutions housing abused children.

Clothesline Project Japan (Saitama)

¥1,000,000

To hold workshops on domestic violence for the general public, train volunteers, and exhibit T-shirts with messages drawn by female victims of domestic violence.

Filipino Migrants' Center (Aichi)

¥1,000,000

To train individuals involved in community improvement, operate an income-generating internet cafe, and offer vocational training for the Filipino community in Nagoya.

Food Bank Japan (Tokyo)

¥1,000,000

To provide agricultural training for the homeless in an effort to provide them with economic and social independence.

Japan Association for Refugees (Tokyo)

¥2,000,000

To offer legal and social assistance to refugees facing emergencies in Japan.

National Network in Solidarity with Migrant Workers (Tokyo)

¥600,000

To strengthen the editorial organization and enrich the content of the monthly English newsletter, "Migrant Network News."

Youth Empowerment

Africa Global Link Project (Kanagawa)

¥1,000,000

To hold an educational session in Japan between Japanese and African senior high school students specializing in commerce, agriculture, and engineering.

Fukuoka Toubu Kodomo Gekijo (East Fukuoka Children's Theater Center, Fukuoka)

¥650,000

To operate a private classroom as a place for learning and play for primary and secondary school age children who refuse to attend school.

Kyoto Volunteer Center for Students (Kyoto)

¥650,000

To develop a model training program led by university students who will promote volunteer activities among their peers.

Mutual Aid "Ren" for Mental and Physical Development of Children (Tokyo)

¥1,400,000

To provide professional training of "developmental support staff" to assist in the education and socialization of the learning disabled, autistic children, and those who refuse to go to school.

Volunavi Club (Hokkaido)

¥850,000

To coordinate the needs of senior high school students wishing to do volunteer work and NPOs caring for the aged and the disabled that utilize volunteers.

Facilitating Philanthropic Programs of Overseas Foundations and Corporations

“Positive Lives Asia” Photo Exhibition Tour

As one of its community projects to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and education, the Levi Strauss Foundation has been supporting the production of “Positive Lives Asia,” a series of photo-documentary essays featuring the stories of people affected by HIV and AIDS and positive responses to the epidemic. Positive Lives was started by and continues to be managed by the major British HIV charity, the Terrence Higgins Trust, and the international photo documentary agency, Network Photographers. JCIE served as the intermediary between the Levi Strauss Foundation and the Positive Lives Committee, and the Japanese coordinator of the exhibitions, the Japan AIDS & Society Association (JASA). JASA is an umbrella organization established in 1990 to address AIDS issues through joint efforts by researchers, doctors, NGOs, journalists, and individuals affected by HIV.

The exhibition was displayed at a total of 66 locations throughout Japan from February to December 2002, and it was viewed by an estimated 30,000 people. Various local organizations, including NGOs, local government agencies, and schools, volunteered to sponsor the exhibitions, which were held in a diverse set of venues, including community centers, schools, hospitals, and shopping centers.

Goldman Sachs Global Leaders Program

The Goldman Sachs Global Leaders Program, an annual international competition, was launched in 2001 by the Goldman Sachs Foundation to identify and reward the academic achievement and leadership potential of 100 of the most accomplished students at 54 designated top-ranked universities in 16 countries and regions. The Institute of International Education (IIE) administers the program in partnership with the Foundation, and JCIE managed the competition in Japan in FY2001 and FY2002.

In 2001, the program’s initial year, eight Japanese students were selected from four designated universities and each student received a monetary award in recognition of their outstanding achievements. Four out of the eight were also invited to attend the Global Leaders Institute held in New York on July 19–28, 2001. The 2001 Global Leaders Institute gathered 50 students from around the world for seminars on issues such as aspects of global leadership, e-commerce, and international development. In 2002, eight students from Japan were selected to receive the award, four of whom were invited to attend the Global Leadership Institute in New York on July 13–19, 2002.

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Lucent Global Science Scholars Program

The Lucent Global Science Scholars Program was established by the Lucent Technologies Foundation in 1998 to encourage the world's youth to pursue careers in information and communications technology. This annual competition rewards successful students with a one-time award of \$5,000 and an invitation to the Global Summit, a week-long visit to Lucent Technologies' world headquarters and Bell Labs in Murray Hill, New Jersey.

The program was administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE), with JCIE serving as the competition manager for Japan in 2001 and 2002. In 2001, three university sophomores were selected from Japan to join approximately 100 Global Science Scholars from 22 countries at the Global Summit held on July 19-27. In 2002, two university sophomores were selected from Japan to join a group of 30 Global Science Scholars from 18 countries and regions around the world at the Global Summit held on July 19-25.

Civil Society and Grassroots-Level Exchanges

A50 Caravan

The year 2001 marked the 50th anniversary of Japan's formal readmission to international society with the signing of the San Francisco Peace Treaty on September 8, 1951. In order to reinforce the mutual trust between the United States and Japan and to express Japan's appreciation to the United States for its support during the postwar period, a group of private Japanese citizens initiated a project known as "A50." The "A" stands for Appreciation and America, while "50" stands for the 50th anniversary of the Peace Treaty, the 50 American states, and the hopes for the next 50 years. This initiative involved four major program activities: commemorative ceremonies, a scholarship program, publications on the history of postwar relations, and the A50 Caravan.

JCIE's offices in Tokyo and New York, along with the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS) in Washington, D.C., served as the secretariat for the A50 Caravan. Fifteen teams were selected, each consisting of three members who represented different generations and a broad spectrum of professions and backgrounds, and each team was assigned a different route that would take it across the United States, from San Francisco, through at least two additional cities, and onwards to Washington, D.C. The Caravan began on September 8, 2001, with a commemorative ceremony in Japan. The participants then boarded a plane for San Francisco, where they attended a major conference organized by the Japan Society of Northern California. The following day, the 15 teams dispersed throughout the United States to visit 36 cities, where local host organizations had

planned an array of public lectures and dialogue sessions at Japan-America Societies, World Affairs Councils, universities, and other organizations. The Caravan was cut short by the tragic events of September 11, although a handful of teams completed much of their original itinerary. *A50 Initiative: An Old Friendship for a New Century*, a report on the results of the caravan that includes reflections from the participants on their interaction with Americans both prior to and after September 11, was published in 2002.

Asia Pacific Leadership Program in Tokyo

With JCIE as the local organizer, 24 participants in the Asia Pacific Leadership Program (APLP) visited Tokyo on May 25–June 1, 2002, for a program of dialogues with Japan's emerging political, business, and NGO leaders. This program, a certificate program of the East-West Center in Hawaii that is carried out in cooperation with the University of Hawaii, is designed to create a network of leaders from the United States, Asia, and the Pacific who are familiar with the issues and cultures of the region. While in Japan, the participants met with a wide range of leaders, including Diet members Keizo Takemi and Yoshimasa Hayashi, Yuichi Oba (assistant director, Aid Policy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Kazuyuki Kinbara (deputy director, Keidanren), and Kensuke Onishi (chief executive officer, Peace Winds Japan). Discussions were held on such issues as Japan's changing policy agenda, new actors in Japan's domestic governance, the graying of society and changing welfare policies, and the role of media.

Civil Society and Grassroots-Level Exchanges

Grassroots Network

In an effort to keep pace with the proliferation of local-level international activities in Japan, JCIE launched the Grassroots Network section of its Japanese website. Major grassroots organizations that are involved in international activities are listed in the Grassroots Network database on a prefectural basis, and information on them can be searched by name, area, or type of activities. The database is linked to individual websites of the organizations, and a list of organizational websites in 15 foreign languages is also available. As part of its efforts to build networks among these organizations, JCIE has also begun to publish an electronic monthly magazine, *GrassNet*, that reaches more than 1,300 subscribers.

Miyazaki Prefecture Commemorative Symposiums on Internationalization

Miyazaki Prefecture hosted the Foreign Ministers Meeting for the Kyushu-Okinawa Talks of the 2000 G-8 Summit. To follow up on this, with the cooperation of JCIE, Miyazaki Prefecture issued a three-year plan in 2001 for a series of symposiums that will commemorate the summit and take up the issue of internationalization. JCIE was commissioned to organize the first of these symposiums on July 12, 2001, on the theme of “Building Bridges to the World—Local Cultural and Arts Activities” at the Seagaia World Convention Center. The gathering featured a keynote lecture by Hayao Kawai (executive academic advisor, Kyoto Bunkyo University) as well as a panel discussion with Kenji Aoki (president, Miyazaki Prefectural Art Center), Soichiro Hasegawa (professor, Toyama

University), Tetsuji Yasukawa (senior executive director, The Asian-Pacific Children’s Convention in Fukuoka), and Yu Hwajoon (director, Genkaijin Club). On July 16, 2002, JCIE organized a second symposium on “International NGO Networks and Local Level Internationalization” with Shigeru Suganami (president, Association of Medical Doctors of Asia International) as the keynote speaker, and a panel discussion with Kensuke Ohnishi (chief executive officer, Peace Winds Japan), Michiya Kumaoka (director, Japan International Volunteer Center), Kaori Niizuma (chairperson, Futaro-no-mori Kikin), and Sakuyo Sugimoto (director, Miyazaki International Volunteer Center).