

President's Message



The two years covered in this report of the activities of the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) represent a time of both continuity and evolution for this institution. There was continuity in the fundamental elements of our work, in our commitment to greater Japanese engagement in the region and the world, and in our belief in the need for inclusive, substantive dialogues and collaborative efforts that bring together those in various sectors from around the world. At the same time, our focus has been evolving, encompassing new issues, new approaches, and new networks. This shift has brought a renewed energy to the organization, reconfirming the importance of the work that has gone before and allowing us to look to the future with greater assurance of continued relevancy.

Since its establishment in 1970, JCIE has made it a fundamental institutional philosophy to be proactive and innovative, seeking to respond to the evolving needs of Japan in its relationship with the outside world. Over the past ten years, JCIE has developed three programmatic clusters of activities to meet that goal: Global ThinkNet, a program to promote policy-oriented research and dialogue; CivilNet, which aims to strengthen civil society's role in meeting diverse domestic and international needs; and Political Exchange Programs to deepen the international engagement of emerging Japanese political leaders in Japan and promote dialogue between them and their counterparts abroad. In undertaking activities around these three programmatic clusters, JCIE has developed strong networks with leading institutions and individuals around the world in a broad range of sectors and fields. As a result, we are uniquely equipped to tackle the types of emerging issues that face the international community today—issues that increasingly require multisectoral cooperation.

In recent years, JCIE has begun to develop thematic focuses on three key issues that are increasingly pressing and where it seems JCIE may be able to play an innovative and catalytic role. These issues cut across the programmatic areas, building on and expanding the networks and resources that we have developed in the past.

The first focus is building cooperation and community in East Asia. Profound shifts are underway in East Asia as it is starting to play a more central role on the world stage and as the regional order goes through a historic transformation, facing all of the various opportunities and perils that typically accompany such transitions. Since the 1970s, JCIE has played a key role in promoting dialogue and exchange among

political leaders, policy intellectuals, and civil society organizations in the region. Recent activities include projects designed to promote active exploration of ways to build the underpinnings of an East Asia community; to consider how best to engage the United States in the emerging regional community; and to encourage and implement regional cooperation in key areas such as human security, communicable diseases, and gender issues.

A second focus is on strengthening human security responses to the challenges facing the world today. While traditional security approaches are still important and relevant, particularly in the Asian context, there has been an increasing recognition that the proliferation of cross-border challenges—ranging from environmental degradation and communicable diseases to migration and violent conflict—threaten the security of individuals and not just nations. In this context, the human security approach offers a new, more effective paradigm. JCIE has been at the forefront of policy work in this area in Japan and we have begun to play an important role in the exploration of more effective ways of implementing human security approaches on the ground as well. One important component in this field is our work since 2004 in administering the Friends of the Global Fund, Japan (FGFJ). We have also been working more closely with institutions such as the UN Trust Fund for Human Security and the United Nations Foundation.

Finally, JCIE's third focus is on exploring and promoting a more active international role for Japan. In recent years, Japan has been undergoing an intense reevaluation of its international role. This has accelerated JCIE's efforts to undertake domestic and international study, dialogue, and exchange that can promote deeper cooperation between Japan and its neighbors and more robust Japanese contributions to the international community. JCIE has been undertaking innovative programs to encourage promising future leaders in Japan to think more deeply about Japan's international role. For example, it quietly convened a year-long study group of eight rising Diet members who are emerging as key foreign policy leaders, four each from the ruling and opposition parties, to jointly explore the future course of the U.S.-Japan alliance.

As organizations throughout the field of international affairs in Japan have come under increased strain, there has been a marked growth in the number and complexity of demands placed upon JCIE. One striking trend in the past two years has been the growing stream of requests for JCIE to play a role in undertaking substantive international collaborative schemes and policy dialogues—ones which coincide with the organization's overall mission and goals. We would like to think of these requests as an acknowledgement of the increasing relevance of JCIE's

innovative approaches and of the uniqueness of its character among nonprofit organizations in Japan.

Perhaps the most significant among these was the request from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in early 2004 for JCIE to create the FGFJ. This initiative aims to promote Japanese involvement in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases and has involved JCIE in a broad range of action-oriented studies and dialogues. In 2005, JCIE also became the Japanese secretariat for the Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue, an annual track-two dialogue initiated in 1993 by the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation at the University of California, San Diego. In addition, JCIE was asked by the participating governments of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), a summit-level dialogue between East Asian nations and EU member states, to help assess the impact of ASEM's first 10 years and examine its potential future role. The World Bank asked JCIE to organize a session on the theme of "Why Human Security Now?—Challenges for Implementation at Regional and Country Levels" at its Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics, held in Tokyo in May 2006. And, building on a long history of research on international philanthropy and cooperation with philanthropic organizations, JCIE has continued to strengthen its cooperation with the Shibusawa Ei'ichi Memorial Foundation and has begun assisting a number of new philanthropic initiatives in Japan, working with Nipponkoa Insurance, Standard Chartered Bank, and the American hedge fund company Voyager Management.

Although the financial and regulatory climate in Japan continues to be unfavorable for civil society organizations, JCIE's continued ability to evolve in response to global trends, coupled with our broad and expanding network of colleagues and friends and the tireless efforts of our energetic and dedicated staff in Tokyo and New York, gives us optimism that we can overcome these challenges and make critical and unique contributions to Japanese society and to the international community in the years ahead.

Tadashi Yamamoto
President

JCIE Activities:

April 2004–March 2006

2004

Apr. 13–14	CAEC, workshop (Tokyo)
Apr. 19–20	ASEAN-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange, Tokyo Roundtable
May 7–10	Trilateral Commission, plenary meeting (Warsaw)
May 17–21	Washington Seminar: Efficiency and Fairness in the Competitive Economy
June 16–18	Connecting Civil Societies of Asia and Europe, conference (Barcelona)
June 19	A Gender Agenda, planning meeting (Barcelona)
June 28–29	6th Russia-Japan Policy Dialogue (Moscow)
June 30	CAEC, workshop (Berlin)
July 1	CAEC, workshop (Brussels)
Aug. 8–15	U.S. Congressional Staff Exchange, 18th U.S. Delegation to Japan
Sept. 13–15	12th Korea-Japan Forum (Shimonoseki)
Sept. 24–26	APSO, authors meeting (Bali)
Sept. 25–Oct. 9	U.S.-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange, 19th Japanese Delegation to the United States
Oct. 4–5	The Role of Philanthropy in Postwar U.S.-Japan Relations, conference (Tokyo)
Oct. 8–10	13th German-Japan Forum (Tokyo)
Nov. 5	FGFJ Diet Task Force, inaugural meeting (Tokyo)
Nov. 18–20	Trilateral Commission, Pacific Asia Group meeting (Bangkok)
Dec. 8–10	FGFJ seminars with Dr. Richard Feachem, executive director, Global Fund (Tokyo)
Dec. 10	FGFJ Diet Task Force, meeting with Dr. Feachem (Tokyo)
Dec. 12–14	A Gender Agenda, task force meeting (Singapore)

2005

Jan. 15–28	U.S.-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange, 23rd U.S. Delegation to Japan
Feb. 23–24	Building a Multiethnic Society and Revitalizing Local Communities, researcher meeting (Tokyo)
Feb. 25–26	10th APAP Forum (Tokyo)
Feb. 26–Mar. 5	Australia-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange, 14th Australian Delegation to Japan
Mar. 5	U.S.-Japan Sister City Exchange Revitalization Project, public seminar (Yokohama)
Mar. 10–13	21st UK-Japan 21st Century Group (Tokyo and Nagoya)
Mar. 30–31	Involving Multiple Local Actors in Grassroots International Cooperation, initial planning meeting (Tokyo)
Mar. 31–Apr. 1	FGFJ meetings with Edward W. Scott, founder, Friends of the Global Fight (Tokyo)
Apr. 1	FGFJ seminar: Cross-Sectoral Partnership in Responding to Global Challenges (Tokyo)
Apr. 1	FGFJ Diet Task Force, meeting with Mr. Scott (Tokyo)
Apr. 11–12	16th NEACD meeting (Seoul)
Apr. 15–18	Trilateral Commission, plenary meeting (Washington DC)

- June 12–13 Involving Multiple Local Actors in Grassroots International Cooperation, meeting (Takikawa)
- June 21–22 Building a Multiethnic Society and Revitalizing Local Communities, workshop (Tsuruoka)
- June 28 FGFJ symposium: The Role of Business in the Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Tokyo)
- June 29 Comparative Research on Responses to the Spread of Communicable Diseases in East Asia, workshop (Tokyo)
- June 30 Commemorative Symposium on the 5th Anniversary of the Okinawa Summit: The East Asian Regional Response to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Tokyo)
- July 1 FGFJ Diet Task Force, meeting with Tommy G. Thompson, honorary chair, Global Fund (Tokyo)
- July 9–17 Japan-EU Grassroots Exchange Project for Community and Local International Cooperation
- Aug. 8–9 Involving Multiple Local Actors in Grassroots International Cooperation, meeting (Takamatsu)
- Aug. 29–31 13th Korea-Japan Forum (Cheju Island, Republic of Korea)
- Oct. 2–3 Building a Multiethnic Society and Revitalizing Local Communities, workshop (Oizumi)
- Oct. 8–9 A Gender Agenda, conference (Manila)
- Oct. 14–16 14th German-Japan Forum (Tokyo)
- Oct. 23–24 Engaging the United States in an Emerging East Asia Community, 11th APAP Forum (Washington DC)
- Nov. 13–14 Involving Multiple Local Actors in Grassroots International Cooperation, meeting (Nagaoka)
- Nov. 25–27 Trilateral Commission, Pacific Asia Group meeting (Beijing)
- Dec. 11–13 ASEM's Role in Enhancing Asia-Europe Cooperation, conference and symposium (Tokyo)

2006

- Jan. 31–Feb. 2 U.S.-Japan Parliamentary Exchange Program, 25th Diet Delegation to the United States
- Feb. 6–7 Involving Multiple Local Actors in Grassroots International Cooperation, meeting (Musashino)
- Feb. 18–24 Australia-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange, 15th Australian Delegation to Japan
- Feb. 23–24 Building a Multiethnic Society and Revitalizing Local Communities, workshop (Kobe)
- Feb. 26 Functional Cooperation as a Strategy for East Asia Community Building, workshop (Jakarta)
- Mar. 1 Intellectual Underpinnings of U.S. Policy Toward Asia and East Asia Community, workshop (New York)
- Mar. 10 Evaluating Human Security Projects: Health and HIV/AIDS in a Human Security Context, workshop (Pretoria, South Africa)
- Mar. 16–18 22nd UK-Japan 21st Century Group (Hertfordshire, UK)