



CIVILNET

Through its CivilNet Program, 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 important CivilNet objective is to encourage dynamic and innovative approaches in the philanthropic sector. JCIE's commitment to strengthening Japan's indigenous private and corporate philanthropy dates back to the early 1970s, when it conducted the groundbreaking International Philanthropy Project, and it includes the creation in 1979 of the Asian Community Trust (which applied a US community foundation concept) as well as the launch and operation of one of Japan's first donor advised funds, the Levi Strauss Foundation Advised Fund of JCIE (1997–2004). Building on these activities, over the past few years JCIE has begun facilitating philanthropic programs for a growing number of Japanese and foreign corporations that are seeking ways to address diverse social challenges.

Another top priority of the CivilNet Program is the promotion of a broader and deeper understanding of civil society in Japan and around the world. JCIE has a long record of organizing research and dialogue projects designed to contribute to an enhanced role for civil society organizations in the governance of society. In the past year, for example, JCIE completed a groundbreaking study of the role of philanthropy in international affairs, publishing the findings as *Philanthropy and Reconciliation: Rebuilding Postwar US-Japan Relations*.

JCIE also works to promote international outreach by Japan's civil society. One element of this work involves the promotion of grassroots exchanges between Japan and other countries, as well as studies and dialogues that examine effective ways for local communities to turn globalization into a positive rather than a negative force. JCIE makes a special effort to encourage civil society leaders in Japan to work more closely with their counterparts around the world in order to improve their effectiveness and heighten the potential contributions of the sector.

Promoting Understanding of the Role of Philanthropy and Civil Society

The Role of Philanthropy in Postwar US-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. From 2002 to 2005, JCIE conducted a major study that examined the long-term impact of foundations and individual philanthropists, mainly in the United States but also in Japan, on the bilateral relationship. This project was designed to fill gaps in the knowledge of US-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 research team of in-house researchers and outside experts examined the motivations of foundation personnel, the relationship between philanthropic activity and government policy, and the impact of philanthropic support in areas such as US-Japan intellectual exchange, institution building in Japan, Japanese studies in the United States, and American studies in Japan.

The results of this project were published in June 2006 in English as *Philanthropy and Reconciliation: Rebuilding Postwar US-Japan Relations*. (A Japanese edition of the book was published in spring 2008 by Minerva Press.) On September 12, 2006, roughly 75 leaders of philanthropic and civil society organizations gathered in New York for a launch seminar and reception. The evening featured remarks by four prominent leaders—David Rockefeller, Henry Kissinger, Barnett Baron of the Asia Foundation, and Ambassador Motoatsu Sakurai, consul general in New York—who commented on the relevance of the

book for today's philanthropic world and for the understanding of US-Japan relations.

Collaboration with the Shibusawa Ei'ichi Memorial Foundation

The Shibusawa Ei'ichi Memorial Foundation honors the ideals that the Meiji-era entrepreneur and civic leader Ei'ichi Shibusawa advocated and practiced throughout his life by carrying out a wide range of activities to promote civilian diplomacy, social welfare, and public education. It operates three core programs—a research program, the Shibusawa Memorial Museum, and the Resource Center for the History of Entrepreneurship—that are designed to build upon the achievements and ideals of Shibusawa and to encourage the development of a dynamic society with a strong civil society at its core. JCIE is facilitating the work of the foundation's research department to raise awareness and understanding of the potential contributions of civil society. (One element of this collaboration is the Keio University Shibusawa Ei'ichi Memorial Lectureship, described on page 47.)

Civil Society Monitor

JCIE's *Civil Society Monitor* newsletter serves as one of the only sources of English-language information on the current state of the Japanese nonprofit sector. It seeks to link Japan's nonprofit sector with the international community by reporting on current events and noteworthy activities and organizations in Japan's emerging civil society.

Facilitating Innovative Corporate Philanthropy

Microsoft NPO Support Program

In 2002, Microsoft Japan launched a grantmaking program for Japanese nonprofit organizations called the Microsoft NPO Support Program. This program aims to empower nonprofit organizations in Japan through the use of IT. Each year, approximately US\$180,000 (¥20,000,000) in grants is being distributed to Japanese groups, together with software and other technical support as necessary. In the past five years, nearly US\$1 million has been granted to 37 organizations. JCIE began operating this program for Microsoft Japan in 2006, managing the planning, operations, selection process, and evaluation of the program.

Nipponkoa Grant Program

In FY2004, the Nipponkoa Grant Program was initiated in partnership with Nipponkoa Insurance Company, through its Grant Club, which promotes and matches employee giving. Grants are made annually to Japanese nonprofit organizations working in the fields of international exchange and cooperation involving other Asian countries, education, and women's issues, and JCIE manages the planning, operations, and selection process for the program. The program not only aims to make corporate grants to nonprofit organizations but also promotes collaboration between nonprofit organizations and corporations. In FY2006, grants were made to six organizations around the country including, for example, a shelter in Kanagawa that supports victims of domestic violence. Two additional grants were made in FY2007.

SEEDCap Japan

The Social Entrepreneur Enhanced Development Capital Program (SEEDCap Japan), a funding initiative launched in 2004, enables Voyager Management, in partnership with the advisory firm of Shibusawa and Company, to provide support for initiatives undertaken by some of Japan's most promising social entrepreneurs. Voyager Management, an American "fund of funds" investment company, contributes 10 percent of the incentive fees from its transactions on behalf of several Japanese corporations to JCIE. This contribution is then re-granted by JCIE to exemplary Japanese NPOs that are chosen based on their innovative and entrepreneurial spirit, their capacity to serve as models for other organizations in meeting social needs, and their ability to become self-sustaining. Two grants were made in the second round of SEEDCap funding in 2006, another two grants were made in 2007, and four were made in 2008. In response to the need for multiyear funding to nurture innovative initiatives, grantees became eligible for a maximum of three years of funding starting in the third round.



A terminally ill child gets help blowing out candles at a party organized by Heartful Holiday, a SEEDCap-supported organization

2006 Grants

FLORENCE—To support a “Child Rescue Brigade” to provide emergency childcare for the sick children of working parents. Florence offers a potentially self-sustaining model to deal with this increasingly pressing social issue.

OURPLANET-TV—To allow OurPlanet-TV, the very first SEEDCap recipient, to complete the dissemination of nine short documentaries on overlooked social issues that were made with SEEDCap support.

2007 Grants

KOTOBA NO ATELIER— For a residential training program that addresses the alarming number of Japanese youth—primarily teenage boys and young men—who withdraw from society and live as *hikikomori*, or “shut-ins,” rarely if ever leaving their rooms.

A DREAM A DAY IN TOKYO/HEARTFUL HOLIDAY IN TOKYO FOR TERMINALLY ILL CHILDREN—To offer terminally ill children from Japan and Asia a one-week stay in Tokyo to visit amusement parks and tourist sites in order to fulfill lifelong dreams and provide them and their families with happy memories.

2008 Grants

TOTAL HEALTH CARE FOR ARTISTS JAPAN—To support a program that expands access to affordable healthcare for dancers and other artists, who often fall through the gaps of Japan’s healthcare system.

KOMPOSITION—For a “Legal Wall Project” that battles illegal graffiti by channeling youths’ energy and providing them with legal spaces to paint at the request of building owners.

KOTOBA NO ATELIER—Second-year funding.

A DREAM A DAY IN TOKYO/HEARTFUL HOLIDAY IN TOKYO FOR TERMINALLY ILL CHILDREN—Second-year funding.

Standard Chartered Bank Japan’s Seeing is Believing Initiative

Standard Chartered Bank launched the “Seeing is Believing” program in 2003 as one of its major global programs, and JCIE has been working with the bank to support this program in Japan since 2005. The program is designed to help alleviate blindness across the globe. Today, there are more than 45 million blind people in the world, and the vast majority live in developing countries. Tragically, it is estimated that 80 percent of these people are needlessly blind, often because they do not have access to basic health-care treatment. The program’s objective is to raise US\$7.5 million, which would assist in restoring sight to 1 million people. JCIE has been managing the donations from Japan to this program, which go toward support for the work of such international organizations as Vision 2020 and Sightsavers International.

Tiffany Foundation Award

In December 2007, JCIE and the New York-based Tiffany & Co. Foundation announced the establishment of the Tiffany Foundation Award for the Preservation of Japanese Traditional Arts and Culture in Contemporary Society. This annual award will recognize organizations that have contributed to the promotion of Japanese traditional culture and to the revitalization of local communities by incorporating the heritage of local culture into modern activities, reviving traditional activities, and engaging in exchange related to traditional arts and culture. The first award will be presented in June 2008 to two Japanese organizations—one that is nationally renowned and a second that is having a significant impact in a particular community. Nominations have been solicited from across the country, and the finalists will be chosen by a selection committee of senior experts in the fields of arts and culture.

Strengthening Internationalization and International Cooperation at the Community Level

Building a Multiethnic Society and Revitalizing Local Communities

The number of foreign nationals residing in Japan has grown rapidly since 1980, accounting for more than 2 million people, or 1.6 percent of the population, by 2005. As a result, communities around Japan are finding that they need to rethink how they deal with non-native residents. It is not only important to focus on integrating them smoothly into local communities but also to find ways to more effectively utilize their unique potential as resources for communities. With this in mind, JCIE operated a three-year project with community leaders from around the country to examine case studies of areas with active communities of foreign-born residents, analyze the roles played by actors who serve as a bridge between foreign and Japanese residents at the community level, and explore ways communities can better support foreign-born residents.

In 2005 and 2006, the research team held a series of meetings with community leaders, activists, and others in six areas with high concentrations of foreign nationals. Each meeting examined key issues in the locales being studied and the various organizations and mechanisms that have been established to facilitate relationships among community members from different cultural backgrounds. On March 4, 2007, the findings were presented at a major seminar at the Hamamatsu International Center. Based on these findings, a Japanese-language volume, *Tabunka pawaa shakai* (A “multicultural power” society) was published, and policy recommendations were presented at a final seminar held in Tokyo on September 19, 2007.

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International Relations at the Local Level in Japan: Exploring Kyushu's International Strategy

With the cooperation and support of Citigroup Japan, JCIE carried out a one-year study of the international strategy of Kyushu, one of Japan's four main islands. This focused on Kyushu's relationship with its Asian neighbors in light of the proposed amalgamation of Japan's prefectures through the introduction of a new "regional system." Historically, Kyushu has acted as a gateway to the rest of the world for all of Japan by importing goods and culture from neighboring Asian countries and, even today, it has a rich culture and traditions that have been strongly influenced by Japan's neighbors. The final report, which was published in December 2007, analyzed Kyushu's external relationships with East Asia in a variety of fields—including culture, economy, education, and people-to-people exchange—and identified key trends in these areas.

International Cooperation by Local Governments in Europe

As a follow-up to the Japan-EU Grassroots Exchange Project for Community and Local International Cooperation conducted in 2005, JCIE has been carrying out research on the state of grassroots international cooperation with a focus on the activities of local governments in five countries in Europe—England, Germany, Holland, Italy, and Norway. This project was commissioned by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, which has been actively seeking collaboration with Japanese local governments when it proceeds with its official development assistance (ODA) projects.

At the community level, local governments in Europe have been actively working along with NGOs to promote international cooperation with developing countries, particularly those in Africa. The relationship between local governments and government

funding agencies in the area of international cooperation is also advanced in comparison with Japan. The project involved interviews with local and national government institutions in each country to ascertain the state of cooperation between local governments and nonprofit organizations in this field, the relationship between local governments and government funding agencies, and the ODA strategy toward local governments. The final report is available in Japanese on the JCIE website, and an excerpt was published in the January 2007 edition of *Kokusai kaihatsu jaanaru* (International Development Journal).

Involving Multiple Local Actors in Grassroots International Cooperation

In FY2005, JCIE was commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to undertake a yearlong project to examine successful cases of grassroots-level international cooperation activities. The objective was to explore the process and methodology for carrying out such cooperation with the involvement of diverse actors at the local level. Four areas were selected, each of which has a strong tradition of international cooperation, and meetings were held throughout FY2005. In addition to examining the significance of citizen-to-citizen, regional-level international cooperation, participants sought to better understand what is involved at the local community level when such projects are encouraged and what benefits the activities bring to the community. They considered what policies might effectively encourage local international cooperation that involves multiple actors and what JICA's role might be in that process. In FY2006, the findings from the project were analyzed in a final report (in Japanese only).