

# President's Message

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Looking back on JCIE's activities over the past two years provides me with an opportunity to reflect on the role that civil society organizations such as ours can play in helping to promote constructive relations between Japan and the world within the evolving international context. In recent years, we have been carrying out our efforts in the framework of our Global Think-Net, CivilNet, and Political Exchange Program pillars, and these activities have become progressively more interconnected. We have been conducting policy research and dialogue with countries around the world, facilitating international collaboration among civil society organizations, and promoting dialogue and cooperation among political leaders. As I have stated many times, JCIE owes a deep debt of gratitude to the many foundations, corporations, research institutes, opinion leaders, and others who have supported us and worked with us over the years, enabling us to carry out our work with consistency and professionalism. With their assistance, we have worked hard to create and strengthen collaborative networks among major institutions and individual leaders in a wide range of fields.

As you read about the various JCIE activities in this report, one trend that stands out is that, as the international environment has shifted and as new developments have arisen in the issues facing the global community today, JCIE has been able to react quickly and effectively, creating the necessary linkages by drawing on the networks and relationships that we have cultivated over the years in a broad and diverse range of fields. This has also made me increasingly conscious of the catalytic role that nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations such as ours can play in contributing to foreign relations and promoting exchange, and I believe that even greater efforts are needed in this area.

## **Responding to Global Challenges**

The year 2008 will be a time when Japan is expected to step to the fore and contribute on the international scene, affording it an opportunity to significantly enhance its international role. In May 2008, Yokohama will be the site of the 4th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV), and the G8 Summit will be held in July on the shores of Hokkaido's Lake Toya. Both meetings should draw a tremendous amount of attention to such global issues as climate change and infectious disease.

These types of global issues share a common characteristic: their solutions require close cooperation among diverse sectors. In 2004, for example, at the request of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and

Malaria, JCIE launched the Friends of the Global Fund, Japan (FGFJ), which carries out activities that involve medical experts, business leaders, politicians, journalists, nongovernmental organization (NGO) leaders, scholars, and others. That experience has convinced me that efforts to address global issues are opening up a new dimension in international exchange and cooperation. JCIE has received positive feedback for its work in these new areas thanks in large part to our ability to actively develop cooperative, cross-sectoral programs. That, in turn, is possible because our status as a nonprofit and nongovernmental organization has enabled us to gain the trust of, and build strong ties with, diverse sectors.

### **Contributing to Global Governance and Regional Community Building**

Another trend that I would like to emphasize here is the increase in JCIE activities related to strengthening regional ties. In recent years, East Asia has started to play an increasingly central role in global governance, taking its place alongside North America and Europe. It is clear from the history of regional community building in both North America and Europe that there is a very effective role to be played by the types of human and institutional networks that are created through intraregional exchange and cooperation efforts.

JCIE has been working actively in this field, as demonstrated by the research and dialogue projects conducted under the Asia Pacific Agenda Project (APAP), which is described in this annual report. In addition, one area of particular emphasis this past year was the examination of how an increasingly integrated East Asia community will affect relations with the United States and Europe, and how this trend might serve to strengthen East Asia's relations with other regions rather than leading to isolation or conflict. The specific themes we have been addressing in this area include Japan-China-US relations, Europe-Asia relations, and US Congressional views of East Asia. I should also note that the publication of our newsletter, *East Asia Insights*, which analyzes new developments related to East Asian community building, is drawing particularly wide interest. We believe that these types of activities can play a significant role in assisting the emerging East Asia community to contribute to global governance.

### **Looking to the Future**

In addition to the priorities described above, JCIE has been adopting new approaches and developing more active programs in a number of areas, including the promotion of research and dialogue on human security, the

substantive strengthening of ongoing bilateral dialogues with major countries, the encouragement of community-level exchanges as part of internationalization efforts in Japan, and the facilitation of corporate philanthropy. In all of these diverse activities, we are emphasizing the involvement of young Japanese participants. For example, we are organizing research projects on China-Japan-US relations and on bilateral US-Japan relations that have younger experts at the core of the research teams, and we are seeking to include junior Diet members in study groups and task forces. I would also like to note here that, with the expansion of our JCIE/USA staff, we are now able to carry out an even broader range of cooperative projects.

There have been increasingly vocal concerns raised recently in Japan that those in the United States and other countries around the world have been losing interest in Japan and that global opinion leaders and international research institutions have been paying little attention to research and dialogue related to Japan. There are also those who take the somewhat simplistic view that this trend results from the fact that relations with Japan are relatively stable, with few contentious issues as compared with the past. Through JCIE's work, we have been sensing that the presence of Japan—particularly in contrast to China—has clearly decreased in international conferences and collaborative research projects, and it seems that this declining interest in and involvement with Japan among the relevant actors overseas is in fact accelerating.

A number of individuals in the international community have also begun to express concern about this trend, bemoaning the decline in activity among Japanese research institutions and international affairs organizations, which is partly a result of declining financial support. In light of this situation, we at JCIE, as one of only a few NGOs in the field of international exchange and cooperation in Japan, feel a deep sense of responsibility to further strengthen our institutional capacity to carry out research and dialogue.

I would like to express my thanks once again to the many, many individuals who have participated in and contributed to JCIE's various endeavors, and ask for your continued guidance and support in the years ahead.

Tadashi Yamamoto  
President

# JCIE Activities:

## April 2006–March 2008

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### 2006

April 9–11	17th Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue [Tokyo]
April 18	Launch of FY2006 Keio University Shibusawa Ei'ichi Memorial Lectureship [Tokyo]
April 21	Friends of the Global Fund, Japan (FGFJ), Roundtable with Bill Gates [Tokyo]
April 22–24	37th Annual Plenary Meeting of the Trilateral Commission [Tokyo]
April 25	US-Japan Parliamentary Exchange Program, Diet Study Group meeting with Henry Kissinger [Tokyo]
April 27	Launch of 1st Tanaka Juku workshop series [Tokyo]
May 26	FGFJ–M•A•C Cosmetics press conference and reception [Tokyo]
May 29	World Bank ABCDE: Human Security Workshop [Tokyo]
May 30	FGFJ Diet Task Force Meeting with Surin Pitsuwan [Tokyo]
May 31	Workshop on Human Security Approaches to HIV/AIDS in Asia and Africa [Tokyo]
June 29–July 4	FGFJ Diet Task Force visit to South Africa [Johannesburg, Durban, and Pietermaritzburg]
July 10–11	Beijing Conference on East Asian Regional Cooperation in the Fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria [Beijing]
July 24–27	ACYPL 40th Anniversary International Alumni Summit [Tokyo]
August 6–13	Australia-Japan Young Political Leaders Program, 11th Japanese Delegation to Australia [Brisbane, Canberra, and Sydney]
August 29–31	14th Korea-Japan Forum [Awajishima]
September 7–8	ASEM@10: Connecting Civil Societies of Asia and Europe [Helsinki]
September 12	Book Launch Reception for <i>Philanthropy and Reconciliation</i> [New York]
October 12–14	15th Japanese-German Forum [Berlin]
October 16	FGFJ Roundtable and Diet Task Force Meeting with George Soros [Tokyo]
October 25–30	UN Foundation Board Meeting Events [Tokyo, Kyoto, and Hiroshima]
November 25–27	Trilateral Commission Pacific Asia Regional Meeting [Bali]
November 27–28	12th Asia Pacific Agenda Project (APAP) Forum [Bali]
December 1	FGFJ Roundtable and “Red and White” Reception with Bono [Tokyo]

### 2007

January 27– February 9	US-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange Program, 20th Japanese Delegation to the United States [Washington DC, North Carolina, and California]
February 5	International Symposium on Corporate Responses to Communicable Diseases [Tokyo]
February 6	Roundtable on Partnerships for Fighting Communicable Diseases [Tokyo]
February 6	FGFJ Diet Task Force Meeting with Christoph Benn and Katsumi Hirano [Tokyo]

February 8–10	23rd UK-Japan 21st Century Group meeting [Tokyo]
February 17–25	19th Congressional Staff Exchange Program in Japan [Tokyo, Aichi, and Kyoto]
February 20	SEEDCap Japan, 3rd evaluation meeting [Tokyo]
March 1	1st China-Japan-US project leaders workshop [Tokyo]
March 4	Seminar on Turning Diversity into Power [Hamamatsu]
March 8	Microsoft NPO Support Program, 1st evaluation meeting [Tokyo]
March 10–11	APAP authors workshop [Tokyo]
March 16–19	38th Annual Plenary Meeting of the Trilateral Commission [Brussels]
March 24–30	Australia-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange Program, 16th Australian Delegation to Japan [Tokyo, Nagoya, and Kyoto]
March 27	US-Japan Parliamentary Exchange Program, Diet Study Group meeting with Henry Kissinger [Tokyo]
April 2	2nd China-Japan-US project leaders workshop [Tokyo]
April 7	Microsoft NPO Support Program, 2nd evaluation meeting [Tokyo]
April 7–15	US-Japan Parliamentary Exchange Program, Japan Visit of Rep. Rick Boucher [Tokyo]
April 14–27	US-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange Program, 24th US Delegation to Japan [Tokyo, Ibaraki, Aichi, and Kyoto]
April 18	Launch of FY2007 Keio University Shibusawa Ei'ichi Memorial Lectureship [Tokyo]
May 23	Microsoft NPO Support Program, final selection committee meeting [Tokyo]
May 30	SEEDCap Japan Fellows reception [Tokyo]
June 3–9	Intellectual Dialogue Between Japan and the Middle East, delegation visit [Istanbul, Tel Aviv, and the West Bank]
June 15	3rd China-Japan-US project leaders workshop [Tokyo]
July 5	Microsoft NPO Support Program, awards ceremony [Tokyo]
July 25–27	Global Fund delegation to Japan [Tokyo]
July 26	FGFJ Seminar: From Heiligendamm to Toyako—The Global Fund on the G8 Agenda [Tokyo]
July 30	US Congressional Staff Exchange Program, roundtable with Koji Watanabe [Washington DC]
August 6	Global Health Roundtable: Addressing Challenges in Global Health—How the Public and Private Sectors Can Work Together [Tokyo]
August 28–30	15th Korea-Japan Forum [Busan]
September 19	Seminar: Toward the Realization of “Multicultural Power Society” [Tokyo]
October 2–3	16th Japanese-German Forum [Tokyo]
October 4–6	9th East Asia–EU Think Tank Dialogue [Tokyo]
October 9	Global Health Working Group, 1st meeting [Tokyo]
October 14–16	Workshop on Managing China-Japan-US Relations and Strengthening Trilateral Cooperation [Tokyo]
November 5–10	FGFJ Visit Program with Akudo Anyanwu Ikemba [Tokyo]
November 7	Global Health Working Group, 2nd meeting [Tokyo]
November 9	FGFJ Diet Task Force meeting with Akudo Anyanwu Ikemba [Tokyo]
November 20–24	APAP Study Group Visit to India [New Delhi]

December 13 SEEDCap Japan, 4th evaluation meeting [Tokyo]  
December 14–15 13th APAP Forum [Singapore]  
December 15–17 Trilateral Commission Pacific Asia Regional Meeting [Singapore]

## 2008

January 7–8 4th US-Japan-China Trilateral Conference [Beijing]  
January 11 Global Health Working Group, 3rd meeting [Tokyo]  
January 12–25 US-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange Program, 21st Japanese Delegation to the United States [Washington DC, Indiana, and Florida]  
January 15 International Symposium on Global Health as Global Agenda [Tokyo]  
February 3 Global Health Working Group, 4th meeting [Tokyo]  
February 7 FGFJ Roundtable with the Global Health Working Group [Tokyo]  
February 25 An Enhanced Agenda for US-Japan Partnership workshop [New York]  
February 25–27 Enhanced Agenda for US-Japan Partnership visit to the United States [New York and Washington DC]  
February 26 US-Japan Parliamentary Exchange Program, Diet seminar with Thomas Mann [Tokyo]  
February 29 Microsoft NPO Support Program, 1st evaluation meeting [Tokyo]  
March 1–7 Australia-Japan Young Political Leaders Exchange Program, 17th Australian Delegation to Japan [Tokyo, Hyogo, and Kyoto]  
March 3 Launch of 2nd Tanaka Juku workshop series [Tokyo]  
March 5 Global Health Working Group, 5th meeting [Tokyo]  
March 19–20 Global Health Seminar: Building Effective Health Systems with the Benefits of Existing Initiatives [Geneva]  
March 27–30 24th UK-Japan 21st Century Group meeting [London]