I. Toward the Coexistence of Pluralistic Values

1 - Initiatives in Comprehensive Understanding of Civilizational Issues
   (1) Initiatives in Dialogue across Cultures and Civilizations
   (2) Rethinking of the Economic Development Paradigm
   (3) A New Era of Science and Bioethics
2 - Dialogue and Exchange on Common Regional Issues
3 - Information Sharing and Dissemination to the Global Community
I. Toward the Coexistence of Pluralistic Values

A conference titled “Islam and IT Revolution: The Development and Significance of Information Technology in the Islamic World” was held in July, 2001 at Waseda University. The conference was part of the “Islam and IT Revolution” project.

The recent information-technology (IT) revolution has had a great impact on the Islamic world. This project aims to bring a new dimension to intercivilizational dialogue between the Islamic and non-Islamic spheres by analyzing Islam from the distinctive perspective of IT.

In the first year of this three-year project the theme of perceptions and analysis of IT in the Islamic world was adopted. The centerpiece of the year’s activities was an international conference on the theme “Islam and IT Revolution: The Development and Significance of Information Technology in the Islamic World,” held at Waseda University July 2–3, 2001. Researchers were invited from Egypt and Uzbekistan, while Japanese authorities also took part. Discussion focused on cultural, religious, social, and economic implications of IT in the three Islamic countries. The presentations delivered at the conference were collected in a volume titled Islam and IT, which was widely distributed to relevant organizations. The video of the conference is expected to be used in both university and public lectures, thus making the results of the conference available to a wide audience.

(A one-year project)
It is generally believed that Enlightenment philosophy, which is behind the spread of such concepts as equality and equal opportunity for all, is part of the unique intellectual legacy of western Europe, with no counterpart elsewhere. Despite temporal and geographic distance and divergent pasts, however, ideas similar to those of Enlightenment philosophy can be found in early modern thinkers in China, Japan, and the United States.

This project is producing a documentary tracing the lives of Lu Xun of China, Yukichi Fukuzawa of Japan, Thomas Jefferson of the United States, and other eighteenth- and nineteenth-century thinkers, and examining how Enlightenment philosophy was assimilated and bore fruit in each of these countries. The aim is to learn from our ancestors' thought and gain clues to the true shape of globalization for the twenty-first century.

This year was devoted mainly to gathering source material (documents, photographs, films, and other sources on each thinker and the history and culture of his times) in China, Japan, and the United States. With the help of historians, scholars of philosophy, political scientists, and other experts in each country, work on the script was also begun.

(1st year of a 2-year project)

The five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) and the three Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia) face various problems having to do with the transition to a market economy, diversification of domestic politics, confidence building with regard to security, strengthening of external economic relations, and achievement of a balance between development and the environment. This project is exploring ways to solve these problems through research, training, and dialogue, with the cooperation of experts from Japan and other East Asian countries.

This year’s activities, targeting mainly young researchers and midlevel policymakers in Central Asian countries and carried out with the cooperation of East Asian experts, included policy research; the convening of the seventh SPF Issyk-Kul Forum, whose aim is cooperation and confidence building in Central Asia; formation of a personal network; human resource development through study tours; and preparations for activities in Azerbaijan. In addition, some of the project’s research findings were scheduled to be published by M. E. Sharpe in July 2002 under the title Central Asia: The Gathering Storm.

(2nd year of a 6-year project)

The use and protection of traditional knowledge are among the most contentious issues surrounding intellectual property rights. “Traditional knowledge” in this context refers to knowledge regarding, for example, the use of medicinal herbs handed down from generation to generation by indigenous people in developing countries. There are many cases of developed countries’ corporations reaping profits from the development and patenting of commercial products based on such knowledge. The equitable distribution of profits between the companies holding the patents and the countries that produced the traditional knowledge has become a major international problem. This project is undertaking case studies on the use and patenting of traditional knowledge in Asia and Oceania to elucidate the relationship between the use of traditional knowledge and the present intellectual property rights regime.

This year, in preparation for full-scale case studies, the countries to be included were selected (Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam). In addition, patent records in Japan and the United States were searched, items thought to incorporate traditional knowledge were identified, and a database was created.

(1st year of a 3-year project)
I. Toward the Coexistence of Pluralistic Values

At present Japan is facing a variety of problems. The pricking of the asset bubble and instability of the financial system have exposed the weaknesses of the currency economy. Added to this are environmental problems and an aging society with a falling birthrate. Meanwhile, initiatives are underway to create a new value system and lifestyle as a counterweight to the socioeconomic system of mass production, mass consumption, and mass waste created in the context of economic development. One such initiative is “ecomoney,” a community currency system used as a gauge of the value of activities in such spheres as the environment, social welfare, education, and culture that cannot be defined in terms of conventional currency and as a medium for exchanging services within these spheres.

This project designed a website where people could deepen their understanding of ecomoney as a means of value assessment and exchange by engaging in simulated ecomoney transactions. Providing opportunities for large numbers of people to exchange views and try out ecomoney, the website also sought to suggest a new way of assessing value in the society of the future. The interactive website, the Ecolife Pavilion, was set up at the Internet Fair 2001 Japan (popularly known as Inpaku), which ran from December 31, 2000, to December 31, 2001.

In the project’s first year the Ecolife Pavilion was set up. It featured a 3D chat space where people could exchange information and engage in simulated ecomoney transactions, providing a virtual environment for communication.

During the year of Inpaku, almost 1.5 million people visited the Ecolife Pavilion and almost 64,000 people visited the 3D chat space. All in all, the project heightened knowledge and understanding of ecomoney.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)

Despite the geopolitical importance of Northeast Asia, there is still no mechanism for regional cooperation. This international joint project seeks to encourage the dissemination of messages from Northeast Asia and the development of human resources in the region through surveys and research and semiannual conferences, with an eye to stimulating trade and investment.

This year researchers from China, Japan, Mongolia, Russia, and South Korea were invited to take part in discussion of development strategies for Northeast Asia at an international workshop in Huhehaote, Inner Mongolia, in August 2001. In October, a team of experts was sent to the Tumen River basin to survey distribution in Northeast Asia. In March 2002, an international conference was held in Ulaanbaatar at which strategies for stimulating the regional economy were explored from many viewpoints, including discussion of political, economic, financial, distribution, and energy problems.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)

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In the second year the Entrance Zone, Exchange Zone, Experience Zone, and Ecolife Survey were added to the Ecolife Pavilion. Ecomoney was also demonstrated at the Local Government Fair 2001, held at Tokyo Big Sight May 23–25 (23,000 visitors), seminars on April 6, June 15, September 13, and November 22 (a total of 465 participants), and the Ecomoney Summit on June 16 (60 individuals and 24 organizations participating).

During the year of Inpaku, almost 1.5 million people visited the Ecolife Pavilion and almost 64,000 people visited the 3D chat space. All in all, the project heightened knowledge and understanding of ecomoney.

(Final year of a 2-year project)
This project focused on the human dimension of such issues as Palestinian refugees and nomadic peoples in the Middle East. In addition to organizing workshops at the specialist and NGO level, it convened round-table conferences at which representatives of Arab countries, Israel, developed countries with political interests in the Middle East, and international organizations considered practical proposals developed in the workshops. The project also sought to build a transnational private-sector network in the Middle East.

In the project’s first year a workshop for NGO representatives and researchers, “The Human Dimension of Conflicts: The Issue of Refugees,” was held in Amman, Jordan. This was followed by the Amman Roundtable: The Human Dimension of Conflicts. The participants, mainly from the Middle East, engaged in lively discussion of the refugee problem and made specific proposals.

In the second year the workshop “The Middle East: Alternative for the Future” was held in Amman in February 2001. Middle East peace and other regional issues were discussed from political, economic, and social perspectives. Proposals emerging from the workshop included the need for government-citizen collaboration for regional development, stimulation of citizen activities, greater disclosure of information, and improved education.

In the third and final year a round-table conference was held on October 16, 2001 in Prague. The participants included Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel, two Palestinian representatives, two Israeli representatives, and one representative each from the United Kingdom and Germany. Discussion revolved around new concepts for the region in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, especially a new framework for Middle East peace.

The conference was followed by the workshop “The Cluster of Water, Energy, and the Human Environment: Towards an Extraterritorial Concept for the Middle East,” held in Amman October 21–22. Discussion focused on problem areas, needs, and specific methods and cases in regard to transnational water, energy, and environmental problems in the region. One recommendation to emerge from the workshop was the establishment of a transnational specialized commission to address regional water and energy problems.

This project led to the formation of personal networks among the participants in the workshops and round-table conferences and to a shared awareness on the need for regional cooperation.

(Final year of a 3-year project)
I. Toward the Coexistence of Pluralistic Values

Despite today’s highly developed information society, language barriers and poor infrastructure hinder the adequate and accurate dissemination of information from Asia. This program seeks to transmit information directly from Asia to other parts of the world, especially the West, and thus promote a shared awareness of Asia.

This project, together with the following three grant projects, is undertaking such initiatives as on-demand publishing via the Internet and the airing of television documentaries to provide timely information on Asian issues. This year TV programs featuring interviews with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia, Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia, and Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand were produced as part of the ASEAN Top Interview Series and shown on DIRECTV, Internet TV, and elsewhere. Meanwhile, on-demand publishing enabled the wide dissemination of project reports and conference proceedings previously distributed only to participants through Internet access and sales.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)

Western interest in Asia has tended to be confined to the region’s economic development and subsequent economic crises. As a result there has been little concern for information on social issues, such as ethnic conflicts, the environment, and democratization. This project is hosting a website that brings together and disseminates information from an Asian viewpoint on the causes, impacts, and methods of solving Asian social problems (www.asiasource.org/asip.cfm).

This year the website was designed, and links to other websites providing information on Asia and a search engine were set up. Over the course of the year some 80 pieces were published, including articles and speeches by and interviews with Asian political and business leaders, NGO activists, scholars, and journalists. The site has won high praise from Western scholars of Asian studies. In addition to providing firsthand information from Asia, it offers an effective platform to Asian opinion leaders, who have found it hard to disseminate information to the West.

(1st year of a 2-year project)

This project is promoting intellectual exchange by publishing summaries of selected articles, reviews, and essays from leading periodicals in Japan, the United States, and Europe in the semiannual newsletter Correspondence, circulated to opinion leaders around the world. This year, in addition to continued publication of the newsletter, a variety of other initiatives to encourage international intellectual exchange were undertaken. Specifically, the eighth and ninth issues of the newsletter were published. The contents were also carried on the Council on Foreign Relations website (www.cfr.org), which provided interactive forums with readers, as well. The ninth issue of the newsletter focused on the press debate in various countries regarding the impact of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States and the anti-terrorist campaigns undertaken in those countries in the aftermath. Regular publication of the newsletter and utilization of the Council on Foreign Relations website continued to contribute to international intellectual exchange.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)
II. Fostering Human Security and Private Nonprofit Activities

1 - Cooperation Among Private Nonprofit Organizations, Business, and the Public Sector
2 - Capacity Building and Institutionalization of Private Nonprofit Activities
3 - Surveys and Research on Private Nonprofit Activities
There is growing interest in workable partnerships between businesses and NGOs to address societal problems. This project seeks to strengthen cooperation between the business and NGO sectors through analysis of the factors behind successful business-NGO collaborative programs aimed at environmental protection in Southeast Asia and through exchange between those involved in such programs.

In the first year of this three-year project two recycling programs in the Philippines were studied. This year the PET bottle recycling program of Aqua-Danone and DML (Friends of the Environment) in Indonesia, the Wongpanit Group’s program of making garbage disposal a community business in Thailand, and the forest conservation and environmental education program of Shell Malaysia, the Malaysian Nature Society, and the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia in Malaysia were studied. An international conference for the business and NGO participants in the three programs featured vigorous discussion of such topics as the importance of citizen education to realize the potential of environmental businesses.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)

The perception that the existing crisis management regime has become dysfunctional in the post–cold war period has prompted various countries to attempt the overhaul of their systems. SPF decided to make a grant to the Belgium-based International Crisis Group (ICG), which is engaged in activities to raise consciousness of the importance of conflict prevention in 19 locations around the world. Specifically, to decrease the level of conflict and promote conflict prevention in Indonesia ICG held a conference in Jakarta to exchange views with Indonesians influential in government policy-making. On the basis of these exchanges of views and information gathered by local staff, ICG released 11 reports on Indonesia. In addition ICG and Japan’s National Institute for Research Advancement jointly organized three seminars in Tokyo for Indonesia specialists. These seminars, which analyzed conditions in Indonesia from the viewpoint of conflict prevention, deepened participants’ understanding of those conditions. Sudden changes in Indonesia’s situation made it difficult to formulate a private-sector preventive diplomacy model, however, and this three-year project had to be suspended after the first year.

(1st year of a 3-year project—suspended)
Maintaining peace by preventing conflict is a field in which peace-loving Japan can exert a significant influence. This project supported the Japan Center for Preventive Diplomacy (JCPD), the sister organization of the grant recipient and nation's only private nonprofit organization dedicated to preventive diplomacy. Specifically, to promote greater awareness of the importance of preventive diplomacy and mindful of the paucity of leaders in this field, SPF supported the following JCPD activities.

One activity was the administration and operation of an Internet bulletin board on regional conflicts and the e-Symposium on Conflict Prevention. Thanks to the Internet’s ability to overcome the constraints of time and distance, people from around the world took part and there were lively exchanges of views. Another activity was seminars for graduate students and public lectures on preventive diplomacy for the general public, which provided opportunities to gain a deeper understanding of preventive diplomacy. Meanwhile, JCPD kept people informed of its activities through quarterly bulletins. (A one-year project)

Little is known about the process of mediation by NGOs to resolve regional conflicts. This two-year research project seeks to clarify the actual state of NGO mediation through case studies.

The first year focused mainly on two NGOs, International Alert and the Quakers. A comparative analysis of their mediation processes in Sri Lanka and Burundi was conducted through archival research, interviews with their representatives, and field surveys, and the findings were compiled in a working paper. The paper was presented at two international conferences (September 17 in Belgium and October 24 in the Netherlands) and was also used in master’s degree program lectures at the University of Bradford, in the United Kingdom. These activities have contributed to greater understanding of conflict mediation by NGOs. (1st year of a 2-year project)

While there have been no wars between major powers since World War II, civil wars have continued unabated. In fact, there are four times as many civil wars as wars between states. Although the end of the cold war brought some civil wars to a close, new ones have broken out, so that armed conflicts remain a major problem for the international community.

This project aims to develop an “expert system” that will be of use in efforts to resolve armed conflicts. Through modeling based on analysis of changes in the conditions surrounding conflicts, the system will enable projection and simulation of the direction an armed conflict will take under various conditions, and anybody will be able to access the system on the Internet.

In the first year of this three-year project, detailed case studies of conflicts that had already been resolved, conflicts that were unresolved despite third-party intervention, conflicts where there had been no intervention, and other typical cases were undertaken to improve the system’s accuracy, and a database was created. (1st year of a 3-year project)
II. Fostering Human Security and Private Nonprofit Activities

The role of NPOs in the building of a new civil society has grown in recent years. This has been accompanied by broader-based research and education concerning NPOs. As a result, there have been mounting calls from both researchers and NPO personnel for forums for the exchange and dissemination of information on NPO research and education.

This three-year project aimed at both quantitative and qualitative improvement of research and education on NPOs through two main activities. One was mapping, by means of a survey of the current state of NPO education in Japan and compilation of a directory of researchers. The other was elucidation of the special features and problems of NPO research and education and the NPO labor market in Japan in terms of an international comparison, and formulation of policy proposals for building a network to enable effective and constructive research and education exchange.

In the first year, fiscal 1999, basic data on NPO and philanthropic research and education in Japan were compiled in a directory based on information obtained through a questionnaire. In the directory researchers and educators are classified by specialty, field of research, age, gender, and region of activities.

In the second year a questionnaire survey was conducted regarding research and education on NPOs and volunteer activities in Japan, focused on universities and other institutions of higher education, and its findings were compiled in a directory with the aim of constructing an NPO research and education network. The feasibility of conducting networking-type NPO education courses linking two or more universities was also investigated.

In the third and final year a questionnaire survey on the labor market was conducted, targeting 593 incorporated NPOs and their staff. This elucidated the current state and problems of the NPO labor market, and the knowledge and skills needed for NPO education were investigated. In addition, Nonprofits & Government: Collaboration and Conflict, edited by Elizabeth T. Boris and C. Eugene Steuerle, and America’s Nonprofit Sector: A Primer, by Lester M. Salamon, were translated for use as textbooks in the standard course of NPO study at the undergraduate or graduate (master’s degree) level. Both translations are scheduled to be published by Japanese publisher Minerva Shobo in the autumn of 2002.

The results of the project were reported at the three-day Karuizawa seminar of the Japan NPO Research Association (JANPORA) and at a public symposium during JANPORA’s fourth annual meeting, and lively debate among NPO researchers and other experts provided useful feedback.

(Final year of a 3-year project)

There is widespread awareness of the need for cooperation between NGOs and donors providing development assistance, but donors encounter numerous obstacles when they actually seek NGO partners. This project focuses on the role of civil society resource organizations (CSROs, NGOs that serve as funding intermediaries) in solving this problem.

The first phase of the project began in fiscal 1997 and the second in fiscal 2000. Activities in the second phase are more tightly focused on cooperation between CSROs and donors. This year case studies of successful cooperation between CSROs and donors in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand were conducted and options for cooperation drawn up. In addition, opportunities for dialogue between CSROs and donors within target countries were organized, enabling active utilization of the findings of the case studies.

At present the role of CSROs is attracting the attention of not only donors but also the many NGOs facing funding difficulties. It is hoped that this project will open up new possibilities for cooperation between NGOs and donors.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)
Society has come to expect accountability with regard to public-service programs carried out by the government and private-sector organizations across a wide spectrum of domains, ranging from foreign aid to social welfare and community development. Evaluation is a crucial measure for responding to this demand. Establishment of program evaluation as a customary practice will improve the policies of public-service projects. This two-year project aimed to develop education and training programs for program evaluators in order to develop human resources in the field of program evaluation and improve the evaluation system in Japan.

In the first year, fiscal 2000, a survey targeting special corporations (legal entities individually incorporated by a specific law), consulting firms, local governments and NPOs and a workshop was conducted. In addition, as part of the development of education and training programs, information was obtained through surveys in the United States and a workshop was held to formulate model programs for graduate-level education and short-term training.

This year surveys and research on the development of program-evaluator education and training programs continued, and the following programs (provisional curriculum) drawing on U.S. cases were developed.

The graduate-level program-evaluator education program (standard syllabus) comprises six 15-week courses, each course lasting half a semester; more than one course may be taken simultaneously. The courses include “Introduction to Program Evaluation,” “Program Evaluation Models,” “Performance Measurement and Organizational Improvement,” “Program Evaluation” (individually tutored practice), “International Development and Fields of Cooperation,” and “Public Policy and Public Activities.”

Short-term training programs to improve program evaluators' skills (standard syllabus) cover three areas—methodology, overview, and field-specific casework—with a total of seven courses lasting two or three days each. Methodology includes one course: “Short-Term Training Program (Overview).” Overview includes four courses: “Overview of Project Evaluation Methods,” “Project Evaluation Based on Cost-Benefit Analysis,” “Project Cycle Management Methods,” and “Management of Outcome-Focused Evaluation and Performance Management.” Field-specific casework includes two courses: “Field-Specific Casework Short-Term Training Program” and “Public Policy Evaluation.”

(1st year of a 2-year project)

This project is disseminating the results of a comparative study of relations between the state and NGOs in 15 Asian countries as well as discussion of the findings between Japanese researchers and researchers and NGO practitioners in other Asian countries. The purpose is to demonstrate a reciprocal research approach and encourage the participation in this discussion of highly qualified researchers.

Specifically, the findings of a fiscal 1999 comparative study of 15 Asian countries led by the Institute of Developing Economies-JETRO, augmented by further research, have been published in English as *The State and NGOs: Perspective from Asia*, edited by Shin’ichi Shigetomi. In addition, a website has been set up (www.state-ngo.org). The website includes a brief summary of each chapter as well as comments by an expert from the country concerned. Comments from people who access the site are also being solicited to stimulate discussion via the site.

(Final year of a 2-year program)
II. Fostering Human Security and Private Nonprofit Activities

Accountability is being discussed today in a variety of forums. Most such discussion, however, deals with government and public institutions; very little is focused on the private nonprofit sector, which lacks unified systems and norms for accountability. This project is conducting comparative case studies of international development NGOs in Japan and the United States and formulating a practical normative theory of NGO accountability.

The project is being carried out by a research team in the United States organized by the grant recipient, the Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations at Harvard University, a world authority in this area, and a research team of Japanese NGO representatives, experts, and government officials. Accountability was discussed and study of existing documentation undertaken, and the U.S. and Japan teams shared their research findings at a joint workshop. Differences in the thinking of U.S. and Japanese NGOs arising from environmental and cultural differences became apparent and were noted for consideration when the normative theory is refined in the project’s second year.

(1st year of a 2-year project)

This project conducted research on the current state of community currency systems in use or under development in Indonesia, Japan, and Thailand, addressing and analyzing problems. As a result, it may prove possible to find clues for solution of these problems and explore the future of community currency systems.

Surveys and research by Indonesian, Japanese, and Thai researchers and a consultation meeting in Bangkok elucidated the following points with regard to the three countries. Indonesia: problems impeding the introduction of community currency systems as part of alternative economic systems were elucidated. Japan: a questionnaire survey of 40 organizations administering community currency systems was conducted, and it was found that there were high expectations that such systems would strengthen community relations. Thailand: government interference in Bia Kud Chum, the one district with a community currency system, and the findings of a survey of community responses were reported. In addition to clarifying problems, this created an opportunity for dialogue between the two sides.

(A one-year project)

To strengthen the basis of public-interest corporations in the civil society of the twenty-first century, this project aims to explore the best forms of governance and institutions and to formulate new proposals for attitudinal and institutional reform.

The project is being conducted by a governance study group composed mainly of scholars under a steering committee. This year the governance study group carried out a survey of 1,500 organizations, elucidating the current state of public-interest corporations’ accountability, compliance, disclosure, and other aspects of governance. The institutional reform study group studied the present systems of public-interest corporations, including establishment, membership, board of directors, finance and accounting, and disclosure, and engaged in discussion of institutional and tax reform. Next year the current situation in the United States will also be surveyed, and activities to formulate specific proposals for governance and for institutional and tax reform will be undertaken.

(1st year of a 2-year project)
III. Japan and Asia in the World

1 - Japan’s Structural Change and East Asia
2 - East Asian Renewal and Transfer of Experience
3 - Construction of a World Economic System and the Role of Japan and East Asia
The East Asian economic crisis of the late 1990s has motivated Asian countries to consider their need to reduce their trade dependence on Western markets. This project aims to clarify problem areas through surveys and research on domestic institutional reform to encourage greater trade and investment, construction of a cooperative system, and policies and institutions to promote competition and cooperation both at home and abroad within the Asian region centered on India and East Asian countries.

This year surveys and research were conducted on strengthening trade and investment within the Asian region centered on the ASEAN-plus-three countries (the 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea) and India, with an eye to forming an Asian economic community. Study focused on the historical processes affecting regional economic cooperation, factors encouraging the broadening and deepening of regional markets and competition and cooperation among them, and the interdependence of India and East Asian countries. In addition, in the hope of identifying synergies between this project and the World Economic Systems and the Future of East Asia program (p. 44), people involved in both held joint workshops in Manila (October, 2001) and Kuala Lumpur (February, 2002). A preliminary report titled *Towards an Asian Economic Community: Relevance, Scope and a Way Forward* was produced on the basis of surveys and research growing out of the discussions at these workshops.

(1st year of a 2-year project)
The Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund

1 - Exchange Projects that Respect the Values and Cultural Identity of Each Island Society
2 - Micronesia-Focused Projects Aimed at Promoting Regional Harmony
3 - Projects that Support Education and Training Through the Medium of Distance Education
4 - Projects to Promote Networking Among NGOs and NPOs Operating in the Region and to Form Linkages Among Pacific Island Nations and Asian Countries
From fiscal 1994 through fiscal 1996, the Fund hosted the Shima o Kataru Kai (Island Forum in Japan), which enabled people from Pacific island nations and Japan to engage in freewheeling dialogue on mutual understanding and cooperation. This led to the establishment in fiscal 1997 of Coconuts College of the Pacific, aimed at increasing understanding of Pacific island nations within Japan.

This year, the second year of the second phase of this project, the composer and writer Ikuma Dan was to have delivered a public seminar, but this was preempted by his death in May 2001. In early June, eight people from the Yaeyama islands, Okinawa Prefecture, were sent to the meeting of the Pacific Society at the University of Guam. One of the delegates, Nagateru Ohama, mayor of Ishigaki City, Okinawa Prefecture, presented a paper on malaria and malaria eradication in the Yaeyama islands. The delegates also met with Madeleine Z. Bordallo, lieutenant governor of Guam, and visited maritime facilities in Palau and met with Palau President Tommy Esang Remengesau Jr. In addition, the Coconuts College of the Pacific virtual classroom (www.yashinomi.to), launched in 1997, was redesigned and conducted an interactive seminar on relations between Pacific island nations and Okinawa in which 19 people took part.

(2nd year of a 5-year project)
History and social studies in Pacific island nations have been taught within the parameters of the educational systems bequeathed by the former suzerain powers, and the textbooks in use have not been written by islanders themselves. In fiscal 1995, the Fund launched a five-year project that supported the development of teaching materials by history and social studies teachers in the region and the establishment of an association of teachers in each country. The Council of Presidents of the Pacific History and Social Studies Teachers Association, a regional organization headquartered at the National University of Samoa, was formed in 1999. This paved the way for projects developed on the initiative of islanders.

Political upheaval in Fiji and the Solomon Islands in fiscal 2000, when the present project was launched, hampered activities that year. This year, however, two workshops were held: a Melanesian-region workshop in Vanuatu in October and a Polynesian-region workshop in Tonga in December. The use of museums in history education was discussed at the Vanuatu workshop, leading to compilation of *Pacific History, Museums and Cultural Centres: A Guide for History Teachers*.

Despite the need for Japanese-language teaching and for education to introduce Japanese culture to Pacific island nations, there is still no adequate regionwide support system for this. In some parts of the region, it is possible to gain aid from the Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers as part of Japan’s official development assistance (ODA), but in U.S. territories like Guam and Saipan, which are not eligible for ODA, no appropriate framework has been set up despite the fact that they gain a great deal of their foreign currency income from Japanese tourists and have a commensurate need for Japanese-language education. In addition, large numbers of people from nearby Micronesian countries migrate to Guam and Saipan to work. This project studied and developed an appropriate system for teaching Japanese and Japanese culture, focusing on the Marianas, where the need was especially high. An experienced teacher from Japan, Sachiko Adachi, worked in partnership with local educational institutions. During school holidays she also traveled to Samoa and American Samoa in Polynesia, as well as Hawaii, and to the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Marshall Islands, and Palau in Micronesia to study the condition of Japanese-language education in each locale and establishment of an aid model for other Pacific island nations.

In 1999, at the request of the public school system of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Ms. Adachi helped develop Japanese-language education on the Internet, which links all schools in the Marianas. She also took an active part in private-sector exchange initiatives between Japan and the Marianas and in community activities to further understanding of Japanese culture, contributing greatly not only to Japanese-language education but also to overall understanding of Japan on Saipan.

This year, the third and final year of the project, nine students from the Nagoya University of Foreign Studies led by Professor Hiroko Chinen Quackenbush were sent to Saipan for practice teaching of Japanese. The Nagoya University of Foreign Studies will continue this kind of practice teaching.

Educators in the Marianas, where the need for Japanese-language education is high but trained teachers are few and far between, have highly praised Ms. Adachi’s leadership. At the request of the public school system of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, she is to continue to provide Japanese-language education as well as development of a distance-education version of Japanese-language courses via video conferences and the Internet after the project’s conclusion.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)
The Ponape Agriculture and Trade School (PATS), the only vocational school in the Micronesian region, has graduated close to 1,000 students in its 26 years, shaping them into human resources who contribute to the region’s economic development. Since the end of the cold war, U.S. financial aid to the region has been cut considerably, which has had a negative impact on the operation of PATS. But the school has an important role to play in the region, and it faces the need to develop human resources while rebuilding its financial base.

This project provides two years of training for selected PATS graduates in order to improve the quality and increase the number of indigenous teachers. This year eight trainees underwent training from April to July 2001 (five first-year trainees and three second-year trainees), while 10 trainees underwent training in the new training year beginning in August 2001 (five chosen from among new PATS graduates and five continuing from the previous training year). Efforts were also made to raise the qualifications of trainees by enabling them to earn credits for a variety of courses at the College of Micronesia. Two PATS graduates are scheduled to join the school as junior staff in June, 2002.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)
Western Pacific island societies, which have had no framework for regional cooperation, have experimented with one-off distance education programs but have so far lacked any cohesive system of distance education. Last year, the one-year project Charting the Future Course of Distance Education in the Western Pacific held a Regional Policy Forum for relevant parties at which it was agreed to establish the Alliance for Distance Education in the Western Pacific. This project is confirming the needs and problems of distance education in the Western Pacific and providing coordination for the parties involved in setting up the alliance. This year surveys led by educational experts were conducted to evaluate the current state of distance education and telecommunications in Micronesia. Workshops were held on the islands of Chuuk (formerly Truk), Kosrae, Majuro, Palau, Pohnpei, and Yap. A total of 140 people, including distance education and telemedicine policymakers, politicians, representatives of aid donors, jurists, and business people, took part. Each locale drew up a “distance education initiative,” an action plan for establishing a distance education and medical education network oriented to local needs.

(1st year of a 3-year project)

Pacific island nations are using the legal systems of their former suzerain powers in conjunction with traditional customs as they engage in nation building. Putting in place their own legal systems and educating the public about them are important to the peace and stability of these relatively new states.

Through this project the University of the South Pacific (USP), which has been offering distance education to Pacific islanders, aims to provide high-quality educational materials and interactive classes for students in outlying areas who are enrolled in the School of Law. This year the USP School of Law (website: www.vanuatu.usp.ac.fj) developed 16 new online subjects, adapting the materials used so far, and provided links to the website Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute, a collection of cases, and other databases. A project manager and two technicians were employed to develop Internet courses, and the website was progressively updated. In fiscal 2002, a system for online discussion is to be set up.

(1st year of a 3-year project)

Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu have been undergoing tremendous cultural and social change as they are swept by the currents of modernization. In both countries the cultural heritage has not been appropriately safeguarded and is endangered. Moreover, because research on these countries’ cultural heritage has been carried out by Western scholars and experts, there are few local human resources. History education having lagged since independence, there is a need to both retrieve history and inform educators of it.

This year field studies were conducted on the islands of New Ireland, off the east coast of Papua New Guinea, and Malakula in Vanuatu, with the permission of both the central government and the local community. Almost 50 local people involved with cultural heritage took part on each island. The field studies were publicized through special radio programs and newspaper features, and lecture meetings were held in local schools and communities. In Vanuatu, cartoon booklets on the cultural heritage are being produced in three languages (English, French, and the pidgin known as Bislama). The website at the Australian National University, the grant recipient, was also enhanced.

(1st year of a 3-year project)
The Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Fund

1. Fostering Human Resources for 21st-Century Japan-China Relations
2. Deepening Mutual Understanding in the 21st Century
3. Activities to Promote Japan-China Relations in the 21st Century
4. Activities to Advance the Fund’s International Role
Students in the course went to Japan for about a month, and Waseda University would inaugurate a joint project to evaluating master's theses. Also in June nine graduate Chinese specialists also visited Japan for students enrolled in the course, and study of two relations was set up in the Institute of International where they received training in writing master's theses at foreign languages.

Since the course looked like becoming self-sustaining thanks to financial support from another foundation and Peking University's own efforts, the Fund inaugurated the present five-year project in fiscal 1997. While continuing assistance for international relations research and education in China, the focus shifted to developing specialists and formation of a network of scholars and other specialists in the field of international relations and strengthening exchange and cooperation with Japan and other foreign countries.

Following is a summary of activities this year, the final year of the project. In May 2001, the graduate students for the course were selected, and in June a Japanese specialist was sent to China to serve as an examiner on the committee evaluating master’s theses. Also in June nine graduate students in the course went to Japan for about a month, where they received training in writing master's theses at universities and research institutions. In September Setsuya Tabuchi, the chairman of SPF and an expert on economic issues, delivered public lectures on trends in the world economy at Peking University and Lanzhou University. In December the six Chinese members of the expert committee visited Japan, where they met with their Japanese counterparts to discuss the development of a Ph.D. course jointly administered by Peking University and Waseda University. The Chinese specialists also visited universities with programs in international relations and exchanged views with university personnel in charge of international exchange.

These activities strengthened links among scholars and other specialists, as a result of which a wider network is taking form. It was also decided that Peking University and Waseda University would inaugurate a joint project to develop Chinese Ph.D. candidates in international relations in September 2002. Chinese students who have completed the master’s course will work toward doctorates with Chinese and Japanese specialists at both Peking University and Waseda University. In addition, through an international conference sponsored by academic associations and public lectures the project strengthened the network of scholars of international relations from China and other countries.

(Final year of a 5-year project)

China has very few people working in the field of security who know Japanese. Developing such personnel has become an urgent priority. This project brings young Chinese with practical experience in business and government to Japan and supports them for a year's study at a university in order to help develop specialists in Japan-related issues as high-level interpreters who, it is hoped, will contribute to China's Japan policy.

This year two young trainees (about 30 years of age) whose work had to do with external exchange were invited to Japan to study at the Center for Japanese Studies, Keio University. Their program included Japanese language study, study of international relations, study tours to Okinawa Prefecture and other regions, and submission of reports after completion of the program. After finishing the program the trainees submitted reports in Japanese on Japan-China security issues to SPF and helped translate texts for use by a delegation of young People’s Liberation Army officers receiving training in Japan. It is hoped that, as specialists in Japan-related issues, they will become leaders in Japan-China exchange in Chinese government agencies dealing with security.

(3rd year of a 5-year project)

This project aims to contribute to greater understanding of Japanese society as a whole in China and to deeper understanding between young people in the two countries by selecting outstanding students in Chinese universities that have Japanese language programs, as well as graduates who are working in government agencies and other organizations, to visit Japan for exchange with Japanese young people.

This year a delegation of 15 people (eight university students and six personnel of government agencies and other organizations) were brought to Japan from June 11 to June 20, 2001. They visited universities in Tokyo and Kyoto and took part in themed discussions with Japanese students. They also made visits to the minister of education, politicians, and business people, as well as major corporations, governments bodies, civic groups, and private homes, to study various facets of Japanese society.

After their return to China the participants wrote reports on their experiences and impressions. These were circulated within their universities or alma maters. The participants also shared their experiences in and impressions of Japan with other students at symposiums and other forums.

(3rd year of a 5-year project)
This project provides scholarships to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students of Japanese enrolled in Chinese universities. This year one-year scholarships of 2,000 yuan were awarded to students of 12 universities: Beijing Foreign Studies University, Shanghai International Studies University, Dalian University of Foreign Languages, Sichuan International Studies University, Guangxi University, Northeast University, Nanjing University, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Heilongjiang University, Shandong University, Hunan University, and Xiamen University. So far a total of 650 students have been awarded scholarships through phases I and II of this project. After graduation most of the recipients have gone on to significant jobs in state organs, newspapers companies, television networks, international divisions of major firms, and so on, and are earning high praise. The alumni association set up in fiscal 1997 is also playing an important role, encouraging exchange among former scholarship students and stimulating them to contribute to Japan-China friendship. Exchanges of views with graduates, conducted as part of follow-up to the project, have generated constructive suggestions concerning the scholarship system.

(2nd year of a 5-year project)

This project aims to promote Japan-China exchange in the field of security by the private sector, which is gaining recognition through so-called track-two initiatives. This year 10 field officers of the People's Liberation Army were brought to Japan from April 9–22, 2001. They visited the Defense Agency, the National Institute for Defense Studies, and Self-Defense Force (SDF) facilities in and around Tokyo. In addition, 10 SDF field officers specializing in security issues were sent to China from February 27 to March 8, 2002. They visited military facilities in Beijing and on the outskirts of Shanghai and discussed security issues with Chinese field officers specializing in security issues. Meanwhile, Asian Forum Japan, under commission, conducted interviews on Chinese missile development, and other security-related issues; exchanged views regarding the project with research institutions in China, Taiwan, and the United States; invited Chinese researchers in the field of security to Japan for discussion with Japanese counterparts (November 2001); and organized five meetings of a study group on Chinese military issues and submitted a report to government agencies and research institutions in relevant countries (China, Japan, Northeast Asian countries, and the United States).

(2nd year of a 3-year project)
Since fiscal 1999 the Fund has been supporting research exchange activities for young Japan researchers in China in order to strengthen the network of young Chinese scholars engaged in such research and increase their influence in making policy proposals and shaping public opinion. This year the China Association for International Friendly Contact and the Institute of Japan of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences organized the third Young Japan Researchers Forum, with the theme “Japan and Northeast Asian Economic Cooperation,” in Beijing November 11–13.

In addition to 60 participants from Chinese and Japanese universities and research institutions, research staff members of the Japanese embassy in China and journalists from both countries attended as observers. 45 research papers were submitted, and lively presentations and exchanges of opinions took place. Later, under the leadership of the Institute of Japan, a collection of papers was compiled and a project report including policy proposals presented to relevant agencies. In addition, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences has taken the initiative in organizing independent young Japan researchers.

(3rd year of a 5-year project)

Japan-China joint research and development (R&D) is extremely important for both countries’ economic growth. Even when Japanese companies wish to conduct joint R&D, however, they often find it hard to obtain the information they need, which has a negative impact on such endeavors. This project aims to build a database of researchers and technicians for Japan-China scientific and technological exchange and a Japan-China scientific and technological exchange database to increase opportunities for successful joint R&D targeting specific needs and areas.

This year the inputting and search software developed in the first year was improved. In addition, on the basis of the first year’s preliminary studies, a questionnaire for use in building the database of researchers and technicians and explanatory materials were put together. Using these, the Institute of Science and Technology Policies and Management Science of the Chinese Academy of Sciences conducted a questionnaire survey of researchers and technicians at universities, research institutions, and companies in the fields of materials and telecommunications (16,920 questionnaires were sent out and 1,071 received back). The survey findings were published on a CD-ROM with search software.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)
A 12-member delegation, comprising mayors or deputy mayors of eight cities in Gansu Province, Qinghai Province, the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, and the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, as well as policymakers from the Department of Comprehensive Planning, Office of the Leading Group for Western Region Development of the State Council, visited Japan June 20–29, 2001. In addition to exchanging views with officials of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport, the Development Bank of Japan, and other bodies, the delegates attended lectures to learn about Japan’s experience of regional development and the harmonization of development and the environment. The delegates also held meetings to explain China’s western region development policy, surveyed the wishes of representatives of Japanese business organizations regarding western region development, visited leading high-tech companies, and endeavored to build goodwill with government and business representatives.

After returning to China the delegates produced a report on their trip and circulated it to relevant agencies of the central and local governments through the Office of the Leading Group for Western Region Development.

(A one-year project)

A 12-member delegation made up mainly of policy bureaucrats in charge of science and technology administration in China’s Ministry of Science and Technology and local governments visited Japan October 22–31, 2001. The aim of the trip was to investigate Japan’s science and technology administrative reform and government-industry-university collaboration. The delegates exchanged views with bureaucrats at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, and other Japanese government agencies. They also visited the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory, and other research institutions, as well as such leading information technology firms as Hitachi, Ltd., NTT DoCoMo, Inc., and Sony Corp.

After returning to China the delegates held a wrap-up conference and produced a report on their visit that included areas in which China could learn from Japan’s industrial policy to promote science and technology and suggestions for future bilateral cooperation in this field. In addition, a reporter from the Xinhua News Agency who had accompanied the delegation publicized the findings of the project by dispatching articles on the visit to Chinese newspapers after the delegation’s return.

(A one-year project)
One cause of mistrust and suspicion between Japan and China is differences in so-called historical perceptions—a term that refers, in the main, to interpretations of the conflict between the two countries before and during World War II. The traditional viewpoints and methodologies of history researchers have, if anything, exacerbated rigidity on both sides. This project seeks to provide a new framework for resolving problems in Japanese and Chinese historical perceptions and dispelling mutual mistrust by pooling the knowledge of young history researchers in both countries.

In this five-year project’s first year monthly meetings of Japanese and Chinese scholars (including Chinese scholars residing in Japan) were held, at which research findings were presented. Senior researchers were also invited to present research findings and exchange views with their younger counterparts. In addition, to stimulate exchange between young Japanese and Chinese researchers and build a network, three Japanese scholars were invited to take part in a study meeting in Beijing. Meanwhile, three young Chinese researchers were invited to Japan to speak at a study meeting there and exchange information and views. In order to share ideas and information, a volume of excerpts of papers presented during the course of the year was produced.

China’s accession to the World Trade Organization is expected to generate economic friction between China and other countries. This project undertook joint research by Chinese and Japanese specialists on the experience built up in Japan over many years of negotiations to defuse economic friction with the United States, with the aim of formulating policy proposals for building stable economic relationships between China and other countries.

Specifically, study meetings in Japan and meetings in China to exchange views were held featuring the presentation and discussion of specialists’ reports on such topics as “Japanese Investment in China and Points for Consideration,” “A Lawyer’s View of Chinese Laws and Topics Concerning the WTO,” “China’s Stock Market and Pension Policy Following Accession to the WTO,” “The Status and Challenges of Reform of China’s Banking System,” and “China’s Membership in the WTO and Agricultural Problems.” Subsequently a delegation of Japanese specialists was sent to China. After visiting representatives of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Chinese Communist Party, the State Council’s Development Research Center, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture, and information-technology companies and exchanging views, the delegation drew up policy proposals.

(A one-year project)
This project invited a delegation of 13 Chinese involved in China-Japan exchange to visit Japan November 18–27, 2001, and attend the 2001 Conference on Nongovernmental Exchange between China and Japan, held in Tokyo. Taking part from Japan were private-sector individuals involved in the development of China-Japan exchange, experts in Japan-China issues, and journalists. The participants exchanged views on the present status and future of China-Japan nongovernmental exchange. The Chinese delegates also exchanged views with politicians, business leaders, journalists, and representatives of NGOs in Tokyo, visited gubernatorial and mayoral offices in Saitama and Miyagi Prefectures, and had talks with local NGOs.

The broad-based Chinese delegation included representatives of the Chinese Communist Party, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Shandong Provincial People’s Government, the Xinhua News Agency, the People’s Daily, and the China Youth News. After returning to China the delegates held a wrap-up conference in Beijing, compiled a report, and circulated it to relevant sectors.

(A one-year project)

In fiscal 1998–99 the Fund administered the project Fundamental Research on the Water Supply of the West Route from the Yangtze River to the Yellow River, which conducted a feasibility study of the proposed diversion of water from the Yangtze River to the Yellow River via the so-called western route. The present project is following up with ecological basic research to provide an accurate grasp of the environmental impact of western-route diversion, the most worrisome aspect of the plan.

This year a research group led by Professor Cui Yunhao of the North China Institute of Water Conservancy and Hydroelectric Power, under the direction of Akira Miyawaki, director of the Japanese Center for International Studies in Ecology, conducted a number of activities. These included ecological basic research on the ecology of the Dadu River water system, preliminary research on the ecology of the headwaters of the Yellow River, research on the impact of tunnel construction on the surrounding mountainous area, ecological research in regard to dam construction on the Dadu River, and collection of the findings of ecological research carried out following river diversion in Europe and Latin America. Two study meetings on the western-route plan were also held in Japan. An interim research report was submitted to the Chinese government, international aid donors, Japan’s Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport, and other relevant bodies.

(1st year of a 2-year project)

China’s private nonprofit sector is continuing to grow. While the number of organizations that are building capacity through proactive organizational reform and development of activities is increasing, some organizations are still doing things in the old way. There is also the problem of inadequate managerial skills in grass-roots organizations. Evaluation of the capacity of private nonprofit organizations is an important issue for the Chinese government, which wants to entrust social services to the private sector. The aim of this project is to produce criteria for evaluating nonprofit organizations in China.

This year documentary materials on evaluation both within China and overseas were collected, interviews with representatives of the nonprofit sector in Hong Kong and Taiwan and of research institutions were conducted, and a provisional plan for an evaluation framework and criteria was formulated. Based on this work, the Foundation for Poverty Alleviation China and other private nonprofit organizations were evaluated on a trial basis, the plan was adjusted as necessary, and a basic framework and criteria for evaluation were completed. The outcomes of these activities were published in journals and presented at symposiums, stimulating social interest in nonprofit-sector evaluation.

(1st year of a 3-year project)

China’s policy for the transition to a market economy is at the stage of promoting the shift of social services to the private sector, under the slogan “Big Society, Small Government.” The inadequate capacity of the private-sector organizations that will have to spearhead this shift is a major obstacle, however.

This project seeks to promote private-sector-led sustained rural development. Specifically, the China Association for NGO Cooperation, a national (centrally supervised) social organization, is undertaking capacity building of the Association for Rural Development of Yilong County, Sichuan Province, a prefectural social organization. The project’s ultimate aim is to provide an effective model for private-sector organizations to the government, thus encouraging the privatization of social services.

This year’s activities included training in marketing, agricultural technical support services, project management, and so on, for bureaucrats of Yilong County and senior staff of village development association activity centers; integrated training in microfinance operations and technical instruction for model farms; training in disaster prevention and food storage; and hands-on learning and observation of model rural communities.

(1st year of a 2-year project)
The Sasakawa Central Europe Fund

1 – Enhancing Mutual Exchange between Japan and Central European Countries
2 – The Role of Central European Countries in the Twenty-First Century
3 – The Role of NGOs in Creating Civil Society
Central European countries, which are making the transition to a market economy and a democratic political system, have begun to move toward cooperation and coexistence with Western Europe with the aim of gaining membership in the European Union. All this has given them a heightened interest in Japan, as a developed Asian country. Some universities in Central European countries offer courses on Japan, but most deal with language and classical literature. No university offers any courses on understanding modern Japan.

In preparation for establishing such courses at universities in the Fund’s four target countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and the Slovak Republic), this project conducted surveys to select candidate universities and identify students’ needs, and sent lecturers from Japan to deliver public lectures on a trial basis. In November 2001 two teachers from Japan gave public lectures at the four candidate universities. In fiscal 2002 these universities are to offer courses in contemporary Japanese studies, organized by the Fund, as part of the official curriculum.

(A one-year project)

Socialism has had various negative consequences in the countries of Central Europe. This project focuses in particular on environmental destruction and the underdevelopment of civil society. It rewards NGOs in the Fund’s four target countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and the Slovak Republic) for pioneering solutions to environmental problems. The aims are to share innovative environmental-improvement methods throughout the region and to stimulate citizen activities.

This year, like last year, applicants for the Sasakawa Environmental Award were solicited through newspapers and NGO newsletters. Almost 100 applications were received, of which 12 organizations (3 in each target country) received awards. One of these, the Environmental Law Service, an NGO set up by lawyers in the Czech city of Tabor, opposed a road construction program that would have destroyed the city’s scenic qualities. The NGO did this by holding a plebiscite, a rarity in the Czech Republic. The program was scrapped when a majority of voters opposed it.

From March 2 to March 13, 2002, representatives of each country’s first-place winner visited Japan. They observed ecotourism on the island of Iriomotejima, Okinawa Prefecture, and exchanged views with local environmental authorities and citizen activists in the cities of Yokkaichi, Mie Prefecture, and Ina, Nagano Prefectures.

(2nd year of a 4-year project)
The Slovak Republic, established when Czecho-
slovakia split into the Czech and Slovak Republics in
January 1993, urgently needs to develop capable
human resources to lead the new nation in the next
generation. Because of political instability, however,
educational policy—including the curriculum, the
quality of educators, and teaching methods—has seen
no improvement since the socialist period. Because of
this, many gifted young people cannot obtain
satisfactory higher education in Slovakia and go abroad
in search of educational opportunities. To stem this
brain drain, private educational institutions in Slovakia,
such as informal private schools and specialized
colleges targeting university students, are undertaking a
variety of initiatives to supplement formal school
education. One of these is the Society for Higher
Learning, the grant recipient.

This three-year project is aimed at developing human
resources through a tutorial system by linking the
policymakers and leaders who are shouldering the
burden of nation building today with the young people
who will be the leaders of the future. Each year about
20 students enrolled in universities around Slovakia
were selected to receive individual tutoring in
international relations, law, economics, and other
subjects in accordance with their major fields of study.
The tutors were people currently active in business and
such professions as banking and the law, which enabled
the transfer of experience and knowledge from the
leaders of today to those of tomorrow.

For two years the students had one tutorial a week
during term time and also attended a weekly seminar or
lecture organized by the Society for Higher Learning.
There were also summer courses providing seminars
and lectures in the students’ major fields. At the
beginning of each term students and tutors met to map
out their plans of study, and tutors and students
evaluated each other from time to time throughout the
period of study in an effort to ensure appropriate
matches and high-quality education.

Over the three years of the project more than 60
students were educated under this system. In addition
to helping stem the brain drain, the project contributed
to developing a network of future leaders in Slovakia
through exchange among students and between
students and tutors.

(Final year of a 3-year project)
The Sasakawa Southeast Asia Cooperation Fund

1 - People Exchange
2 - Human Resource Development
3 - Research with Tangible Applications
This project aims to contribute to building the intellectual infrastructure of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) by promoting exchange among people with leadership potential in Asia (especially Southeast Asia) in the twenty-first century. Identifying potential leaders in various fields from ASEAN countries and organizing retreat-type forums to discuss regional issues, the project is developing human resources with a broad perspective on such issues and providing networking opportunities.

The focus was on journalists in the project's first year and on artists in the second year. This year, as a forum for exchange among young leaders, a workshop on the theme "Terrorism and Security in Southeast Asia" was held in Jakarta February 5–6, 2002. Thirteen young politicians and policy researchers in government-affiliated research institutions from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam discussed security issues in the ASEAN region.

(3rd year of a 5-year project)

In addition to political and economic transition, member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are facing a major turning point for their societies overall as a consequence of the rapid advance of globalization. All this means that the media in these countries will soon have to deal with not only technological change but also changes in the media's role in society.

This program has brought together journalists from ASEAN countries who are the likely next generation of media leaders, providing opportunities for debate and high-quality lectures in the project Journalist Forum in Southeast Asia and to upgrade their technical skills and gather information in the project Journalist Training for Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar. In addition to acquiring new techniques and knowledge, the participants have built personal networks for the future.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)

Through the "Journalists in Indochina: Capacity Building and Networking" project journalists from ASEAN countries were given the opportunity to learn new techniques for their trade.

Media freedom has long been subject to government restrictions in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries. This difficult period of political and economic transition compels a new rethinking of the role of the media in order to cope with the new social conditions that are bound to emerge.

This project aims to bring together promising young journalists from ASEAN countries and provide them with a forum for debate and high-quality lectures so that they can hone their skills and build personal networks for the future.

This year a workshop, "Government-Media Relationships in Southeast Asia," was held in Bangkok January 24–27, 2002. Fifteen journalists from ASEAN countries took part, discussing such topics as the status and problems of the media in each country and the digital revolution and the media. In addition to enhancing their journalistic skills and knowledge, the participants developed broad-based personal ties through discussion of the journalistic issues common to their countries.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)
The Sasakawa Southeast Asia Cooperation Fund

2. Human Resource Development

Journalists in Indochina: Capacity Building and Networking—Journalist Training for Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar

Japan Relief for Cambodian/Amercian Assistance to Cambodia (Cambodia)

<table>
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This project conducted training, with the emphasis on print media, at the University of Phnom Penh for young journalists from Laos, Vietnam, and Myanmar, where media restrictions are considered to be stricter than in Cambodia. A total of three training sessions were held: two in the first year (October–December, 2000 and January–March, 2001) and one in the second year (July–September, 2001). In addition to international relations, reporting and interviewing, desktop publishing, and other technical aspects of journalism, the trainees studied such basic principles as the elimination of subjectivity and the presentation of differing opinions. They were also instructed in news website design and other facets of information technology.

The instructors included two veteran American journalists with experience as reporters for the Seattle Times and other U.S. newspapers and a staff writer from the Cambodia Daily. There were also guest lecturers with editorial experience at the Los Angeles Times and Time. In this way efforts were made to return to the basics of journalism and provide as broad a range of views as possible. The instructors shared their wealth of experience with the trainees, up-and-coming young journalists, mainly in their twenties, representing such media as the Vientiane Times, the Vietnam News Agency, and the Myanmar Times. It is especially noteworthy that the trainees included six journalists from Myanmar, where there is no opportunity for such training.

As well as receiving classroom instruction, the trainees took part in field training, conducting interviews in Cambodia’s ancient capital Angkor Wat and in Kampot and in a small town in the north. Later, to wrap up their training, the young journalists wrote English-language articles that were published in the Cambodia Daily. After returning home some of them also wrote articles that were published in their own countries, such as “Historical Overview of Cambodia-Myanmar Relations,” published in the Myanmar Weekly in May 2001.

(Final year of a 2-year project)

For three years, fiscal 1995–97, the Fund undertook the project Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia and the AFTA Process: Assistance Program for Training and Research, to facilitate the transfer of know-how from neighboring countries to the Fund’s four target countries, with a view to promoting the smooth management of their economies within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as they make the transition from socialist centrally planned economies to market economies. After achieving ASEAN membership in July 1997, Laos set up the National Economic Research Institute (NERI) under the State Planning Committee and began working in earnest to strengthen its research capability for economic policy formulation.

With a view to putting the market economy in Laos on a firmer footing, this three-year project provided continued assistance to strengthen economic and policy research in Laos, with the emphasis on capacity building for economic policymakers at NERI. Specifically, the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER), the grant recipient, provided training in macroeconomics and other aspects of economics as well as advice and guidance on actual surveys and research to teams of policymakers drawn mainly from the State Planning Committee, the central bank, the Ministry of Finance, and the National University of Laos.

In the first year a two-week training program for 30 economic policymakers was conducted in the capital, Vientiane. In the second year five trainees from NERI, the central bank, the National University of Laos, and elsewhere were selected to build on the first year’s training by undertaking advanced study of macroeconomics, microeconomics, econometrics, and other relevant subjects under the supervision of MIER. Afterward the trainees conducted surveys and prepared papers on such topics as foreign exchange policy and tourism promotion.

In the third and final year a select group of six researchers, three from NERI and three from MIER, spent half a year studying three subjects—poverty alleviation, small and medium enterprises, and human resource development—after which they wrote papers and organized a symposium in Louangphrabang in January, 2002 attended by about 30 local policymakers. NERI will publish the papers in its first research annual report and distribute the report to government agencies and research institutions both at home and abroad. In July 2001 MIER invited five high government officials and personnel from the Ministry of Finance, the State Planning Committee, the National University of Laos, and elsewhere to Kuala Lumpur, where they observed the central bank and other relevant institutions and talked with staff, thus deepening their understanding of Malaysia’s economic development.

(Final year of a 3-year project)
In July 1998, under the watchful eyes of the world, Cambodia successfully held its first independently conducted general election. But even the 122 National Assembly members elected to respond to the expectations of the people have little expertise in running a parliament along democratic lines, and the status of political dialogue between the ruling Cambodian People’s Party and FUNCINPEC Party and the opposition Sam Rainsy Party is extremely unclear. This project is providing Cambodian parliamentarians with opportunities to deepen their understanding of political dialogue and parliamentary management in a parliamentary cabinet system by means of workshops and seminars using Japan as a model.

This year, as in the first year, a group of legislators representing the three parties visited Japan. The 12 lawmakers learned about the role of ruling and opposition parties, the judicial system, and other aspects of parliamentary democracy from Japanese scholars and legislators. In addition, in anticipation of Cambodia’s first unified local elections since independence, scheduled for February 2002, the group visited the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly and exchanged views with the president and young assembly members on local politics in Japan.

(2nd year of a 3-year project)

The recent East Asian financial crisis has stepped up the urgency of structural reform of the financial system and state enterprises in Vietnam. This has made capacity building of personnel involved in that country’s economic reform more important than ever. This project aims to deepen the understanding of midlevel government officials, economic policymakers, scholars, and researchers regarding economic policy, institutions, and organizations in a market economy by offering them opportunities to learn from Korea’s experience of economic development and economic management.

This year, 15 Vietnamese economists and economic policymakers received training at the Center for Asia-Pacific Studies, Kyung Hee University, the grant recipient, November 17–29, 2001. In addition, 30 Vietnamese midlevel government officials and economic policymakers attended intensive lectures on the theme “Korea’s Response to Economic Crisis and Restructuring of Financial Institutions” in Hanoi February 1–5, 2002. These activities gave Vietnamese economic policymakers an opportunity to learn about the process of reform of Korea’s financial system and corporate governance in the course of economic growth.

(1st year of a 2-year project)
3. Research with Tangible Applications

Support for Documentation in Indochina Region and Myanmar—The Compilation of Economics Textbooks in Myanmar

Institute of Security and International Studies (Thailand)

For FY2001: ¥3,130,827

This project supported documentation in Myanmar, with the aim of rebuilding its intellectual assets and enhancing its knowledge base. Specifically, two English-language textbooks, on Myanmar’s modern economic development and on the international economy, were produced, with an eye to developing human resources for a market economy.

To ensure the textbooks’ wide usability and applicability, Dr. Mya Than, highly regarded both at home and abroad for his research, and Myat Thein, former rector of the Yangon Institute of Economics, oversaw the compilation. The two resulting works, *Myanmar’s Economic Development Since 1948* and *Regional Economic Cooperation: ASEAN and Myanmar*, are scheduled to be published by the Singapore-based Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in late September 2002.

(A one-year project)

3. Research with Tangible Applications

International Economic Order and the Future of East Asia: Institutional Reconstruction

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (Malaysia), Center for Strategic and International Studies (Indonesia)

For FY2001: ¥22,186,507 (¥3,358,476 in self-operated program expenses)

One of the lessons of the East Asian currency and financial crisis of the late 1990s was the existing international economic system’s shortcomings in preventing and managing crisis. If East Asian countries are to enjoy sustained economic development and prosperity, the region’s economies need both to deepen their interdependence to and work together proactively to reform the international economic system.

Under this program, Japanese and East Asian experts are studying issues of structural and institutional reform and reconstruction in the context of the domestic, regional, and international economy and drawing up policy proposals on the basis of their findings. In this self-operated project, this year Japanese experts wrote papers focusing on the institutional reform essential for stabilization of the financial system. The topics included central banks’ liquidity management policies, ways of ensuring the transparency of the Asian economic system, and Japan’s post-bubble financial policies. In addition, two expanded coordination workshops were held, in Manila (October, 2001) and Kuala Lumpur (February, 2002). These workshops brought together those involved in the following two projects and in the project Enhancing Trade and Investment Cooperation in Asia: Issues, Policies, and Institutional Reform (p. 24) in the hope of achieving synergies through sharing information.

(1st year of a 2-year project)

3. Research with Tangible Applications

International Economic Order and the Future of East Asia: Institutional Reconstruction—Governance and Asia’s Corporations after the Crisis

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) (Indonesia)

For FY2001: ¥9,936,000

Causes of the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s include nontransparent corporate governance, weak public governance systems, and collusion among the political and business sectors. This project is drawing up policy proposals on the institutional reforms essential for reviving corporate activity in order to achieve stable and sustained growth and public-sector reform.

This year an 11-member research group made up mainly of experts from Indonesia’s Center for Strategic and International Studies and Indonesian universities conducted surveys and research on building efficient and transparent Asian-type governance systems in three Southeast Asian countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. In addition to holding research coordination meetings in Jakarta in July and September 2001, the research group took part in two expanded coordination workshops. The results of these activities were compiled in a report titled *Governance and Asia’s Corporations in the Aftermath of the Crisis*.

(1st year of a 2-year project)
This project sought to deepen the ties of trust between Myanmar and other Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries by promoting dialogue between a group of opinion leaders from ASEAN and the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) and the National League for Democracy (NLD) in Myanmar. Originally, it was planned to have a study group comprising opinion leaders from ASEAN and Myanmar spearhead activities. But while there was some appreciation both at home and abroad for the resumption of dialogue between the SPDC and the NLD, the SPDC consistently forbade NLD representatives to take part in the project. As a result the Fund was obliged to emphasize dialogue between ASEAN opinion leaders and representatives of the SPDC alone. Under these constraints, the following activities were carried out during the three years of the project.

In the first year an international conference, “Myanmar in the Twenty-first Century,” was held in Yangon. About 10 cabinet-level representatives of the Myanmar government, including the first secretary of the SPDC, 140 or so Myanmarese opinion leaders, and about 10 experts from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore attended. Discussion ranged from Myanmar and globalization to the information technology (IT) revolution, traditional culture, development of human resources, and security strategy.

In the second year an international conference on globalization and the digital divide was held in Yangon. The approximately 150 participants from Myanmar included SPDC executives, high government officials, scholars, researchers, and business leaders. Also attending were eight experts from Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and the United Kingdom.

In the third year the Myanmar central government and the Mandalay local government hosted two international conferences. The themes were “Interaction for Progress: Myanmar and the Knowledge Economy” and “The Internet Revolution and Society in Myanmar.” The participants included SPDC executives, high government officials, scholars, researchers, and business leaders from Myanmar, along with experts from other Southeast Asian countries.

Discussion of such abstract themes as economic globalization, the IT revolution, and the knowledge economy gave Myanmarese government representatives (especially SPDC executives) and opinion leaders a greater grasp of the policy, institutional, strategic, human-resource development, and other issues related to economic globalization and the IT revolution confronting Myanmar. The project also served to raise awareness of the need to promote greater understanding between ASEAN and Myanmar.

(Final year of a 3-year project)

In fiscal 1994 the Fund conducted the project Preparation for Establishing an Economic Forecasting Center in Vietnam to support market economy-style macroeconomic forecasting. The project’s local partner, the Development Strategy Institute (DSI), was provided with computers, software, and other equipment under a 1996–97 human resource training program administered by the Nippon Foundation, and the Economic Forecasting Center was established in February 1996.

Subsequently Vietnam joined the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. Refining Vietnam’s economic forecasting model and linking it to an ASEAN-style model became an urgent priority. This project organized an international conference in Bangkok with the cooperation of the Economic Modelling and Forecasting Programme of Chulalongkorn University’s Faculty of Economics to share other ASEAN countries’ experience of linking their domestic models to an ASEAN-style model and explore the conditions enabling Vietnam to advance further. Participants from Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and other ASEAN countries as well as Japan delivered important messages regarding the merits and demerits of an ASEAN-style model based on their own experience.

(A one-year project)

Under this project a conference and workshop were held in Yangon August 27–30, 2001, with the cooperation of the Office of Strategic Studies of Myanmar’s Ministry of Defense. Participants from Myanmar included representatives of the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs, the State Peace and Development Council Secretariat, and other government agencies, as well as universities.

Myanmar’s minister of defense, Najib Tun Razak, delivered the keynote speech, “A Comprehensive Approach to Regional Security.” Experts from Indonesia (one person), Japan (one person), Malaysia (two people), and Singapore (one person) presented reports on such topics as security issues, conflict settlement, and political economy in the Southeast Asian region. In addition, a workshop featuring 25 of the participants from Myanmar (mainly representatives of the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs and of universities) explored new thinking and cooperation frameworks regarding security in the Southeast Asian region from Myanmar’s geopolitical perspective. This led to greater awareness of the need for stronger regional cooperation in regard to security.

(A one-year project)